

**[Report 1946] / Medical Officer of Health, Hinckley U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Hinckley (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1946

**Persistent URL**

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Hinckley Urban District Council



# ANNUAL REPORTS

of the Medical Officer of Health and  
Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the year ended

31st December, 1946

W. D. Cruickshank, M.B., Ch.B.

and E. Melson, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.





PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS  
of the  
HINCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Medical Officer of Health:**

W. D. CRUICKSHANK, M.B., ChB.

**Chief Sanitary Inspector:**

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

**Sanitary Inspectors:**

H. DEAMER, M.S.I.A.

L. F. WHITMORE, M.S.I.A.

**Clerks:**

R. C. LIGGINS.

Miss T. I. BARROWCLIFFE.

**Rodent Operator:**

T. FITZPATRICK.

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

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

# Health and Sanitary Committee

(As composed 31st December, 1946.)

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Councillor A. MOORE (Chairman of the Council)

Councillor F. HALL (Chairman).

Councillor A. BAILEY.

Councillor W. GREWCOCK.

Councillor S. HIGHAM.

Councillor E. W. MOORE.

Councillor F. RALPH.

Councillor W. C. RIGBY.

Councillor K. E. M. SKINNER.

Councillor W. TIMSON.

Councillor Rev. Canon C. E. TURNER

(Vice-Chairman of Council).



# ANNUAL REPORT

## for the Year 1946

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

Gentlemen,

In submitting my annual report for 1946 for the Urban District of Hinckley, I make the following comments:—

### **General Health of the Community.**

This has been, on the whole, satisfactory.

### **Nutrition.**

As last year, there is no evidence of any serious nutritional deficiency.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

The District shared in the widespread epidemic of dysentery, which appeared in the beginning of the year. Between the end of January and the end of August, 41 cases were notified. The peak of the epidemic was in March, during which month approximately half the cases occurred. The disease was mild in type, and doubtless there were many cases which never came to official notice as they got better without medical attendance. Energetic steps were taken by members of the staff of the Health Department to trace all possible source of infection, such as carriers, and to impress on those engaged in the distribution of food the importance of taking extra hygienic care. Notices were sent for exhibition in all factories stressing the importance of hygiene—especially cleanliness of the hands.

The usual biennial drop in the number of cases of measles was noted.

Otherwise infectious disease remained at its normal low level throughout the year.

### **Scabies.**

As promised in my previous annual report, a centre for the treatment of Scabies was opened at No. 8 Wood Street, on 6th March, 1946. I think this may be regarded as a success and no difficulty has been experienced in getting patients to attend.

The premises at 8 Wood Street, long unfit for use as a dwelling house, had been used as store rooms. Three rooms on the ground floor opening out of each other were made suitable for the purpose at comparatively small cost. The outer is the waiting room, the middle a dressing room with simple dressing cubicles and the inner is the actual treatment room, where two baths are installed in cubicles.

Space heating is by gas fires, water heating by a geyser to each bath. The provision of a Water Closet, the connecting up of the various drains to the main sewer, the internal distempering of the premises, together with the supply of necessary small furnishings and equipment completed the conversion. The centre is in use for three successive days each week, treatment by Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion is the method used and by the end of the year 261 cases had been treated.

#### Mortality Rates.

The Infant Mortality Rate (44.4) and the General Death Rate (9.9) are about the same as the average for communities of about the same size as estimated by the Registrar General.

#### STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) ... ..	11,882
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	36,620
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate books	10,740
Rateable value ... ..	£194,372
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£779

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

##### Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births ... ..	456	399	855
Legitimate ... ..	420	376	796
Illegitimate ... ..	36	23	59

This represents a live birth rate of 23.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

	Male	Female	Total
Still Births ... ..	12	16	28
Legitimate ... ..	12	14	26
Illegitimate ... ..	—	2	2

Rate (still births) per 1,000 total (live and still births) 31.7.

##### Deaths.

##### General.

Male	Female	Total
183	183	366

This represents a death rate of 9.9 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

##### From Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list.)

No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ... ..	nil
No. 30 Other Maternal causes ... ..	3

Rate per 1,000 total live births 3.5.

##### Infants under One Year.

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	44.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	41.4



Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	84.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	53
"  "  Measles	... ..	nil
"  "  Whooping Cough	... ..	1
"  "  Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	... ..	6

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### 1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(See beginning of the Report.)

#### 2. Laboratory Facilities.

The following examinations from the area were carried out at the County Laboratory, Leicester.

