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BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1 9 5 4



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BRAINTREE, WITHAM AND DISTRICT
COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS.

*With the Compliments
of
The Medical Officer of Health*

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

Braintree
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BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Major S.H.Macknelly, J.P.(ex-officio), Chairman

Mr.V.B.Goodwin, Vice-Chairman

Miss G.E.Blyth

Mrs.M.F.Rolt

Mrs.P.C.Want

Lt.Col.A.R.Solly

Messrs.J.E.O.Arnold, R.J.Barr, C.J.Barfield, W.S.Crossman,
C.Crowe, F.Dearman, W.H.Harvey, G.Nottage, S.G.Ratcliff, J.P.,
A.Sawyer, T.Speakman, A.Springett,J.P., N.E.Strutt,T.D., D.L.,
E.Tanner, S.F.Thorogood, H.Waddington, E.S.Watkinson,
G.V.S.Whatley, J.E.Wilkinson, G.S.Zair (from Oct.1954, L.E.Lynforth)
C.J.Deal,J.P. (ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

Dr.J.S.Ranson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

C.Organ, M.S.I.A., Cert., R.S.I., Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

W.R.Gage, M.S.I.A.

Clerks

R.F.Twitchett

Miss V.T.Kent (to 31st.Oct,1954)

P.E.L.Reed (from 25th.Oct.1954 on
release from H.M.Forces)

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the health and vital statistics of the District for the year 1954.

The figures remain much the same as those for 1953. The number of cases of infectious disease notified was exceptionally low and there was no outbreak of any kind.

Housing remains, perhaps, the chief problem, the Council being asked to prepare a programme for dealing with all the worst property. The recent housing survey shows the extent of this problem, but any action taken must rely on the rehousing of tenants in the Council's houses.

There will, for many years, remain a number of small houses without some of the modern amenities. These being the only houses that can be let at a low rent will be of value to the District if they are thoroughly repaired and maintained in good condition.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Health Committee and their staff for the consideration that I have received during the two years that I have acted as Medical Officer of the District. It is with regret that I relinquish my duties.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J.S.RANSON.

Medical officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	59,556
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	...	20,050
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...	...	...	6,316
Rateable value	...	...	...	£76,150
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£307. 15. 0.

					Braintree R.D.C.	England and Wales
		Total	Male	Female		
Live Births	Legitimate	323	163	160		
	Illegitimate	14	10	4		
Still Births		10	6	4		
Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population					16.8	15.2
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.10					18.48	
Still birth rate per 1000 live and still births					28.8	24.0
Deaths (Registrar-General's estimate)					195	
Death rate per 1,000 resident population					9.72	11.3
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.87					8.45	
Death of infants under 1 year of age					8	
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births					23.7	25.5
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					24.76	
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					-	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					35	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					0	

Deaths at Various Age Groups during 1954
(Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under 1 year	2	6
1 and under 2 years	1	-
2 and under 5 years	-	-
5 and under 15 years	-	1
15 and under 25 years	1	-
25 and under 35 years	-	1
35 and under 45 years	5	4
45 and under 55 years	6	4
55 and under 65 years	13	12
65 and under 75 years	33	17
75 and upwards	50	39
	111	84

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1954

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

			Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	1
4. Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5. Whooping cough	...	...	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8. Measles	...	...	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	4	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	5	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	14	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
16. Diabetes	...	...	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	15	16
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	13	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	4	-
20. Other heart disease	...	...	12	21
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	3
22. Influenza	...	...	-	2
23. Pneumonia	...	...	8	3
24. Bronchitis	...	...	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	...	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31. Congenital malformation	...	...	2	2
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	9	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	1
34. All other accidents	...	...	2	1
35. Suicide	...	...	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	1	-
All causes			103	92

2. PREVALENCE and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1954.

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9	-	-
Whooping Cough	17	-	-
Measles	18	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	9	-	-
Totals	57	2	

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during 1954.

