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HINCKLEY
Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ending December 31st, 1937

by

J. H. DONNELL, B.A., M.B., B.C.


and

E. MELSON, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

HINCKLEY:

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1938.



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Public Health Officers of Hinckley Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health :

J. H. DONNELL, B.A., M.B., B.C. (Cantab.)

District Medical Officer under the Poor Law Acts and Public Vaccinator :

H. SHIRLAW, M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector :

E. MELSON

Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector.
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Other Foods Inspectors Certificate.
Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate for Sanitary Science in connection
with Public Works and Buildings.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector :

H. BUXTON

Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector.
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Other Foods Inspectors Certificate

Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector :

G. G. POPPLEWELL

Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector.

Clerk :

L. F. WHITMORE

General Assistant :

A. A. ENGLAND

Vaccination Officer :

W. H. PENDLEBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Hinckley Urban District Council.
Gentlemen,

We have the honour of presenting our Nineteenth Annual Report respecting the health and sanitary conditions for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

Nothing very notable has occurred during the year locally. The Infant mortality rate has improved on last year, being 48.4 per 1,000 live births as against 60.9.

There was a large increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria. The Five Years Slum Clearance scheme for the old Urban District was completed during the year, but the newly added outlying areas have still to be finished off. And while on this subject we wonder whether further building of houses, once the displaced tenants have been provided for, should not proceed more cautiously. It appears this part of England no longer has the monopoly it had in the Hosiery Trade. Hosiery Factories are increasing in Lancashire, the South, and the West, under conditions where trade is easier, therefore goods can be produced at lower prices than in your area; and if the Hosiery Trade diminishes, as it appears to be doing, the ancillary trades will also diminish.

Whilst writing this report, England is still a free and democratic country, and presumably therefore, all legislation is in accordance with the wish of the majority of the population (even the rate of Income Tax). During the year the Urban Council became a Local Authority for the purposes of the Shops Acts 1912, etc. The administration of the duties under these Acts has been delegated to certain members of the Health Department Staff. We would appeal to the persons concerned, particularly the more conservative, to treat these members of your staff with the courtesy and goodwill with which they themselves are treated. We know that no one likes being interfered with in their private affairs, but it is the duty of the members of the staff appointed to see that these regulations are conformed with.

Although the anti-diphtheria scheme has only been undertaken during the current year, a special account of it is included at the end of this report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres), 11,771.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937—33,710.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the rate books, 10,324.

Rateable value, £173,756.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £656.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There has not been any notable change in the social conditions. There has been a slight influx from some of the depressed areas.

A new factory has started, which makes the chemical material for water softening plants, but does not employ a large amount of manual labour.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Rate per 1,000 total population.			Total deaths under one year per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births	death rate per 1,000 population	per 1,000 live births	
England and Wales ...	14.9	0.60	12.4	58	
Hinckley	17.44	0.5	10.3	48.4	
Live Births: Legitimate	582	294	288	Birth rate 17.44 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	
Illegitimate	17	7	10		
Still Births:	17	12	5	27.4 per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Deaths:	350	190	160	Death rate corrected—10.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of Registrar-General's short list):

	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
No. 29, puerperal sepsis	1	1.6
No. 30, other puerperal cause	0	0
Total	1	1.6
Death rate of infants under one year of age:		
All infants per 1,000 live births	48.4	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	48.1	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	58.8	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	53	
" " Measles " ...	3	
" " Whooping Cough " ...	1	
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age) ...	0	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1—(i) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(see beginning of Report)

(ii) LABORATORY FACILITIES

A Laboratory is run by the County Council at 17 Friar Lane, Leicester; the following examinations from your area were carried out during the year.

Throat Swab for Diphtheria	127
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	275
Blood for Wassermann	3
Films for Gonococci	7

Urine, General and Bacteriological	...	...	...	33
Urine for T.B.	...	...	...	23
Milk Examination: Bacteriological	...	...	...	248
Widal Test for Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	3
Sewage and Water Analyses	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	3

 730

2—AMBULANCE FACILITIES

There are two ambulances maintained and run by voluntary contributions. There is a scheme by which contributors of a subscription of 1s. a year have free use of the ambulance, which we believe is proving very successful.

3—NURSING IN THE HOME

(i) General

There is a branch of the County Nursing Association under an Influential Ladies' Committee and a Nurse will be supplied for subscribers to the Association. More subscribers at the higher rates or annual subscriptions are really necessary.