Milk examinations (bacteriological)	... ..	235
Sputa for T.B.	... ..	231
Swabs for Diphtheria	... ..	68
Urine (general and bacteriological)	... ..	27
Milk for Phosphatase Test	... ..	26
Sewage and Water Analyses	... ..	21
Urine for T.B.	... ..	19
Blood Counts	... ..	3
Blood for Wassermann Test	... ..	3
Films for Gonococci	... ..	2
Miscellaneous	... ..	11
		646

#### 3. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

##### Diphtheria. Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year was 314.

The position at December 31st based on the Registrar General's figures of the child population was as follows:—

	Children	
	under 5	over 5 and under 15
Total number immunised during year	266	29
Total number immunised since commencement of scheme	2368	4750
Percentage immunised of total children	75.65	85.12



**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1946.**

Disease	Total cases notified	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	68	0
Diphtheria	3	0
Whooping Cough	53	1
Measles	78	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	36	11
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1
Dysentery	41	0
Erysipelas	13	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0

**Age Groups and Sex.**

Age	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles		Poliomyelitis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	1	1	—	5	7	9	8	—	—
.. 3	5	9	—	—	9	8	11	13	—	—
.. 5	8	9	—	—	3	10	8	15	—	—
.. 10	11	9	—	—	5	3	3	9	—	—
.. 15	2	9	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
.. 25	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	27	41	1	2	23	30	32	46	—	—

Age	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Cerebro S-F.		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
.. 5	6	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
.. 15	3	5	3	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
.. 45	5	3	8	7	1	—	1	1	2	1
.. 65	5	2	5	3	—	—	2	6	—	—
65 and over	3	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	23	13	21	20	1	—	5	8	2	1

The distribution of these diseases in the area were as follows:—

	Hinckley	Barwell	Earl Shilton	Burbage	Stoke Golding
Scarlet Fever	27	17	12	11	1
Diphtheria	1	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	14	16	19	2	1
Measles	47	12	5	13	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	16	1	—	24	—
Erysipelas	3	1	9	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	1	—

**Tuberculosis.**

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

## New Cases and Mortality, 1945.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	2
.. 5	—	—	4	3	—	—	2	2
.. 15	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
.. 25	1	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
.. 35	3	3	2	—	—	1	—	—
.. 45	4	2	—	—	3	1	1	—
.. 55	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Totals	12	10	8	6	5	6	5	4

21 of these new cases occurred in Hinckley; 1 in Barwell; 5 in Earl Shilton; and 9 in Burbage.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Health Committee for their invariable courtesy to and co-operation with me and the Staff of the Health Department for their help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. CRUICKSHANK,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1947.

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

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Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the administration of your Sanitary Inspectors' Department for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

In my last year's report I stressed the unsatisfactory housing conditions and the fact that the community, and the occupiers of the lower rental type of house in particular, were looking for some improvement. I regret to state, that far from improving, the conditions have deteriorated. The obtainment of materials for the completion of essential repairs has been most difficult.

Whilst the inspections in the aggregate are only slightly less than those performed last year the inspections of the outlying premises are down, mainly owing to the inability of one of the sanitary inspectors to purchase a motor car at a sum within his capacity to pay.

I wish to record my thanks to the members and officers of the Council for their support and co-operation and to my staff for their most valued assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. MELSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

20th February, 1947.



## 1. WATER SUPPLY.

### (a) Quality.

The quality of the water supply is satisfactory, approximately 60% of it is obtained from deep well and bore hole supplies at Snarestone and Chilcote and 40% from a reservoir supply.

### (b) Quantity.

The quantity available is inadequate. Fortunately the year 1946 was favourable from the water supply aspect, there being hardly any Summer and we managed without having to cut off the supply.

### (c) Hardness.

No pressure water supply in the district is likely to cause Plumbo-solvent action to be set up. The total hardness of the last water sample which was taken was 13.2, this was in all probability a sample of the reservoir supply or a mixed supply from the reservoir and deep wells. The deep well water has a permanent degree of hardness considerably in excess of this.

### (d) Augmenting Supply.

The Council have been negotiating for some time to obtain a supply of water from the Leicester Corporation. The negotiations appear to be making good progress and in all probability by the time this report has been printed a definite agreement will have been reached. If this is the case we shall have a water considerably softer than our present supply as Leicester's water, in general is from upland surface reservoirs in the Derwent Valley.

This water will in my opinion be a definite improvement in most respects, but especially so for domestic cleansing and for industrial purposes.

### (e) Examination of Water.

Number of samples taken: 15.