TUBERCULOSIS - CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1954

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	-
5 and under 10 years	-	-	-	-
10 and under 15 years	-	-	-	-
15 and under 20 years	1	-	-	-
20 and under 25 years	1	1	-	1
25 and under 35 years	-	5	-	1
35 and under 45 years	1	2	-	-
45 and under 55 years	1	1	1	-
55 and under 65 years	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-
Totals	5	10	1	2

Of these cases 8 were of cases re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Pulmonary	...	...	Male	±
			Female	-
Non-pulmonary	...	...	Male	+
			Female	-
			Total	1

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
Braintree.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District and the work of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department for the year ending the 31st. December, 1954.

The year will be remembered for at least two important events; firstly, the coming into operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, and secondly the de-rationing of meat and removal of restrictions on slaughtering in private slaughter-houses.

The former, a most complicated piece of legislative machinery, was designed to further slum clearance work, and the reconditioning and maintenance of unfit houses; and to allow landlords to increase rents under certain conditions. The effects of the latter in preventing further decay of property remains to be seen !

The resumption of slaughtering of animals for human consumption in private slaughter-houses naturally created national difficulties particularly with regard to staff. Fortunately, so far as this District is concerned, only 6 of the 14 slaughter-houses in use before the war, were re-opened; but even this meant a considerable re-organisation of the work of the Department.

Tables and other details which follow, will give some idea of the varied nature of the duties generally performed.

In conclusion, I would express my appreciation and thanks to other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation; to members of the Council for their interest and support, and to my own staff for the conscientious and loyal manner in which they have continued to perform their own duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.ORGAN.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

Only one extension to water mains was made during the year at Feering and none was planned for 1955.

The main public water supplies generally have been satisfactory during the year as regards quantity and quality.

None of the waters is liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

The quality of the raw water from the Council's sources of supply and of the water passing into supply is controlled by regular bacteriological examinations. Regular chemical analyses are also made of the raw water from the respective sources. Sixty-six samples of main water supplies were taken for analysis during 1954. Copies of typical reports on the analyses of the water from four sources, Petches Bridge Waterworks, Coggeshall Waterworks, Terling Waterworks and the South Essex Water Company will be found along with the details of each works.

All the main water supplies in the District are subject to chlorination at the respective sources. In the case of the Council's undertakings, gaseous chlorine is employed at Petches Bridge Works and hypochlorite solution at Coggeshall and at Terling.

Details of the functioning of each of the undertakings during 1954 are given below. It has not been possible to obtain separate statistics as to trade and domestic consumption for the year under review.

Petches Bridge Waterworks (A)

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st.March,1955	70,930,000
Average day's pumping	14.46 hours

Analyst's Report

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals. The water is alkaline in reaction but not to an excessive degree. Its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are very moderate, and its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Coggeshall Waterworks (B)

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st.March,1955	39,956,000
Average day's pumping	15.63 hours

Analyst's Report

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction

on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate; its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution although high is not considered excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are normal results for the supply from the Coggeshall Pumping Station. They are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes apart from the disadvantage of the known content of fluorine.

Terling Waterworks (C)

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st.March,1955	22,995,000
Average day's pumping	7 hours

Analyst's Report

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

South Essex Water Company (D)

Total quantity of water received by this Council from the Company for the year ended 31st.March,1955 is as follows :

<u>Eastern Area</u>	Gallons
(i) Augmented supply to Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering	15,642,000
(ii) Supply to Bradwell, Cressing, Stisted, Black Notley and White Notley	96,329,000
	<u>111,971,000</u>

Southern Area

Augmented supply to Hatfield Peverel, Terling and Fairstead	11,375,000
Total	<u>123,346,000</u>

Analyst's Report

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and is of a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Supply from Chelmsford R.D.C. (F)

Total quantity of water received by this Council from the Chelmsford R.D.C. for the year ended 31st. March, 1955, was made up as follows:

	Gallons
Ranks Green Extension, Fairstead	1,330,000
Fuller Street Extension, Fairstead	301,000
"Cardfields" Extension, Hatfield Peverel	459,000
Total	<u>2,090,000</u>

Number of new connections at A	30
Number of new connections at B and D	48
Number of new connections at C, E and F	16
Total	<u>94</u>

SHALLOW WELL SUPPLIES

Only 4 public shallow well supplies were in use at the end of the year as follows :-

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Wells and Springs</u>
Bradwell	Two wells at Council Houses and opposite Bridge Hall.
Finchingfield	Two wells at Hawkins Harvest and at Ost End.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

With the completion of the Northern Area Sewerage Scheme, connections to the new sewers have continued but at a relatively low rate. Owing to the complexities involving rights and privileges of the owners, the work involved has been delayed and the appropriate action under the Public Health Acts is still required to connect the properties.