(ii) Infectious Diseases

There is no permanent nurse employed, but in the event of an epidemic of measles, the Council propose to make the disease notifiable and employ a nurse, if necessary.

4—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

There is no change in the Clinics and Treatment Centres. There is a modern building, built for the purpose, where the School Clinics, Child Welfare, Antenatal, Orthopædic (up to the age of 16) and Tuberculosis Examinations are held.

5—HOSPITALS

There has been no change in the Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1—(i) WATER

No. of samples taken for analysis:

(a) From wells	...	...	...	1
(b) From pipe supply	...	...	...	8

Result of analysis of samples taken:

(a) From wells, satisfactory				
(b) From pipe supply, satisfactory				
No. of samples condemned (from wells)	...	...	...	Nil

No. of wells:

(a) Closed	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	Nil

No. of cases in which Public Supply was substituted for well water

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

During the year 1.61 miles of new water main were laid. Included in this length were the mains necessary to provide Stoke Golding with an adequate supply. Mains were laid in various parts of the district to keep pace with building development.

The water supply was satisfactory as regards

- (a) Quality, and
- (b) Quantity, and was maintained as usual throughout the year.

The new bore-hole in the parish of Snarestone which was decided upon in 1935 to augment the existing supply was completed during the year, the yield from the well being 200,000 gallons per day.

Eight samples of water were taken for analysis from the piped supply, all of which were reported as satisfactory.

Two samples of Thornton water were taken for bacteriological examination,

- (1) from clear water tank before chlorination,
 - (2) from clear water tank after chlorination,
- the results being:

	Colony count of bacteria per c.c. at		Presumptive coli aerogenes test
	37°C	20°C	
1.	4.	9.	Absent from 100 c.c.
2.	1.	2.	" " " "

Both waters are free from streptococci in 50 c.c. and from the spores of *B. welchii* in 100 c.c.

The analysts' report upon three samples of water taken for chemical examination from:

1. Reservoir, Town Supply, (22/5/37),
2. New borehole at Snarestone, 400 feet deep, (22/5/37),
3. From Thornton supply, (13/10/37),

was as follows:

Results expressed in parts per 100,000.

	1.	2.	3.
Free and Saline Ammonia	Trace	0.007	Trace
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.010	0.008	0.016
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.900	2.300	1.900
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	0.220	Trace	0.220
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at 80°F in four hours	0.148	0.007	0.146
Total solids dried at 100°C	30.000	34.000	26.000

1. Appearance.	Bright, many small particles; metals and free chlorine absent.		
Hardness.	Temporary	...	5.200
	Permanent	...	13.600
	Total	...	<u>18.800</u>

Opinion. The results detailed show that this water is of good quality and suitable for use as a Public Supply.

2. Appearance.	Slightly brown and slightly turbid, very many small particles.				
Hardness.	Temporary	...	...	...	14.400
	Permanent	...	...	...	13.200
	Total	...	...	...	<u>27.600</u>

Opinion. The results show that the water contained a little more free and saline ammonia than is usually considered quite satisfactory. The well is a very deep one, however, and we have no doubt that it will ultimately yield a good quality water.
(This sample was taken almost immediately after boring operations had finished.)

3. Appearance.	Bright, few small particles. Metals and free chlorine absent.				
Hardness.	Temporary	...	...	...	4.4
	Permanent	...	...	...	13.6
	Total	...	...	...	<u>18.0</u>

Opinion. The results detailed show that subject to chlorination this water may be considered a suitable one for use as a Public Supply. (Bacteriological reports upon this supply before and after chlorination are set out earlier in the report.)

We are indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the copies of the analysts' reports.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No. of cesspools in district at end of 1937 ... 88

No. of cesspools abolished during 1937 ... 17

15 cesspools were abolished during the year at Earl Shilton, 1 at Barwell and 1 at Burbage.

A relief sewer was constructed at Barwell to prevent flooding around the southern portion of the district.

The Equity Estate, Earl Shilton, and the Sketchley Hill Estate, Burbage, were sewered during the year.

2—RIVERS AND STREAMS

A large cesspool which had an overflow and polluted a tributary of the River Tweed has been abolished and the drainage system of the premises concerned connected to the public sewer.

The group of cottages mentioned in last year's report has been condemned. The pollution from this source has diminished and will cease when the tenant of one house has been rehoused.

3—(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total No. in district at end of 1937:

(1) Privies	16
(2) Pail closets	247
(3) Water closets	7,754

No. of privies (middens) and pail closets converted to the water carriage system during the year ... 27

No. of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year ... 2

The privies and pail closets which were converted to water closets were almost all situate in the Burbage and Earl Shilton wards.

