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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS.

ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

For the Year 1956



Report presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Public Health Inspector,
Hertford Rural District.

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ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA



Report presented by

The National Office of Health and Disease Control, Washington, D.C.

Division of Field Epidemiology

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1956.

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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

H E R T F O R D R U R A L D I S T R I C T

P R E F A C E

To the Chairman and Councillors, Hertford Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Wright and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report on the Health of the District in 1956. The Report has been drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Cost of Printing the Report

Because of the high cost of printing the Annual Report each year, the appropriate Committee of the East Hertfordshire Combined Sanitary Districts decided by a majority vote that the Annual Report for 1956 should be produced separately, in stencilled form, for each separate District. Thus my Report for 1956 for East Herts is in seven parts.

So far as I can trace the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the East Hertfordshire Combined Districts has appeared in printed form ever since the Combined Districts were formed late last Century. Furthermore it has, with the exception of the year 1894, appeared as a Combined Districts Report. In 1894 Dr. George Turner, Medical Officer of Health, reported that the Ware Urban Sanitary Authority alone decided to have a separate Report. There is then a gap in my Records, but the next Report in my possession, for the year 1899, shows that Ware Urban District has thought better of its earlier decision and is reported along with the other six Districts.

Let's hope History will repeat itself, and that it will be possible to produce the M.O.H. Annual Report in Combined Form once more. I think that a comment made by Dr. George Turner in his Report for 1894 is applicable to the present day situation, and I make no apologies for reproducing his remarks:

"A common report possesses many advantages, since it prevents useless repetition, much of the advice given to any one Sanitary Authority being more or less applicable to all." ". and as the conditions of life are very similar in all the Districts any deviation from the general average should attract attention and lead to enquiry."

Vital Statistics.

The population of the District increased by only 40 people. Births exceeded Deaths by 71 persons, but 31 people are estimated to have left the District.

The Birth Rate at 17.45 per 1,000 population is higher than in 1955, and is well above the National Average of 15.7. It is also the highest Birth Rate for the Year, in the Combined Sanitary Districts of East Hertfordshire.

The Death Rate at 9.68 is also well below the National Average, and is also lower than in 1955.

Notifiable Disease.

Until November 1956 it looked as if the Rural District was going to have a very good year so far as infection was concerned, there having been few notifications received. Six parishes had no reported cases of Notifiable Illness.

In November and December an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery affected at least 96 persons, in the Watton-at-Stone area. The Outbreak was first recognised when on 23rd November over 25 children were reported absent from Watton-at-Stone School. With the full support of the local family doctor laboratory tests were arranged, and on 26th November the laboratory reported the presence of *Shigella sonnei*. By this time most of the children at School had already been exposed to infection. It was decided to exclude from school all family contacts of clinical cases until a faecal test showed them to be clear of infection. At one time exclusion left only 18 children at school, out of a normal complement of 93. This policy of exclusion also affected 6 pupils in attendance at schools in Ware, Hertford and Hatfield, from which no cases of dysentery have been reported.

Other precautions consisted of domiciliary visits to all affected households, for the purpose of gathering information and to offer advice, and the institution at school of a system of 'hand dipping' in a solution of Benzalkonium Chloride (as described in the Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Laboratory Service Vol 15, April 1956, page 59). A solution of the same substance was also used to disinfect school lavatories, lavatory chains, door knobs and wash-hand-basins.

since bowel infections of this type are easily spread via the bathroom and lavatory. One per cent. solution kills Sonne Dysentery in one minute at a dilution of 1:64.

42 of the notified cases were aged 5 to 9 years, and 24 cases occurred amongst persons age 25 years and over. The youngest case reported was 18 months old, and the oldest person ill was 86 years. The illness was almost exclusively confined to the families of children attending Watton School. Most of the adults fell ill in December, often when their children were well on the way to recovery.

The origin of the original infection was not traced, but it is known that there had been a large outbreak of Dysentery at Stevenage in June, and it is possible some of the Watton cases had contact with infected persons or carriers at Stevenage.

The bulk of the laboratory work was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge, but some specimens were also sent to the Hospital Laboratory at Hertford County Hospital. Over 160 specimens were examined. Generally a child with no clinical symptoms ~~was~~ passed as clear from infection after only one negative stool test, though in certain instances, at the General Practitioner's discretion, a further test would be arranged.