The extensions to the Wethersfield Sewage Disposal Works, dealing with 120,000 gallons (dry weather flow) from the airfield, were completed in 1954 and are now satisfactorily in operation. The need for careful supervision over the disposal of oil discharges is, however, very evident.

Building development continues to take place throughout the whole of the Rural District, and in the villages of Rayne, Terling, Stisted and Bradwell main drainage facilities are urgently required. The existing sanitary conditions are such as to warrant urgent attention in these specific cases.

In the London Road area of the Parish of Black Notley, complaints continue to be received and an acute problem will arise unless the necessary action is taken. Upon the completion of the Braintree works, the solution to this particular problem can be readily found.

The Council's housing problem for normal needs, appears to be nearing its end, and it would appear to be the appropriate time to further stress the importance of providing main drainage facilities in all those villages where they do not now exist, particularly in those cases where pollution is being caused to rivers.

Coggeshall Sewage Disposal Works

As has been previously reported, the flow to this works continues to increase and it is obvious that modification and enlargement is necessary.

Two of the large pumps at the main pumping station have been completely overhauled during the year and measures are in hand for similar work to be carried out on a further two pumps.

Kelvedon Sewage Disposal Works

Similar remarks to the above apply in this case, and maintenance works on the filter distributor arms have been carried out. Proposals are in hand for the erection of a further 150 houses in this village, which would again point to the need for enlargement to cope with the flow.

Hatfield Peverel Sewage Disposal Works

Of all the disposal works in the District, complete modernisation is most needed at this works. In view of the importance of the river into which this effluent flows, from the point of view of water supply, the practicability of combining a new scheme at Terling with modernisation of this works could be explored. During the year the existing plant has been maintained within reasonable bounds.

Wethersfield Sewage Disposal Works

This works is not yet working to capacity and, with the completion of the extensions previously mentioned, it is now possible to deal with the whole of the flow from the airfield separately through the new extensions. The advantages of having the whole works interconnected have been proved, particularly with the very small flow now coming through the three villages concerned. Isolated cases of oil discharge were noted but, with the recently installed oil trap, damage to the treatment plant has been reduced to the minimum.

White Notley Sewage Disposal Works

This works has continued to function in a satisfactory manner as the analyses of samples show. With housing development again, however, the flow has considerably increased but is still within the limits of the design for the works. The two pumps at the Cressing pumping station have required complete overhaul during the year.

Analyses

The following are details of the results of analyses taken at the various works during the year. In spite of the remarks concerning the adequacy of these works to deal with the increased flow, it is gratifying to note that, with proper maintenance and supervision, the number of unsatisfactory samples is reduced to a minimum.

<u>Works</u>	<u>Analyses</u>	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Coggeshall	2	3
Kelvedon	4	-
Hatfield Peverel	2	-
Wethersfield	3	-
White Notley	3	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection of Domestic Refuse

Once again it is possible to report that a reasonably satisfactory service was maintained throughout 1954 in spite of the difficulties appertaining to this service which have been emphasized from year to year, namely, labour, transport, and lack of suitable tips. The former in particular gave rise to considerable anxiety due not only to normal occurrences, i.e. holidays, seasonable departures from the service, but especially because of illness amongst the personnel.

Last year it was reported that the third and standby vehicle was fast becoming obsolete and un-roadworthy. This year it can be recorded that following a major breakdown, it was finally taken out of service. In view of the anticipated use of the dual-purpose vehicle purchased by the Council during the year, it was not considered necessary to replace the one taken out of service, at the present time. How effective the use of this particular dual-purpose vehicle will be, and how long before a further full-time vehicle is necessary remains to be seen.