The whole of the 37 houses dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936, during the year at Stoke Golding had pail closets.

Position as to Conservancy System of Closet Accommodation in the Urban District.

Pail Closets	Hinckley	Barwell	Burbage	Earl Shilton	Stoke Golding
(1) At properties to be included in Housing Survey.	Nil	3	5	12	?
(2) No sewer available.	23	3	29	10	?
(3) Demolition Orders made in respect of houses.	Nil	1	1	2	?
(4) To be dealt with.	Nil	3	1	1	?
(5) At farms (where sewer may be available.)	Nil	1	1	2	?
Total	23	11	37	27	149

Privy Middens ... 1 2 Nil Nil 13

The figures relating to the Barwell, Burbage and Earl Shilton wards exclude privy and pail accommodation at outlying farms where the main sewer and water supply are not available.

The figures for Stoke Golding are not available in the manner set out above.

With the exception of Stoke Golding almost the whole of the privies and pails are situate well out of reach of the sewers.

The position at Stoke Golding is progressing inasmuch as a piped water supply has been laid to the village. A small portion of the village is adequately sewered, the remainder of the sewerage system apparently needs examination and overhaul or renewal, which no doubt will be hastened following the provision of the piped water supply.

A number of properties where pail accommodation exists are scheduled for treatment under the Housing Act, 1936.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected by horse drawn vehicles in Hinckley and by mechanical vehicles in the outer wards.

Refuse is collected weekly and disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjoining the sewage disposal works at Hinckley and Barwell,

by controlled tipping in a sand pit at Burbage and by tipping at Earl Shilton. The tip at Earl Shilton is raked and trimmed and kept in as sanitary a condition as possible.

There has been no change in the method of cleansing earth closets, ash-pits and privy middens.

The collection of refuse in the outer wards was formerly performed by contract labour; during the year this service has been changed to direct labour collection. Two modern mechanical collecting vehicles are used. This change has considerably increased the efficiency of the service.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this report.

Total No. of premises visited, (only concerned with No. of premises and not with No. of visits)	1,266
“ “ “ defects or nuisances discovered (excluding smoke nuisances)	664
“ “ “ complaints received	125
“ “ “ notices served:—	
(a) Formal	14
(b) Informal	486
“ “ “ defects remedied after service of notices	554
“ “ “ summonses issued	Nil
“ “ “ convictions obtained	Nil
“ “ “ inspections and nature of such:	4,324
Inspections in connection with Nuisances	932
“ “ “ “ Housing	208
“ “ “ “ Tents, vans and sheds	10
“ “ “ “ Canal Boats	6
“ “ “ “ Factory and Workshop Act	16
“ “ “ “ Bakehouses	29
“ “ “ “ Dairies	36
“ “ “ “ Farms	264
“ “ “ “ Meat Inspection	1,460
“ “ “ “ Slaughter-houses	29
“ “ “ “ Food Premises	103
“ “ “ “ Smoke Abatement	74
“ “ “ “ Shops Act	290
“ “ “ “ Overcrowding	105
“ “ “ “ Infectious Disease	220
“ “ “ “ Market	39
“ “ “ “ Housing Surveys	458
Re-inspections	45
Total	4,324

REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses in the district. One application for premises to be registered was made which was not proceeded with owing to the cost of the works

of repair and adaption which were necessary before the premises could be considered as suitable for registration.

Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.—10 inspections were made as a result of which 11 vans or tents were removed following visits to the owners or occupiers of the land.

Offensive Trades.—There are two tripe dressers premises in the district; both are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Knackers Yard.—There was one knackers yard in the district in 1936; renewal of the licence was not applied for. The premises were generally unsatisfactory.

(iv) SHOPS

During the early part of the year the Urban Council took over the administration of the whole of the Shops Acts. A Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed in June to assist with the Housing work who was able to perform some Shops Act work towards the end of the year.

262 shops were inspected and 290 inspections made. 81 informal notices were served. The provisions of the Acts were explained to the shopkeepers, a summary of the Acts was also sent to all shopkeepers in the district. The ultimate results following the inspections will be reported upon in next year's report.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT

74 observations and inspections were made in connection with 27 premises. As a result of these observations 19 nuisances were discovered.

Two nuisances were abated by the installation of smoke abatement plant, one by the overhauling of the smoke abatement plant and the fixing of additional secondary air jets, two by cleaning the flues out and lessening the load on the boiler, eight by greater attention and care in stoking and two by having refuse removed instead of burning it in factory yards.