From main supplies				From well supplies			
Bacterio-logical		Chemical		Bacterio-logical		Chemical	
Satis- factory	Un- satis- factory	Satis- factory	Un- satis- factory	Satis- factory	Un- satis- factory	Satis- factory	Un- satis- factory
2	—	—	—	—	11	2	2
				Eleven of the samples were not examined chemically owing to the high coliform content indicating heavy contamination of the water.			

**(f) Raw Piped Supplies.**

No bacteriological or chemical examination was made of samples of piped raw water supplies.

**(g) Action in Respect of any Form of Contamination.**

Five Wells were closed and a pressure supply of town water was provided to the premises.

Four wells were cleansed, and the structure improved at two of them.

One dairy farm was supplied with town water and two farms were supplied with town water following application for registration under the Milk and Dairies Order.

**(h) Water Supplies from Public Mains.**

(a) Direct to houses		(b) By means of stand-pipes	
No. of dwelling houses	Population	No. of dwelling houses	Population
10,491	34,095	570	1,710

**(i) Water Supplies from Wells or Springs.**

No. of dwelling houses ... 163      Population ... 480.

**2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

New works of sewerage were completed for housing estates at Middlefield Lane, Hinckley; Red Hall, Barwell; Woodland Avenue, Burbage and Mill Lane, Earl Shilton.

The pumping plant on the south western side of the canal, Coventry Road, Hinckley is inadequate and needs prompt attention to abate the recurring nuisance from blocked sewers and drains.

The beginning of the late war prevented the reconstruction of the Stoke Golding sewerage scheme.

The prompt completion of this scheme will facilitate the conversion of about half of the pail closets left in the Urban District.

The Works Committee have considered both schemes and I hope their decisions will see early completion of these essential sanitary improvements.

**Cesspools.**

One cesspool was constructed to receive the sewage from a dairy farm whereas formerly it was discharged on the ground surface, some distance from the farm.

The drainage system at one dairy farm was reconstructed and connected to the public sewer.

The number of cesspools in the district is ... 146.



### 3. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

#### (a) The position at the end of the year was:—

Privies	...	...	...	...	5
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	232
Water Closets	...	...	...	...	9,696

Three privy middens were converted to pail closets during the year.

#### (b) Number and Situation of Pail-closets.

	WARDS					Total
	Castle, Clarendon, DeMontfort and part of Trinity	Barwell	Burbage	Earl Shilton	Stoke Golding part of Trinity	
1. At properties where no sewer available	7	4	26	6	94	137
2. At farms where either sewer or main water or both are unavailable ...	16	17	13	9	6	61
3. At dwelling-houses scheduled for condemnation under Housing Act 1936	1	6	3	11	7	28
4. At premises where water supply and sewer available other than those included in line 3	—	4	—	2	—	6
Total ... ..	24	31	42	28	107	232

The owners of the properties where the 4 pail closets exist at Barwell, have been approached regarding their conversion.

#### (c) Conversion of Pail-closets to Water-closets.

Members of the Council drew attention to the presence of 232 Pail-closet abominations in the Urban District in the 20th century and stated they ought to be cleared away forthwith. I agree wholeheartedly with this.

During my period as your Chief Sanitary Inspector I have striven to get converted, where it was possible to do so, every pail closet. A considerable number have been converted, without any financial assistance from the rate fund. As will be seen from the particulars set out above, most of the existing pail closets are at



properties which do not possess either a sufficient water supply or sewer, or both, the first requirement of s.47 of the Public Health Act 1936, under which conversion work can proceed. There are other qualifying provisions in s.37 of the Public Health Act, which need compliance regarding the distance of the premises from the sewer.

This qualification could be complied with if the Council is prepared to meet the substantial cost of extending the sewer to within 100 feet of the premises concerned.

#### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

No important change took place in the service during the year. House refuse is treated by the biological method of disposal on land at two sites—one at Hickley and one at Barwell.

During the past six years the position regarding refuse receptacles has been difficult, dust-bins were and still are in short supply, at one period they were not galvanised, thus shortening their life considerably. The usual procedure to maintain the dust-bins in good order and condition is as follows—when we become aware of a defective bin, either following inspection or from the foreman of the refuse collection service an informal request is sent to the owner requiring the provision of a new bin. The premises are checked and if no bin has been provided another informal notice is sent. In some instances it has been necessary to send informal notices, letters and Statutory notices, before bins are supplied.

s.75<sup>a</sup> of the Public Health Act 1936, gives power to the local authority as respects their district or any part thereof, in lieu of requiring the owners or occupiers of buildings to provide and maintain dust-bins for the reception of house refuse to undertake themselves to provide and maintain such dust-bins as may be necessary and the authority may make in respect of each dust-bin provided by them, such annual charge not exceeding two shillings and sixpence as they think proper.

