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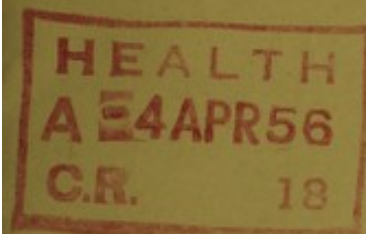
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Haverhill Urban District

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



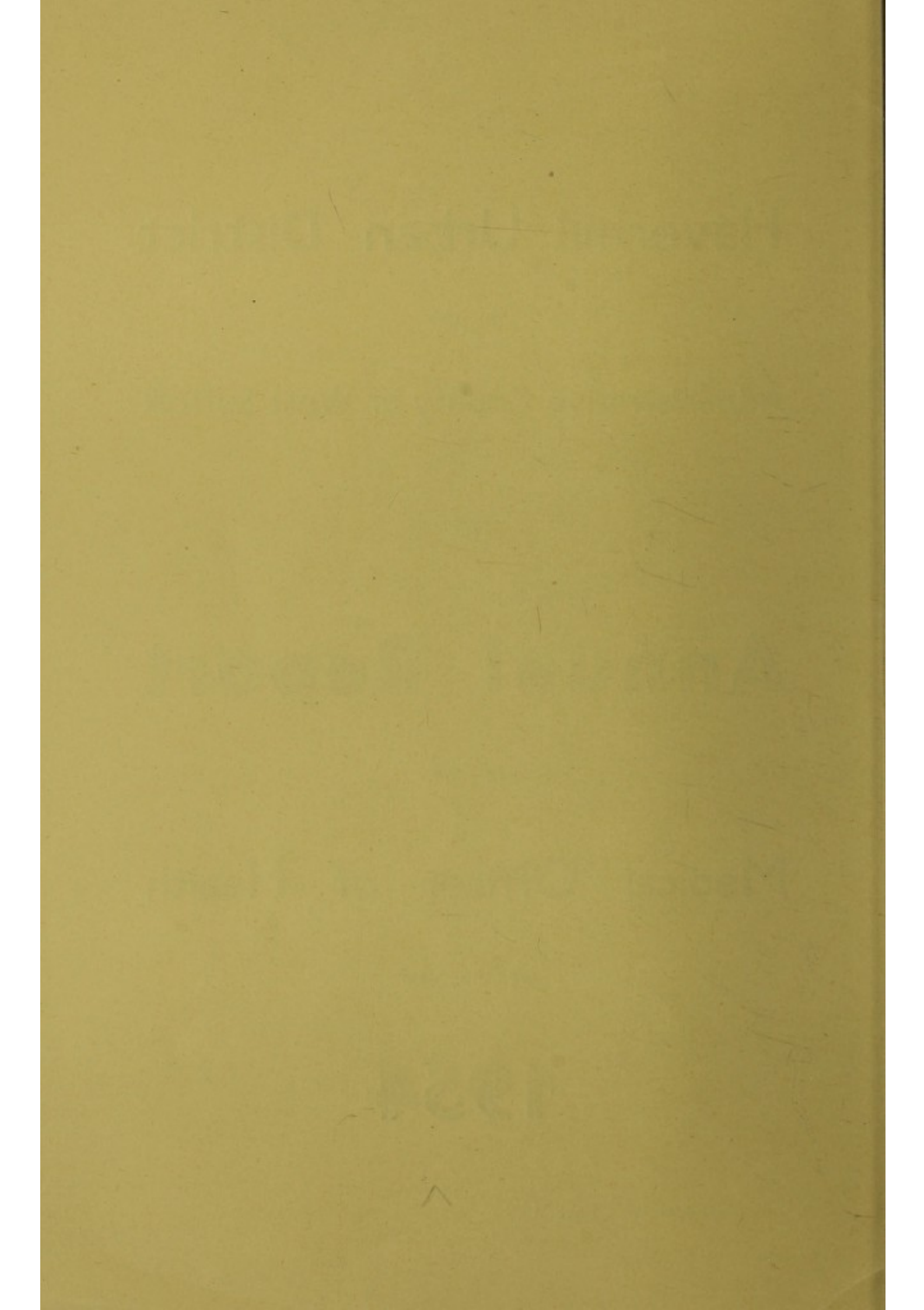
Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1954



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Haverhill Urban District for the Year 1954.

The population of Haverhill again shows the customary small but steady increase.