The nuisance caused by the burning of waste paper, transfers, etc., in the town has lessened to a considerable degree. Several complaints of the offensive effluvia from the burning of leather and composition scrap material were received. These nuisances were caused in the Barwell and Earl Shilton wards. It is submitted the most satisfactory method to abate the nuisance from this cause is to have the material carted away at regular fixed intervals to the disposal tips under the control of the Council. Whereas formerly there was a charge in the outer wards for the disposal of trade refuse when delivered at the tips, the Council have decided to dispose of trade refuse free of charge to endeavour to help in the general abatement of this class of nuisance.

Co-operative Action

No actual research work has been undertaken in co-operation with industry although any successes in our efforts to reduce atmospheric

pollution are due entirely to co-operative action with the members of the industry. Any complaints which are received are investigated and observations are taken; should these reveal unsatisfactory conditions the premises are visited, the boiler plant inspected and suggestions made as to the necessary action to abate the nuisance. In almost every instance the suggestions are accepted and acted upon.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

(a) Publicly Owned.—There is one covered bath owned by the Urban Council in the district. Filtration and chlorination plant by Royles is in use with a turnover period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Daily tests of the water are made by the Baths Manager for free chlorine and alkalinity.

(b) Privately Owned.—There is one privately owned open air swimming pool in the district. The Rayzone method of purification together with mechanical sand filtration is in use.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

(i) (a) 6 Council houses were found to be infested. Generally the infestation could not be regarded as severe, in all cases being due to the unsatisfactory tenants.

(b) 37 privately owned houses were found to be infested.

(ii) 43 houses were disinfested during the year.

(2) Methods employed for disinfestation of houses.

The houses are fumigated with special sulphur lamps and sprayed with a proprietary liquid insecticide.

A quick generation of sulphur dioxide is obtained by the special lamps. The house is sprayed first to get the bed bug active, and where possible fumigation follows.

(3) Action taken in connection with displaced persons.

The contents of 62 houses were treated before the rehousing of the tenants in Council houses.

16 of the 62 were found to be infested to varying degrees with bed bugs.

All the houses are treated, fumigation being performed where possible, and failing this the houses and their contents are sprayed with a proprietary insecticide. In several instances owing to the dilapidated structural condition of the properties it is almost an impossibility to get the houses gas tight.

Special attention is given to the bedsteads and mattresses and the tenants instructed to clean thoroughly these and treat them with insecticide or paraffin.

In several cases the displaced persons were able to commence in the new houses with new furniture and bedding.

(4) Performance of Disinfestation

All disinfestation work is performed by the Health Department staff.

(5) Supervision and Education.

Occasional visits are made to the houses occupied by tenants of former infested property. No special educational measures have been taken other than the explanation of preventative measures to the people at the time of disinfestation and occasional lectures are given at the Health Centre.

IV—SCHOOLS

(a) The Church School, Stoke Golding, has been improved, town water has been laid on and the sanitary accommodation converted to the water carriage system.

All the schools in the Urban District now have a water supply from the mains and proper sanitary accommodation.

(b) Infectious diseases are investigated immediately following notification and all contacts who attend school are instructed to stay away from school for the period named in the Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, 1927.

Where the infected patient has been at school during the two days previous to the diagnosis of infectious disease, the school is visited and the Head Teacher is asked to keep observation on the scholars of the class and to send home any who appear to show any symptoms of the onset of the disease. The class room or school is also disinfected.

SECTION D—Housing**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) ...	500
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	715
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	137
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	182
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	132
(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 ...	5

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 ...	57
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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	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) by Owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(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	9
(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	Nil
(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

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	30
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	31
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	283
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	41
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	326
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Of the 41 cases of overcrowding which were abated— 9 were abated by displaced persons from unfit houses being rehoused by the Council.	

- 12 were abated by offering the overcrowded families large type Council Houses or by exchange of tenancies in Council Houses.
- 7 were abated by the families removing to larger privately owned houses.
- 2 were abated by the building of an additional bedroom to the houses and 1 by converting a room so as to be suitable for living or sleeping purposes.
- 9 were abated by members of the family leaving home, e.g. to get married or sleeping at the houses of relatives or friends, and
- 1 was abated by the family leaving the district.

Where cases of overcrowding are abated by members of the family sleeping out, full particulars are required in writing and the conditions relating to overcrowding investigated where the additional sleeping accommodation is to be utilised.