The use of a further tip at Kelvedon was obtained during the year, but it is not anticipated that this will last for more than 2 - 3 years; therefore the problem of a long term means of disposal remains.

The Terling tip caught fire in August and was still smouldering at the end of the year. During this period its use was very much restricted.

Salvage

Salvaged materials to the value of approximately £769 were disposed of during the year. Again, the greater part was derived from the sale of waste paper.

Night Soil Collection

Little change took place in this service during the year. No extensions to the collection area were made and the number of new connections to the Council's sewers in the Northern Area were not sufficient to substantially reduce the number of properties from which collections were made.

The work continued to be carried out by Contract, but it is anticipated that in the early part of 1955, when the lime sludge has been cleared from Petches Bridge Pumping Station, the dual purpose vehicle purchased by the Council, will be brought into use for this service.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Details of the nature and number of inspections and visits made during the year by the Department are set out below. Once more it will be appreciated that the majority of visits are inevitably a result of housing and allied complaints brought to the notice of the Department, often through applications for housing accommodation which continue to be dealt with by the Department.

Nature and Number of Visits, Inspections, etc.

Housing Inspections and Recordings	...	...	...	34
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	165
Visits to investigate complaints	...	...	...	167
Re-visits and inspections of work in progress	...	...	...	338
Interviews with owners, builders and architects	...	...	...	188
Infectious disease enquiries	...	...	...	66
Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	none
Infestation of Insect Pests found	...	...	...	2
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	...	2
Inspections of Dairies	...	...	...	19
Visits to slaughterhouses and butcher's shops	...	...	...	634
Inspections of knacker's Yard	...	...	...	59
Inspections of Shops	...	...	...	52
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	28
Inspections of Fish Fryer's Premises	...	...	...	15
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	52
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	14
Inspections of Food Preparing premises	...	...	...	73
Inspections of Schools	...	...	...	8
Water samples taken	...	...	...	66
Ice Cream samples taken	...	...	...	4
Drains tested	...	...	...	129
Visits to premises regarding re-drainage	...	...	...	220
Visits to Requisitioned Premises	...	...	...	44
Visits to Temporary Dwellings	...	...	...	33
Visits to Camping and Caravan Sites	...	...	...	99
Visits in connection with Refuse Collection and collection of salvage	...	...	...	36
Visits to Refuse Tips	...	...	...	107
Visits to premises re. Water Supplies	...	...	...	12
Visit to premises re. Improvement Grants	...	...	...	227
Visits re. National Assistance Act	...	...	...	none
Visits to premises prior to removal to Council Houses	...	...	...	291
Visits to premises following applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	276
Visits to ascertain Permitted Numbers	...	...	...	16
Visits to supervise H.C.N. fumigations	...	...	...	2
Inspections re. Rats and Mice infestations	...	...	...	110
Inspections re. River pollutions	...	...	...	3
Visits re. Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	295
Inspections at Public Houses	...	...	...	24

CONTROLLED PREMISES: Details of Inspections, etc.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. Registered	No. Inspected	Total No. of Inspections	Informal Notices Served	Notices Complied With	Legal Proceedings
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Bakehouses	15	15	28	2	2	Nil
Dairies and Milkshops	7	7	19	-	-	Nil
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops	16	16	634	16	15	Nil
Knacker's Yards	1	1	59	3	3	Nil
Offensive Trades	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Fish Fryers	4	4	15	-	-	Nil
Ice Cream Premises	59	32	52	6	6	Nil
Factories and Workshops	87	42	63	4	1	Nil

Shops Acts, 1934 and 1950

Routine inspections of shops, particularly where this can be combined with inspections of premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of foods was maintained as far as practicable.

Such premises do not present much of a problem since in many instances the shops are attached to, or adjoining, living accommodation where some of facilities required by the Act are readily available.

No Statutory Action was necessary during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

Eight new applications for licences to station and use individual caravans on sites within the District were received and approved during the year. The total number of caravans so licensed was twenty-two.