The Vital Statistics are very satisfactory, the birth rate being the highest for a Borough or Urban District in the County of West Suffolk and the death rate the same as for England and Wales.

None of the Notifiable Diseases reached epidemic proportions and no deaths were caused by any of the Infectious Diseases.

Preliminary inspections were made and discussions held regarding the anticipated permission of butchers to do their own slaughtering of animals.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the year. My sincere thanks are due, too, to Mr. W. C. Blake, the Clerk of the Council, and to Mr. P. T. Rake, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members

of the

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit to you the report of the Committee on the Health and Sanitation of the District for the year 1904.

The Committee on the Health and Sanitation of the District has the honor to acknowledge the assistance of the various health officers and sanitarians in the district.

The various health officers and sanitarians in the district have been very successful in their work, and the health of the district has been maintained at a high level. The Committee on the Health and Sanitation of the District has the honor to acknowledge the assistance of the various health officers and sanitarians in the district.

There is no doubt that the health of the district has been maintained at a high level. The Committee on the Health and Sanitation of the District has the honor to acknowledge the assistance of the various health officers and sanitarians in the district.

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I wish to express my gratitude to the various health officers and sanitarians in the district for their assistance. The health of the district has been maintained at a high level.

I have the pleasure to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. B. BARTLEY

Health Officer of the District

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	2,530 acres
Rateable Value	£21,442
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£81 17s. 11d.
Rates	£1 3s. 9d.
(County Rate 14s. 11d., U.D.C. Rate 8s. 10d.)	
Number of inhabited houses	1,597
Estimated population	4,175
Census 1951	4,096

The industrial activities of the town are varied and comprise the manufacture of ready-made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. The manufacture of tooth and other brushes also provides occupation for large numbers. Other factories produce ploughing and harvesting machinery, plant for sharpening lawn mowers and repairs to harvesting machinery. Rope, tarpaulins and marquees are also manufactured. A firm manufacturing telecommunication equipment commenced work this year. The processing of animal feeding stuffs is also carried out.

There are no industries or occupations that are likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the health of the employees or that of the general public. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly on Fridays.

SECTION B.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(Figures in brackets refer to the previous year).

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(25) 43	(24) 32	(49) 75
Illegitimate	(0) 2	(2) 2	(2) 4
Totals	(25) 45	(26) 34	(51) 79
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	(12.9)		18.9
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(13.5)		19.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	(15.5)		15.2
Proportion of illegitimate births to legitimate live births	(4.0%)		5.2%

Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(1) —	(—) 2	(1) 2
Illegitimate	(—) —	(—) 1	(—) 1
Totals	(1) —	(—) 3	(1) 3

Deaths :

	Total		Male		Female			
	(58)	62	(29)	30	(29)	32		
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(13.9)	14.9
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(10.7)	11.3
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)							(11.4)	11.3
Deaths resulting from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion								Nil
Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :								

	Total		Male		Female	
Legitimate	(1)	4	(1)	3
Illegitimate	(—)	1	(—)	1
Totals	...	(1)	5	(1)	4	(—)

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	(25.5)	63.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					
(England and Wales)					
	(26.8)	24.0			

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

Disease	Male		Female		Total
Cancer (all types)	(5)	9	(6)	4	(11) 13
Diabetes	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1) 0
Vascular Lesions					
of the nervous system	(3)	2	(4)	10	(7) 12
Heart Disease	(9)	3	(8)	7	(17) 10
Pneumonia	(1)	3	(2)	3	(3) 6
Bronchitis	(1)	2	(1)	0	(2) 2
Influenza	(2)	0	(0)	0	(2) 0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	(1)	1	(0)	0	(1) 1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0) 0
Other Accidents	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1) 0
Suicide	(1)	1	(3)	0	(4) 1
Homicide and Operations of War	0		1		1
Other and ill-defined diseases	(5)	9	(5)	7	(10) 16
Total	(29)	30	(29)	32	(58) 62

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1954 :

	1944	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53	-54
Birth Rates	19.8	16.5	16.8	21.9	15.5	15.2	15.8	12.7	14.9	12.9	19.3
Death Rates	14.9	15.1	13.9	17.5	12.5	13.7	16.8	14.6	19.5	13.9	11.3

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no alterations to report in any of the general arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- (a) Dr. G. P. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., whole time Medical Officer of Health (is also M.O.H. to several other local authorities).
- (b) Mr. P. T. Rake, M.B.E., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.
- (c) Mr. T. J. P. Hendry, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., R.P., Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Hospitals:

There are no hospitals within the area.