The reduction of the overcrowding cases has been due in a large degree to the helpful co-operation of the Engineer and Surveyor who has control of the Council Houses and the allocation of tenancies.

The situation of the abated overcrowded families was:

HINCKLEY	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
BARWELL	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
BURBAGE	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
EARL SHILTON	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
STOKE GOLDING	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Position of Overcrowding at the end of 1937

16 Council Houses are overcrowded.
8 owner-occupied houses are overcrowded.
6 privately-owned houses are overcrowded.
—
30 Total
—

Section 62, Housing Act, 1936. Statement of Permitted Number.

The provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, Section 62 were advertised in the local newspaper and attention drawn to them in the Council reports. Very little response was obtained following this publicity and the Health and Sanitary Committee decided that printed slips with the main particulars of Section 62 printed thereon be attached to the rate demand notes. This method was more successful although considerable numbers still require to be issued.

The number of houses measured in the district was 7,959.

Number of Statements of Permitted Number issued at end of year—3,166.

When any houses are visited or communications made with house owners by the Department, attention is now drawn to the provisions of the Act.

5—UNFIT HOUSES

The final portion of the five year programme submitted for the former Urban District was dealt with during the year together with the first portion of the programme of unfit houses in Stoke Golding.

The areas dealt with were:

AREA:		Houses	Persons
Area No. 24	Mill View Clearance Area	7	10
Area No. 25	Woodwards Yard Clearance Area	11	23
Area No. 26	Blue Boar Yard Clearance Area	3	6
Area No. 27	Warrens Yard Clearance Area ...	3	7
Area No. 28	Moores Yard and Argyles Yard Clearance Area	9	19
Area No. 29	Lords Yard Clearance Area ...	3	5
Area No. 30	Tan Yard Clearance Area ...	6	14
Area No. 31	Cross Keys Yard Clearance Area	5	16
Area No. 32	Flavells Yard Clearance Area ...	3	5
Area No. 33	Crown and Anchor Yard Clearance Area	4	5
Area No. 34	The Lawns Clearance Area ...	6	11
Area No. 35	Trinity Lane (No. 2) Clearance Area	2	5
Area No. 36	Waterloo Square Clearance Area	22	71
Area No. 37	Main Street, Stoke Golding (No. 1) Clearance Area	3	11
Area No. 38	Main Street, Stoke Golding (No. 2) Clearance Area	3	9
Area No. 39	Main Street, Stoke Golding (No. 3) Clearance Area	3	8
Area No. 40	High Street, Stoke Golding (No. 1) Clearance Area	18	67
Area No. 41	High Street, Stoke Golding (No. 2) Clearance Area	6	19
Area No. 42	Station Road, Stoke Golding, Clearance Area	4	11
		121	322

Objections were made by the owners of properties in thirteen of the areas and a Public Inquiry was held on the 13th October, 1937. At the close of the year notification was received that eighteen of the orders, 17 Clearance Orders and one Compulsory Purchase Order were confirmed subject to slight modifications in four areas. No decision was received relating to one Clearance Order containing three houses where the owners submitted an undertaking to demolish portions of the properties and to use the remaining properties as stores.

The modifications of the Orders related to the deletion of small

outbuildings with one exception where one house was deleted following the undertaking given by the owner at the Inquiry to make the house "fit" to the satisfaction of the Council.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Demolition Orders were made for the following houses:

- 1, Co-operative Yard, Hinckley.
- 2, Co-operative Yard, Hinckley.
- 3, Co-operative Yard, Hinckley.
- 95, Trinity Lane, Hinckley.
- 97, Trinity Lane, Hinckley.
- 15, The Horsepool, Burbage.
- 26, Brick-kiln Street, Hinckley.
- 28, Brick-kiln Street, Hinckley.
- 30, Brick-kiln Street, Hinckley.

Undertakings not to let the premises for human habitation after the present tenants were alternatively housed were accepted from the owners of:

- 11, Windsor Street, Burbage.
- 24, Mansion Street, Hinckley.
- 20, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley.
- 22, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley.

6—REPAIRS AND RECONDITIONING

8 recorded housing inspections were made for repairs, these works were in hand though not completed at the end of the year. Smaller items of repair were completed at 55 houses.

7—REHOUSING DISPLACED TENANTS

53 families from unfit houses were rehoused on the Jericho Farm Estate and 9 families were rehoused on the Wykin Estate.

A number of houses are reserved on the Wykin Estate for rehousing the families from houses in the Clearance Areas dealt with during the year.