Whilst the original licence in respect of several of these caravans may have been intended to be for a very limited period only, some are assuming quite a degree of permanency and the Council should consider to what extent such use can be permitted.

In addition three site licences were in force.

Smoke Abatement

Whilst no complaints were received during the year in respect of the few factory chimneys in the District. observations on the quantity and density of the smoke emitted were made at intervals. The conditions noted could not be considered bad but nevertheless, there was some room for improvement.

If the problem of Smoke Abatement is to be considered a national one, which indeed it should, then even the smallest factory chimney in a Rural Area should be so constructed or adapted to give off the minimum of smoke and grit.

Vermin Infestation

The practice of carrying out inspections of bedding and household effects before tenants move to Council Houses were continued. Two cases of vermin infestation found during the year were dealt with.

Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Only one premise is registered under the Act and no cause for complaint was found during the year.

Rodent Control

As a result of complaints received or infestations found during normal inspections, 130 major infestations (20-100 rats), 77 minor infestations (1-20 rats) and 21 cases of infestations by mice were satisfactorily dealt with. In addition, periodical treatments were made to the Council's refuse tips and sewage disposal works.

Infestations were once again found in the sewerage systems at Coggeshall and Hatfield Peverel and were given the necessary treatments.

Factories

Particulars of premises in the Rural District coming within the scope of the Factories Act, 1937, and of inspections made, will be found on page 17.

Notification of the employment of 60 outworkers employed in the District was received during the year. These were engaged mainly in the lampshade and wearing apparel industries.

Schools

All schools in the Rural District have piped main water supplies available, and the sanitary conveniences continued to be maintained in a reasonably satisfactory state.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	71	57	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	14	14	-	-
Total	101	77	-	-

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

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

HOUSING

The number of additional units of accommodation provided in the District during 1954 was 208, an increase of 9 over the previous year. Details are as follows : -

New Council Houses	...	...	195
Private Enterprise Houses	...	...	39
Plus: Additional units provided by conversion of other buildings to new dwellings			-
		Total	234
Less: Three cases of re-conditioning where units of accommodation were reduced from three to two or two to one	...		3
Twenty-three properties were demolished in 1954	...	...	23
		Net total	208

The number of outstanding applications for housing accommodation at the end of the year was 586, a reduction of 24 over 1953.

This figure shows little change from year to year in spite of the fairly frequent revision of the applications. What was said in 1953 on this point, namely, that in spite of the comparative large number of applications still registered, the housing problem was much easier, was again justified. Urgent and difficult problems do arise from time to time, naturally, but the large scale demand for accommodation from families living under overcrowded or otherwise bad housing conditions in the immediate post-war years have, in the main, disappeared.

Whilst the number of new Council houses erected during 1954 showed an increase over that for 1953, it is anticipated that with the programme now in hand, there will be a considerable reduction during 1955, but private enterprise houses should show a marked increase.

In accordance with Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, the survey of housing conditions throughout the District was commenced. This must be completed and a report submitted to the Minister by the end of August, 1955. In view of the short time available, it will not be practicable to carry out a detailed inspection of all properties, but information already in hand from previous surveys should enable a sufficient and accurate return to be made.

Applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 showed a marked increase during the year and a considerable amount of time had of necessity to be spent on the work.

Up to date details of applications received since the commencement of the scheme are as follows :-

Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grant)

Figures up to 31st. December, 1954.

(a)	Number of Applications received	...	...	49
(b)	Number of Applications approved by Council	...	...	40
(c)	Number of Improved dwellings resulting from works at (b)	...	...	61
(d)	Number of Improved dwellings completed	...	...	32
(e)	Number of Dwellings where work was in hand	...	...	26
(f)	Total amount involved in Grants approved	...	...	£13,394

Other information relating to housing generally is included in the tabulated form re-introduced this year for the first time since 1939.

So far, experience of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, indicates that the amendments to the Rent Restrictions Acts have done little to assist owners in carrying out repairs to their property. Only two applications, both of which were granted, for certificates of disrepair were received from tenants.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	127
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	147
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	34
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	38
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	22
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	105

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	86
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.- Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	5
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(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

B.- Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.- Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	23

D.- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 Part IV Overcrowding.