Ambulance facilities:

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance services.

Nursing in the Home:

District Nurses are available for nursing and midwifery duties

Infant Welfare:

A welfare clinic is held weekly on Fridays and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:

The Waterworks are situated in Camps Road on the West side of the Town, the floor level of the old Pump House is 279.50 feet above O.D., the new pump house floor level is 274 feet above O.D. The supply is obtained from below the chalk stratum and consists of a well 7 feet in diameter, 103 feet deep, with two headings each 25 feet long running North and South; there are 3 boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet from surface level, one through the South heading 10½ inch diameter and another 18 inch diameter through the North heading to a depth of 350 feet and 360 feet respectively from surface level.

A test pump when the 18 inch bore was sunk in 1944 showed an ample yield of water up to 26,500 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below the surface level.

Pumping Machinery :

The water is raised from the well by three throw pumps in duplicate (suction levels 100 feet below surface level) and from one of the boreholes by a reciprocating type borehole pump (suction level 175 feet below surface level); each delivering 10,000 gallons per hour. Power is obtained from 24 B.H.P. Crossley Diesel Oil Engines in duplicate.

In 1951 a vertical spindle centrifugal pump was installed in the other borehole—this raises approximately 15,000 galls. an hour and is powered by a 37 h.p. electric motor.

All water is chlorinated either by liquid or gaseous chlorine.

Water from the pumps is conveyed to a 150,000 galls. reservoir with a top water level of 350 ft. above O.D. This reservoir is not sufficiently elevated to supply possible future development on high ground, and the storage (one day's supply) is inadequate, and elevated and increased storage will have to be provided at some time in the future.

Number of Dwelling Houses Connected with Mains :

(a) Within the U.D.C. area	..	...	...	1596
(b) Outside the area..	...	...	...	19
Length of mains	...	...	...	8 $\frac{7}{8}$ miles

Number of houses not connected to mains :

(a) Within reach	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Not within reach	...	...	...	8

The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses) ... 4.7%

Purity of the Water :

Frequent samples are sent for chemical and bacteriological examinations. There has been little or no variation from the standard type of report reproduced here. The water shows no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

The following is a copy of a Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water taken by the :

Counties Public Health Laboratories,
66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance—Bright with very few mineral particles.

Turbidity—Less than 3.

Colour—Nil.

Odour—Nil.

p.h.—7.1.

Free Carbon Dioxide—35.

Electric Conductivity—830.

Total Solids—605.

Chlorine present as Chloride—41.

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate—285

Hardness: Total 450. Carbonate—285. Non-Carbonate—165.

Nitrate Nitrogen—1.8.

Nitrite Nitrogen—less than 0.01.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.000. Oxygen absorbed—0.20.

Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000. Residual Chlorine—Absent.

Metals—Iron 0.03. Copper—less than 0.03. Other metals absent.

Fluorine—0.5.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on				1 day at	2 days at	3 days at
Agar per ml....				37° C.	37° C.	20° C.
				o	o	o
				Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction				—	100 ml.	o per ml.
Bact. Coli (type 1) ...				—	100 ml.	o per ml.
Cr. Welchii Reaction ...				—	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from negligible trace of iron and copper. The water is very hard in character, but is free from any excessive content of mineral and saline constituents. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

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

(Signed) ROY HOATHER,

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Water Charges :

The charges for water are 1/5d. per 1,000 gallons with reductions for bulk supplies.

1/8d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10/- p.a.

The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells 1950 to 1954 inclusive :—

1950	{ Maximum level, March ...	...	200.50ft. above O.D.	
	{ Minimum level, November ...	...	193.65ft. „ „	
1951	{ Maximum level, May ...	...	208.75ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, January...	...	197.00ft. „ „	
1952	{ Maximum level, April ...	...	204.34ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, October...	...	195.50ft. „ „	
1953	{ Maximum level, March ...	...	203.40ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, January	...	195.60ft. „ „	
1954	{ Maximum level, May ...	...	204.00ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, January	...	197.50ft. „ „	

The average daily consumption of water per head was 37 galls.