16 tenement dwellings for aged people are being constructed in Grove Street, Hinckley, on the site of the Grove Street Clearance Area.

The Housing Committee are well aware of the need for the erection of further tenements or cottages for aged people in all parts of the Urban District.

Owing to the absence of dwellings suitable for rehousing aged persons and the difficulty in obtaining sites in portions of the district, the rehousing of the occupants of condemned houses in the outer wards has lagged far beyond the specified vacation periods.

HOUSING—GENERAL

From 1931 to the end of the year 484 houses have been dealt with by Clearance Order or Individual Unfit procedure, which will ultimately mean the rehousing of 1,708 people from the houses.

The Barwell, Burbage and Earl Shilton wards have been provisionally surveyed and the Barwell ward and a portion of the Earl Shilton ward have been surveyed by the Inspection Sub-Committee of the Health and Sanitary Committee.

The following programme was decided upon for the Barwell ward:

- 37 houses for immediate treatment by Clearance Area procedure.
- 11 " " treatment later.
- 10 " " reconditioning.
- 2 " " urgent repairs only to be completed.
- 1 house for undertaking not to let.

The method adopted by the Health and Sanitary Committee in scheduling unfit properties is as follows:

- (1) The whole district under review is inspected by a Sanitary Inspector and the houses which are unfit are set out by him on a programme known as the provisional survey.
- (2) Houses included in the provisional survey are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, and the Inspector who performed the provisional survey.
- (3) Houses included in the survey are then inspected by the Inspection Sub-Committee of the Health and Sanitary Committee. The Inspection Sub-Committee delete or add to the scheduled properties according to their view on the property after inspection. No houses or premises are scheduled for treatment in a Clearance Order or as Individual Unfit houses without the Inspection Sub-Committee first inspecting the properties concerned.

It will be apparent the Health and Sanitary Committee and particularly the Inspection Sub-Committee devote a great amount of consideration and time to properties which come under their review.

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

The registers at the end of the year were made up as follows:

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	78
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	113

The figures at the end of 1936 being:

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	74
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	115

MILK DISTRIBUTION

	Retailers			
Number on Register	113
“ of inspections of premises	36
“ “ contraventions found	9
“ “ contraventions remedied	9

Dairies

There are 13 registered dairies in the district other than dairies at producers' premises. One dairy was repaired and made satisfactory.

The whole of the milk purveyors who distribute milk in glass bottles in the former Urban District area had adequate sterilisers to ensure the thorough cleanliness of the utensils and to comply with Article 21 (i) of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Attention to this matter has been paid to the distributors in the outer wards where 17 sterilisers have been provided. Nine distributors have not yet provided suitable sterilising equipment.

MILK PRODUCTION

No. of cowkeepers on register	...	...	78
No. of inspections made	...	...	264

Contraventions

	Found	Remedied
(1) Cleansing	19	19
(2) Structural alterations	34	26
(3) Other	16	9

In addition to the action set out above extensive works have taken place at 31 premises, the following works being completed:

2 new cowsheds built.		
9 new dairies built.		
6 existing cowsheds adapted.		
floors constructed	...	19
floors made good	...	8
lighting and ventilation made adequate	...	28
new concrete divisions	...	9
divisions renewed or repaired	...	5
paving relaid or made good	...	15
drainage relaid or made good	...	16
new cesspools	...	4
dairies made satisfactory	...	7
existing buildings adapted for dairies	...	2

Good progress has been made in bringing the dairy farm premises in the outer wards to the standard which is necessary to comply with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order.

The bonus payable to producers who are on the Accredited Roll has been of assistance in supporting our progress in this direction.

Of the 78 producers in the district, one is a Tuberculin Tested producer and thirty are on the Accredited Roll.

Cow Population

The total number of milch cows in the district is 1,012, compared with 928 last year.

Milk Samples

114 samples of milk were taken during the year, this number being made up as follows:

	No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	7	7	—
Accredited milk	1	1	—
Pasteurised milk	7	7	—
Sterilised milk	1	1	—
Ordinary milk (non-designated)	98	71	27
Total	114	87	27

Of the 27 ordinary milk samples which were unsatisfactory—

6 were unsatisfactory regarding the Methylene Blue test and the presence of *Bacillus Coli* in two or three tubes out of the three tubes used in the examination.

15 were unsatisfactory owing to the presence of *Bacillus Coli* whilst the sample was satisfactory relating to the Methylene Blue test, and

6 were unsatisfactory regarding the Methylene Blue test although *Bacillus Coli* was absent from these samples.