Action in connection with this outbreak, by the Public Health Department of Hertford Rural District, ceased just before Christmas. At the commencement of the Spring/^{term} at Watton School, 88 out of 96 children on the roll were at school.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register showed only a drop of two in the Year. There were 2 new cases (both in the lungs) one death and several inward and outward transfers. Two patients were pronounced CURED.

No cases of Diphtheria have been reported in Hertford Rural District for the thirteenth year in succession - the last reported cases being three in number in 1944, at Bayford.

Environmental Hygiene.

Great strides have been made in connection with the survey of sub-standard houses in the District. Detailed Reports were submitted to the Council in respect of 4 parishes. A total of 801 houses was surveyed. Full details are given in the Public Health Inspector's report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

In conclusion, I wish to thank your Council, and my colleagues for all the help I have received during the Year.

JOHN WILDMAN.

Hoddesdon, August 1956.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John H. Wildman, M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.) D.P.H.,

Central Office: Council Offices,
High Street,
HODDESDON,
Herts.

Telephone: Office:- Hoddesdon 3061.
Private:- Hoddesdon 2908.

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., BCh., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Senior Public Health Inspector (and Surveyor) H. E. GILBY.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspectors: D.R. HOWE.
C.W. PITMAN.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

(Note:- Mr. Pitman resigned November, 1956).

Public Health Department.

Council Offices,
Wallfields,
Pegs Lane,
HERTFORD, Herts.

Telephone:- Hertford 3007 (2 lines).

Clerical Duties in the Public Health Department were carried out
by Mrs I. M. Ball, Miss E. Payne and Miss J. Twigden.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Public Health Matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Committee,
the Chairman of which for the Session 1956/57 was Councillor Mr. F.S. BEETHAM.

The 'Improvements Committee' - Chairman Councillor Mr. C.J. TUCKER dealt
with sub-standard housing.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1956.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1955 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District:-

	8,910	(8,870)	
Natural Increase or decrease	...	...	+71
Migration in or out	...	...	-31
Total Increase or decrease	...	...	+40

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres 31,746

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books:

2,851 (2,809)

Number of Houses per acre. 0.08
Number of Persons per acre. 0.2
Number of Persons per house. 3.1

Rateable Value of District £75,954

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £305

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1956.

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1955 are shown in brackets).

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 17.45 (15.94)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 1.01 (1.01)

<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
------------------------------	-------------	---------------	--------------

<u>Total:</u>	80	74	154
---------------	----	----	-----

Legitimate:	77	70	147
-------------	----	----	-----

Illegitimate:	3	4	7
---------------	---	---	---

<u>Number of Still Births</u>	1	2	3
-------------------------------	---	---	---

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 Population. 9.68 (10.78)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 1.04 (0.96)

<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
-------------------------	-------------	---------------	--------------

<u>All Ages</u> - Total:	43	40	83
--------------------------	----	----	----

<u>Death of Infants under 1 yr.</u>	1	1	2
-------------------------------------	---	---	---

No. under 4 weeks of age	1	0	1
--------------------------	---	---	---

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births. 12.99 (14.4)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

<u>BIRTH RATE</u> 15.7 (15.0)	<u>DEATH RATE</u> 11.7 (11.7)
-------------------------------	-------------------------------

Infantile Mortality Rate 23.8 (24.9)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1956:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total all Ages</u>	Under 1	<u>Age group in years</u>				Over 65
			1-	5-	15-	25 -	
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	-	4	4	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	5	-	1	2	1	1	-
Dysentery	97	-	11	53	9	23	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

Incidence of Diseases during the different Months.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Month and Number of Cases</u>
Scarlet Fever	January (1), May (1).
Whooping Cough	February (1), May (1), June (2), November (2), December (2).
Measles	May (1).
Acute Pneumonia	January (1), February (1), March (2), April (1).
Dysentery	July (1), November (41), December (55).
Meningococcal Infection	April (1).

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes, during 1956.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Disease and Number of Cases</u>
Aston	Scarlet Fever (1), Pneumonia (2).
Bayford	NIL
Benington	Pneumonia (1).
Bengeo Rural	NIL
Bramfield	NIL
Brickendon Liberty	Whooping Cough (5).
Datchworth	Pneumonia (1).
Hertingfordbury	NIL
Little Amwell	Meningococcal Infection (1).
Little Berkhamsted	NIL
Sacombe	NIL
Stapleford	Scarlet Fever (1).
Tewin	Whooping Cough (2), Measles (1).
Walkern	Whooping Cough (1), Dysentery (1).
Watton-at-Stone	Pneumonia (1), Dysentery (96).