No formal action was taken under this part of the Act during the year.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The majority of retailers registered with the Council continue to distribute milk as received by them in sealed bottles, and largely as a result, little trouble was experienced with regard to complaints of unsatisfactory supplies

Dairies

Twenty distributors and eight dairies were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	10
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Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	8
Dealers' Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	10
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	5

Ice Cream Premises

There were 59 premises registered for the storage, manufacture and sale of ice cream in the District, an increase of five over the previous year. Four samples were taken, with the following results in terms of the Provisional Grading of the Ministry of Health applicable to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test:

Manufactured in the District		Manufactured outside the District	
1	Provisional Grade 1	3	Provisional Grade 1
-	Provisional Grade 2	-	Provisional Grade 2
-	Provisional Grade 3	-	Provisional Grade 3
-	Provisional Grade 4	-	Provisional Grade 4

Meat Inspection

From the beginning of July, it again became possible for butchers to buy and slaughter their own animals for the first time since 1940. It was anticipated that the majority of those operating slaughterhouses before the war would wish to do so once more, but in actual fact, only 6 finally considered that the cost of bringing their premises up to a required standard, together with the difficulty of obtaining suitable and qualified labour, justified them so doing. From an administrative angle, these were all conveniently situated in the Southern part of the District. Even so, with the somewhat chaotic conditions prevailing during the first few weeks, considerable re-organization of the routine of the Department had to be made, and it was ultimately found that owing to the fact that inspection has to be carried out within a short period of slaughter or not at all, meat inspection duties become a definite routine with other duties fitting in as best they can. In spite of several weaknesses in applicable legislation, it was found possible to inspect a very high percentage of animals slaughtered, due mainly to the co-operation of the butchers themselves.

Much of this work has of necessity to be performed outside normal office hours and at week-ends. A total of 321 hours was thus spent from the 1st. July to 31st. December.

The following table will give some idea of the work involved and the figure showing the amount of meat condemned is surely an indication of the value of this important public health duty : -

1954	NOTIFIED						INSPECTED						CONDEMNED				
	BEASTS	COWS	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP and LAMBS	TOTAL	BEASTS	COWS	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP and LAMBS	TOTAL	BEEF	PORK	VEAL	MUTTON	TOTAL
Month																	
July	141	4	35	356	227	763	147	4	36	372	228	787	1107	257 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1423
August	122	10	42	370	295	839	122	10	40	360	280	812	1050	213 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	1308
September	131	18	64	407	271	891	131	18	64	407	228	848	1083	261	-	8	1352
October	169	14	86	734	331	1334	169	14	86	734	323	1326	2256	504	-	-	2760
November	129	18	47	587	199	980	129	18	47	587	199	980	1154	638 $\frac{3}{4}$	22	4	1818 $\frac{3}{4}$
December	154	12	72	794	179	1211	154	12	72	794	179	1211	615	829	93	45	1582
<u>TOTALS</u>	846	76	346	3248	1502	6018	852	76	345	3254	1437	5964	7265 lbs.	2703 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	171 lbs.	104 lbs.	10,243 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

In addition six bodies of beef were found to be infected with *Cysticercus Bovis* and were retained in cold store for three weeks before release for human consumption.

Other Foods

The standard of cleanliness of premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of food, together with that of the personnel engaged therein, was given considerable attention during the year, as will be seen from the tables of visits and inspections as set out elsewhere in this report.

It was not necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food, nor was it necessary to take any formal action under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Bye-laws relating to the handling of foods.

Set out below are the quantities of various foodstuffs it was necessary to certify as unfit for human consumption during the year. All this food was voluntarily surrendered and on no occasion was it necessary to resort to seizure.

425 tins and jars of food of various types	88 lbs. Cooked Ham
183 Lbs. Pork	6 lbs. Jellied Veal
4 lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat	50 lbs. Apricot Pulp
6 lbs. Corned Beef	617 lbs. Horseflesh

Conclusion

Thanks are accorded to the Council's Surveyor and Engineer and his staff for much of the information regarding Public Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal included in the Sanitary Circumstances of the District.