The standard of examination adopted for the ordinary milk was that laid down by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for Accredited milk.

Where any producer's milk was reported upon as unsatisfactory, a repeat sample was taken, the producer's premises were visited and if necessary suggestions were made to the producer to improve the methods of milk production employed.

Second samples were necessary in eleven instances, ten being satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. The third sample which was taken from the producer of two unsatisfactory samples was satisfactory.

No samples of milk have been taken for examination for tubercle bacilli. While the bacteriological examination of milk is important, we are of the opinion the biological examination of milk is far more important and we would suggest a number of samples be taken each year for this purpose.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936

The following licences have been granted:

- One to bottle and retail Tuberculin Tested milk.
- One to bottle and retail Accredited milk.
- One to pasteurise milk.
- Three to retail Tuberculin Tested milk.
- Three to retail Accredited milk.
- One to retail Pasteurised milk.

The pasteurising plant was fitted with recording thermographs to comply with the provisions of the Order.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS**Meat Inspection**

1,460 inspections were made at almost all hours of the day, including Sunday, for the purposes of Meat Inspection.

Attempts have been made during the year to make more ante-mortem inspections. Ante-mortem inspections have been made at the same time as visits were made for post-mortem examinations by visiting the lairs and examining live animals, on the premises preparatory to slaughter.

The inspections for post-mortem examination were made at the time of slaughter or immediately after.

The meat prepared in the district is practically all consumed in the district.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

The following table sets out the results of the meat inspections:

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (estimate) ...	1,200	85	40	4,000	2,600	7,925
Number inspected ...	1,102	81	20	3,717	2,511	7,431
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						Weight condemned
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	244 lbs
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	123	2	1	95	107	1,823 lbs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	11.16%	2.46%	5.00%	2.55%	4.38%	
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	1	Nil	Nil	2	2,295 lbs
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	77	9	Nil	Nil	115	4,906 lbs
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	6.98%	12.34%	Nil	Nil	4.65%	

The total weight of meat condemned, surrendered and destroyed was 4 tons, 5½ cwts. compared with 3 tons, 8 cwts., 88 lbs. in 1936.

The following meat was also condemned, surrendered and destroyed:

11 pails of lambs' livers ...	110 lbs. weight
One box of beef sausages (unsound) ...	20 lbs. ..
Forequarter meat from beast (unsound)	92 lbs. ..

222 lbs.

Condemned meat is disposed of at the Sewage Disposal Works, carcasses or large portions of carcasses being buried in lime.

Before being removed disinfectant is placed on the meat. Smaller portions are burnt on the copper fires or placed in the garbage bin for removal.

Towards the end of the year butchers were informed all meat which was condemned and surrendered had either—

- (a) to be treated with disinfectant immediately following the inspection, or
- (b) to be promptly delivered to the Health Department following inspection for destruction.

Slaughter Houses

At the end of the year there were 5 registered slaughter-houses (all in Hinckley) and 12 licensed slaughter-houses. One licensed slaughter-house was not used for a considerable period and no application for renewal of the licence was made.

29 inspections of the premises were made, as a result of which 10 nuisances or contraventions were found, 9 being abated and one outstanding at the end of the year.

One floor was relaid at one slaughter-house, the pens improved at one slaughter-house and a gut cleaning room was built in connection with one slaughter-house.

Two of the slaughter-houses in the outer wards have no adequate water supply, their supply being obtained from wells.

The structural condition of the slaughter-houses in the outer wards with one exception are far below the standard of those in Hinckley.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

Meat Stalls.—5 inspections of stalls were made.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.—67 premises were visited, 103 inspections being made, 41 nuisances or contraventions were found and 26 were abated.

Structural defects were made good at five premises and works of cleansing, removal of garbage, etc., were performed at 21 premises.

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.—87 inspections of these premises were made. Contraventions at 26 premises were abated. The contraventions were largely those relating to cleanliness and structural defects.

Market Inspections.—The food exposed for sale on the stalls in the open weekly market is regularly inspected.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.—No scheme of meat marking under Part III of the Regulations is in force.

(c) ADULTERATION

No action was taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, or regulations appertaining to food adulteration.

The County Council administer these Acts and Regulations.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

114 samples of milk were submitted to the Leicestershire County Council Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

(e) NUTRITION

Pamphlets relating to this subject were distributed during Health Week which was held in October.

(f) SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN)

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There were no instances of outwork being prepared in unwholesome premises.