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - continued -

Prevention of Illness - Poliomyelitis Innoculations.

The Hertfordshire County Council carried out a series of innoculations against poliomyelitis, during the year, at centres convenient to children in the District.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc: during 1956:-

The year commenced with 46 names upon the Tuberculosis Register:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
<u>Males</u>	16	5
<u>Females</u>	19	6

Two New Cases were notified for the first time,

<u>Males</u>	2	0
<u>Females</u>	0	0

There were four Inward Transfers, from other areas,

<u>Males</u>	2	0
<u>Females</u>	1	1

One patient died,

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	1	0

Five patients left the District (Outward Transfers).

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	2	3

Two patients were pronounced CURED,

<u>Males</u>	0	2
<u>Females</u>	0	0

The year therefore ended with 44 cases on the Register:-

<u>Males</u>	20	3
<u>Females</u>	17	4

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956.

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	ALL CAUSES	43	40
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic disease	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
11	" " lung, bronchus	0	1
12	" " breast	0	2
13	" " uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	1
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0
17	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	7	6
18	Coronary disease, angina	11	8
19	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20	Other heart disease	3	4
21	Other circulatory disease	1	3
22	Influenza	0	0
23	Pneumonia	1	3
24	Bronchitis	0	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
34	All other accidents	0	0
35	Suicide	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births	1	2
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	0
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age.	0	1

CAUSES OF DEATH - Comment.

Disease of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 45 out of the total of 83 deaths. 19 of these deaths were due to Coronary Artery Disease or Angina. It is considered that many diseases of the heart and circulation are PREVENTABLE. Overweight contributes to this group of diseases by causing the heart and circulation to work under difficulties.

It has been said that an ideal weight to attain during middle age is ones weight at the age of 25 years !

Sixteen deaths were from Cancer, but only one of these was due to Cancer of the Lung.

There were 2 deaths in infants under the age of 1 year. Both were caused by conditions which are invariably fatal.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford, Herts.

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses: 4. Welfare Centres: 7. Mobile Clinics: 2.

Vaccinations, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of the parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27, Bull Plain, Hertford. (Telephone: Hertford 3232).

A charge may be made for this Service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A medical Loan Depot has been established at The Durrant Hall, Mill Bridge, Hertford.

A charge may be made for both the above Services.

Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3013). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a medical practitioner.

Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery in the Hertford Rural District.

Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W.T. MEDHURST, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone: Ware 541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The Hertford Rural District is served chiefly by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford and by the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, & the Luton & Hitchin Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER MEDICAL SERVICES.

One General Practitioner resides and practises in the District, but the area is also served by Practitioners from adjoining localities.

DENTAL SERVICE.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns.

OTHER SERVICES.

There is a Club for Old People at Hertford Heath; there are also several Old People's Clubs in adjoining areas. Womens Institutes are active in 12 centres of the District.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA -

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

For the Year 1956.

Introduction.

The year 1955 marked a year of steady if unspectacular progress towards attainment of a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene with particular emphasis on two aspects namely food hygiene and the elimination of unsatisfactory housing accommodation.

Water Supplies.

The Council has continued its efforts to afford a wholesome and sufficient supply of water to as many properties as possible and during the year under review a further 60 houses were connected to the mains supply. The number of houses with a mains supply of water is now 2,755 which is over 95% of the total houses in the Rural District. Further details as to the water supply to various properties are shown in the table later in the report. Throughout the year there were only one or two minor interruptions to supply and generally the supply comfortably exceeded demand due largely to the wet summer, but also to increased pumping and storage capacity.

In order to ensure purity of the water regular samples were taken at many differing points on the supply systems and these were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological examination.

The result of these laboratory examinations are tabulated below:-

<u>Public Supplies</u>		
Class I	Highly satisfactory	52
Class II	Satisfactory	1
Class III	Suspicious	2
Class IV	Unsatisfactory	Nil.