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks during the last five years as compared with 1954 :—

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
JAN.	1.23	0.97	1.90	2.07	1.38	0.81
FEB.	1.97	1.39	0.88	3.53	3.49	1.11
MAR.	2.09	0.50	2.80	3.30	0.45	0.75
APRIL	0.25	1.94	1.19	3.07	1.73	1.44
MAY	2.46	1.79	0.94	2.51	2.07	2.76
JUNE	2.26	2.75	1.47	1.57	1.05	0.82
JULY	3.33	2.11	0.88	0.98	3.07	0.91
AUG.	4.17	1.90	3.14	2.88	1.70	1.39
SEPT.	1.27	1.55	2.46	2.78	3.02	0.51
OCT.	2.28	2.87	2.05	1.08	0.57	4.64
NOV.	3.32	1.13	3.79	3.87	4.07	1.72
DEC.	2.28	0.81	2.36	1.56	1.37	1.70
Totals	26.91	19.71	23.86	29.20	23.97	18.56

Snow or rain was recorded on 172 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. July 26th; when 1.04 inch was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 26.91 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath :

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the Town, the dimensions are 75ft. x 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

The charges are 12/- for Adult Season ticket holders and 6/- for Juniors, 9d. for Adults and 4d. for Juniors admission. 14 Adult and 120 Junior Season tickets were sold. In addition 883 Adults and 2,279 Juniors paid for admission.

Morning periods are reserved for use of Schools during the Summer term.

The drop in numbers attending was due to the adverse weather conditions.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the east side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters, with final treatment on 7 acres of land, all underdrained; three acres are terraced.

The Pumping Plant consists of Diesel Oil Engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour :

Number of dwelling houses connected with sewers ...	1543
Number of dwelling houses not connected with sewers...	53
(None of which is within reach of the sewers).	

House Scavenging :

Collections are made weekly from about 1623 premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused pit.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of Inspections	295
------------------------------	-----

(The above inspections are divided into)

(1) Inspection of houses under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954	54
(2) Inspection of Food premises	47
(3) Inspection of Factories	13

There were also a number of inspections made under the Pests Act 1949.

Number of Statutory Notices	0
Number of Informal Notices	28

In June of this year the control of meat ended and this has meant the opening of 4 slaughterhouses in the Town and the inspection of meat killed at these premises.

No. of Pigs inspected	1158
No. of Lambs inspected	96
No. of Calves inspected	5
No. of Cattle inspected	4
The total food condemned (including tinned food) ...	545lbs

Housing :

During the year 23 3-bedroom houses, 37 2-bedroom houses, and 8 2-bedroom flats were completed on the Parkway Estate. A further 8 2-bedroom houses, 5 3-bedroom houses, and 8 2-bedroomed flats, 2 shops and 16 garages were under construction.

The Council now own :—

302 3-bedroom houses
62 2-bedroom houses
16 2-bedroom bungalows
16 1-bedroom bungalows
16 2-bedroom flats
16 Duplex flats
10 pre-fabricated 2-bedroom bungalows
11 Army huts converted into 2-bedroom dwellings
21 other houses purchased by the Council

Total 470

The Council also own 5 Garages on the Helions Park Estate

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1954 is shown in the following table:—

TABLE 1.

	.44	.45	.46	.47	.48	.49	.50	.51	.52	.53	.54
Diphtheria ...	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	10	3	—	—	—	4	4	4	1	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles... ...	—	2	11	1	251	—	—	31	7	136	28
Whooping cough	—	—	4	1	5	3	44	13	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	7	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	9	12	20	2	256	4	49	49	12	138	28

No deaths resulted from any form of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Syphilitic disease, Whooping cough, Poliomyelitis, Measles or other Infectious or Parasitic disease.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1					1			
1-2					2	3		
3-4					5			
5-9					6	10		
10-14								
15-24								
25+								
U nknown						1		
TOTALS ..					14	14		

SECTION G.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types.
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	8	4	12	3	1	4	16
No. of cases added during the year	2	2	4	—	—	—	4

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 1—72 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	7	6	3		1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	39	7			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	3				3
TOTAL		49	13	3		

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

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

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL		—	—	—	—	—	

Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork :

60 persons are recorded as doing out-work. All are employed on the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

SECTION I.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



The records are recorded as follows: All records of the
or the history of the records are to be kept in the
under the records of the records.

SECTION 11

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1911

Section 11. - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need
of care and attention.

No person shall during the year ending the 31st day of
March 1912 be removed to the premises of the records.

W. F. BARCLAY, M.D., C.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