Bakehouses

20 bakehouses were inspected on 29 occasions. 15 defects or contraventions were found, 7 of which were abated.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	34	1	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	19	Nil	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Outworker's Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	53	1	Nil

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	11	9	Nil	Nil
Want of Ventilation ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of drainage of floors	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances ...	5	1	Nil	Nil
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient ...	2	1	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or Defective	4	3	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	Nil	Nil
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Offences : (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	25	15	Nil	Nil

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There has been a large increase in the number of Diphtheria cases during the year.

159 premises were visited and investigated and 220 inspections made relating to Infectious Disease.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1937**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	71	65	0
Diphtheria	48	46	2
Pneumonia	51	9	15
Erysipelas	22	3	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	3	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1

	Age Groups											
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever		3	8	4	2	30	9	5	4	1		
Diphtheria		1	2	2	2	21	12	1	6			
Pneumonia	3	2	2	3	4	5	7	4	12	4	4	1
Erysipelas			1	1		1	2		5	7	4	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1							1			1	
Puerperal Pyrexia									3			

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS

No action has been necessary or taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F
0			1				3	
1				2			1	
5		1	3	3		1	1	
15	6	7	1		3	1	1	
25	4	4			2			
35	3	4			8	1		
45	3	3	1		4	2		
55	1				2			
65 and upwards					3			
Totals	17	19	6	5	22	5	6	0

There were five tuberculosis deaths, which had not been previously notified. Two were infants who were certified as dying from Tuberculous Meningitis.

One woman died suddenly without having been seen by a doctor, and the cause of death was discovered at the post mortem examination.

Two other cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis had not been previously notified.

We beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

J. H. DONNELL, B.A. M.B., B.C. (Cantab), Medical Officer of Health.

E. MELSON, M.S.I.A., M.R. San I., Sanitary Inspector.

May 6th, 1938.

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, CARRIED OUT DURING MARCH AND APRIL, 1938.

As a result of the Epidemics of Diphtheria at Markfield and Shepshed, immunisation against Diphtheria has received a fillip throughout the whole County, and practically all the Local Authorities are adopting a scheme, the Hinckley Authority was the second to carry out a scheme, Loughborough being the first.

During the two above-mentioned epidemics the County Authority immunised any children whose parents wished them to have the treatment at a cost of 3s. 6d. per child to the Local Authority. A material requiring three injections was used. Having done this for those two Authorities, the County M.O.H. wrote to all the other Authorities stating he would undertake the same treatment during an epidemic at the same price.

I pointed out to the Health Committee that it was inadvisable to wait for an epidemic, and that immunisation should be started as soon as possible, and so the sanction of the Ministry of Health was obtained.

Circulars were sent to the Schools and Child Welfare Centres for the children and mothers to take home.

We got the returns back from the Schools, but somehow or other a large number from the Child Welfare Centre have not reached us.

I am afraid there has been a little confusion about the age limit. During the epidemics the County M.O.H. offered to treat all children of school age. But I found out that the Leicester Authority was treating them up to the age of 10. Again the County had been using a material requiring three injections, but during the month of January an article was published in "The Medical Officer" which stated that with a certain brand of Alum Precipitated Toxoid with two injections

at 14 to 21 days interval a 99.15% of success had been achieved; but children over the age of 8 were slightly more liable to reactions with this. However, knowing many Municipalities were using this, and taking into consideration the advantage of the two injections, and the fact of the material being cheaper, I decided to use this material. Owing to the kind co-operation of my colleagues it has been possible to carry out the treatment at about 3s. 3d. per child.

I have used this material for eleven children, whose ages ranged from 10 to 13 and no reactions have resulted.

Over 600 children between the ages of one and nine years have been treated under the scheme and fresh applications come along almost daily. I hope the Hinckley U.D.C. will sanction that those coming under the category prescribed by the Ministry of Health may still be dealt with free of cost, and that all the new entrants at the Infants' schools at the beginning of each term be given a circular until we have spent the £250 you originally sanctioned.

As well as the above there have been treated a fair number over the age of nine, and again there are frequent applications for more of these to be treated; and again I hope the Council will allow the material to be supplied free of charge for these, though the injections will be paid for by the parents. There have been no notable reactions; there has been an odd swollen arm or two but the swelling has disappeared in 24 hours or less.

I must thank the Education Authorities for collaborating with us and helping by parading the children at the Health Department in Hinckley and at the Doctors' Surgeries in the outer areas.

J. H. DONNELL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