Samples from the two sources of supply (i.e. Aston and Datchworth Pumping Stations) are chemically analysed at intervals and the most recent analysts report is shown below:-

Parts per Million

	Southern Parishes (Waterhall).	Northern Parishes (Aston).
Appearance	Bright with very few particles.	Clear and bright.
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 3.	Nil.
Colour	Nil.	Nil.
Odour	Nil.	Nil.
Reaction pH	6.9	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	58	26
Electric Conductivity	570	525
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	380	350
Chlorine present as Chloride	24	16
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	245	260
Hardness: Total	305	300
Carbonate	245	260
Non-carbonate	60	40
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.0	3.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10	0.05
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine	0.12	Absent
Metals	Absent	Absent

The analyst comments in detail upon these figures and his report on both samples is reproduced below:-

Northern Parishes.

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes".

Southern Parishes.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from iron and other metals. The water is just on the acid side of neutrality, has a high content of free carbon dioxide and a corrosive tendency towards metals would therefore be expected. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes".

Private supplies of water i.e. estate mains and individual wells, were also sampled as the opportunity arose and these were reported on in detail by the Public Health Laboratory. The results are tabulated below:-

Class I	Highly satisfactory	2
Class II	Satisfactory	Nil
Class III	Suspicious	2
Class IV	Unsatisfactory	5

In all cases where the laboratory report was unsatisfactory visits were made and advice given wherever possible in an effort to improve purity of the water.

Means of Supply to Dwellings during 1956.

An indoor water supply was made available at 19 properties formerly supplied from standpipes and water was laid on to one remote property leaving six properties in the district dependent upon water carted from elsewhere. The number of properties deriving water from privately owned supplies or wells was reduced by 4.

Parish	Houses connected to Mains		Houses supplied by Wells and Private Systems	No Means of Supply	Total
	Indoors	Stand-pipe			
Aston	171	4	19	2	196
Bayford	111	4	4	1	120
Benington	204	5	3	-	212
Bengeo Rural	102	-	3	2	107
Bramfield	72	1	2	-	75
Brickendon	85	1	40	-	126
Datchworth	305	22	6	-	334
Hertingfordbury	207	-	5	-	212
Little Amwell	265	25	-	-	290
Little Berkhamsted	155	2	-	-	157
Sacombe	60	-	-	1	61
Stapleford	131	25	2	-	158
Tewin	281	15	3	-	299
Walkern	242	6	15	-	263
Watton-at-Stone	245	9	1	-	255
Total	2,636	119	103	6	2,865
1955 Total	2,553	142	108	7	2,809

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Datchworth sewerage scheme was virtually completed by the end of the year including the Bury Lane extension which was included in the contract at a late stage as a result of the reversal of the education authorities intentions regarding the future of Datchworth School. During the year 144 houses were connected to the new sewers and cesspools rendered obsolete numbered over 80.

Bengeo Rural (Chapmore End and Tonwell Sewerage Scheme).

Good progress was made in the surveys and necessary administration work to enable the scheme to commence in 1957.

General

The policy of providing main drainage wherever possible continues and schemes are being prepared for a number of parishes where the present disposal arrangements are inadequate.

Refuse Collection. Public Cleansing.

A fortnightly collection^{of} refuse was maintained although difficulties were experienced in recruiting and retaining suitable staff. The number of houses from which refuse was collected increased by 60, but the availability of a further refuse tip at Bulls Mil', Waterford considerably decreased the haul to tip, particularly from the northern parts of the district, and the additional burden was therefore absorbed without serious difficulties becoming apparent.

Cesspool Emptying.

The number of houses served by cesspools decreased during the year by 62 so that although at the end of the year 1107 houses had this form of drainage and the demand on the cesspool emptying service was heavy on occasions, the number of tanker loads removed fell by 355 and the second vehicle was required to a much less extent than has previously been the case.

With the construction and availability of the main Stevenage Trunk Sewer it is now possible to dispose of the cesspool emptier contents in a satisfactory manner in the majority of instances.

The connection of the remaining houses in Datchworth to the main sewer where available will further reduce the demand on the service, although this advantage will to some extent be offset by new house construction with cesspool drainage, and the deterioration of other old drainage systems.

Summary of the Development of the Council's Undertakings and Services.

Full details of the development of the Council's services since 1952 are available, the percentage increases in the following services over 5 years are as shown below. (The figures in brackets indicate the percentage increase up to last years annual report).

<u>Main water into houses</u>	15%	(13%)
<u>Main sewerage (connected)</u>	43%	(27%)
<u>Refuse collection</u>	12%	(10%)

The number of loads the cesspool emptying service removed annually has decreased by 20% and this figure has a direct relationship to the increase in the number of houses provided with main drainage.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

during the year 1956.

Factories Act.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food and Drugs Act:							
Food Premises and Licensed Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Unfit food ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Housing Acts:							
Inspections and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	1390
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	310
Public Health Acts:							
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	340
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	313
Sanitary Accommodation at Cafes, Inns etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Petrol Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Street Numbering and Naming	...	...	...	...	...	...	506
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	3458

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Details of registrations and licences in force, and further particulars concerning milk and other foods, are as below:-

<u>Milk and Dairies</u>						<u>Total</u>
Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Registered Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	15
<u>Designated Milk Licences:-</u>				<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supple- mentary</u>	
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	6	11		17
Pasteurised	...	...	7	11		18
Sterilised	...	...	3	10		13
<u>Slaughterhouses</u>						
Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	...	...	...	3

Ice Cream Premises

Registered for Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

Preserved Foods

(a) Sausage Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Other Preserved Food Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Food Premises by type of business

Bakery (no shop)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakery with Shop...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butcher ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cafe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocery and general ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Office or industrial canteen ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hotel ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Licensed Houses:

Full Licence ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Off Licence only ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water Factory ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poultry slaughterhouse and Packing Establishment ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gut Cleaning and Sausage Skin Dressing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food Unfit for Human Consumption

Unfit foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered were:-

55 carcasses of chickens 6lbs corned beef.

Meat Inspections

All food animals intended for sale for human consumption and killed in the one licenced slaughterhouse were inspected and details are shown below:-

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
<u>No. killed and inspected</u>	-	-	2	4	24

One calf was considered to be unfit for consumption showing lesions of umbilical pyaemia, and two pigs from a swine fever infected herd showed suspicious post mortem lesions and were disposed of by burial in quicklime.

Housing Acts, 1936 - 1954.

Improvement Schemes

Approval continued to be given to schemes for the improvement of substandard houses wherever possible in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949 and the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954. The total number of houses involved was 14 and the amount of improvement grants awarded by the Council totalled £5,200.

Substandard Properties

Good progress was maintained in the Parish Housing Surveys and reports on unfit properties were considered by the Improvements Committee of the Council. It was decided to serve Notices of Time and Place in respect of 58 properties in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, Section 11. In the vast majority of cases the property owners agreed that the properties were in fact incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost and demolition orders were made or undertakings accepted. In other instances the owners intimated their intention to submit reconditioning proposals and accordingly a further extension was granted in order to allow time for the preparation of plans and specifications. No appeals against the Council's action in making demolition orders were lodged during the year. The following table gives an overall picture of the progress made in the eradication of substandard houses.

<u>Demolition Orders made</u>	70
<u>Undertakings not to relet</u>	21
<u>Notices of Time and Place served</u>	58
<u>Reconditioning Proposals accepted</u>	4
<u>Reconditioning completed</u>	2
<u>Houses demolished</u>	10

The number of visits made in connection with the Parish Housing Survey, demolition orders and housing repairs was 1390.

Housing Progress

The following table shows the progress which has been made with new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925).

	During 1956	Since 1945
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		
New dwelling erected	42	220
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	2
Repairs to war-damaged houses	-	31
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	31
BY LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY		
New dwellings erected	31	431
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	-
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	-
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, Forestry Commission, etc).		
	-	45
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31st DECEMBER, 1956.		
Council Houses		705
Temporary prefabricated bungalows		-
Sundries		1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

A number of Public Health nuisances were investigated during the year but all were abated without recourse to statutory action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

As in previous years sewers were treated in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation to ensure destruction of rats but no major infestations were reported. Rat infestations have been substantially reduced in county districts, and this has seemingly followed a change of emphasis in eating habits on the part of foxes, stoats and weasles, now deprived of supplies of rabbits; whether this, the increasing use of effective poisons, or both, are responsible is of academic interest, but the time is now favourable to take further energetic steps to

Infectious Diseases

Routine visits were made to all cases of infectious diseases and precautions such as the exclusion of school children and quarantine were taken where necessary.

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SECTION D.

FACTORIES ACTS. 1937 and 1948.

The following is a summary of information already supplied in detail to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised), in respect of the year 1956.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Factories without Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	...	...	30
Inspections	...	...	5

Factories with Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	...	...	30
Inspections	...	...	5
Written Notices	...	...	-

Other Premises under the Act:

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworker's Premises).

Number on Register	...	...	-
Inspections	...	...	-
Written Notices	...	...	-

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

<u>Defect</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
-	-	-
Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	...	-
" " " by " "	...	-