This amount could be collected with the general rate, the procedure would save much expenditure in time and money involved in the service of notices etc. A further advantage which would ultimately arise would be the standardisation of the refuse receptacles, a condition which should assist considerably the work of refuse collection.

I suggest this procedure receive the consideration of the Council when the abnormal conditions relating to the supply and cost of receptacles has either ceased to exist or has improved.

## 5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	312
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	1,090

### Number of Inspections:

	Inspections.	Revisits
Animal Keeping	27	20
Bakehouses	48	39
Dairies and Cowsheds	158	105
Drainage Works	52	26
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	404	849
Food Premises	150	137
Offensive Trades	6	1
Rats and Mice Destruction	153	657
Refuse Collection and Disposal	79	86
Schools	3	11
Shops	27	37
Meat Inspection	447	52
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	7	9
Verminous Premises and Scabies	199	20
Water Supplies	31	15
Factories' Act Inspections	42	54
Other Inspections	966	672
Totals	2,799	2,790

Grand Total - 5,589

### Notices.

#### Preliminary

	Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January	59	37
Issued during year	172	236
Complied with during year	164	244
Statutory action necessary	24	48
Outstanding 31st December	57	29

#### Statutory

	Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January	2	3
Issued during year	16	48
Complied with during year	12	39
Outstanding 31st December	6	12

### Summary Action.

Two summonses were issued.

One case was adjourned in view of an undertaking being given by the defendant to abate the nuisances and the other case was dismissed.



The case dismissed was for an alleged contravention of Article 21 of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926—i.e. allowing a milk bottle to be used for containing milk without such bottle being in a state of thorough cleanliness. The headline of the newspaper report on the case was "Dirt" on Farmers Milk Bottle was Sterile, this in a cryptic manner summed up the defence.

The County Sanitary Inspector gave evidence for the defendant, he explained that the defence put forward, i.e. the mark was made by a sterile washer in the bottle filling machine pressing against the bottle whilst it was being filled was a reasonable one and that the defendant had installed dairy plant on his advice.

It seems astounding that a bottle filling machine which leaves a distinct black mark inside the bottle when being filled with milk should be regarded as a satisfactory dairy appliance. No large dairy in this district has bottle filling machinery which does this and as the milk was a designated one I should have thought that paragraph 1 of the General Conditions subject to which Designated Licences may be granted, which is as follows:—

- (1) The arrangements and processes under and by which the milk is produced, stored, treated and distributed, as the case may be, shall be such as to satisfy the licensing authority (the County Council) that the requirements of all Acts and Orders relating to Milk and Dairies and the conditions of this Order, subject to which the licence is granted, are being and will be complied with.

would have precluded the use of such a bottle filling machine.

## 6. SHOP ACTS.

### (a) Action Taken.

	Outstanding from previous year	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding 31st Dec.
Sanitary Conveniences...	2	6	6	2
Temperature ... ..	—	1	1	—
Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Washing facilities ...	—	2	1	1

### (b) s. 10. Shops Act 1934.

Six certificates of exemption were granted from para (2), relating to sanitary accommodation and three from para (4), relating to washing facilities.

In all cases these certificates were granted conditionally to the occupiers of the shops obtaining the accommodation behind them when the existing tenants vacate the same.



Statutory notice was served upon the owner and occupier of one shop to provide washing facilities. Eventually in view of the difficulty re: getting materials, this case was adjourned for six months. One application for a certificate of exemption was adjourned for three months to give the applicant an opportunity to obtain possession of the room behind the shop.

64 inspections were made at 18 shops relating to the various provisions of the Shop Acts.

## 7. TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

16 inspections were made relating to eight vans or sheds. 2 vans were removed from the district.

2 applications for licences to occupy movable dwellings were refused.

In one case, the condition of the licence relating to the number of occupants allowed to reside in the van was broken. The Clerk of the Council was instructed to warn him as to the serious position which would arise if the condition was not adhered to.

There are 5 licensed movable dwellings in the district.

## 8. REGULATED BUILDINGS.

(a) There is no Common Lodging House in the district.

(b) **Canal Boats.** None were inspected.

(c) **Offensive Trades.** The only offensive trades conducted in the Urban District are two tripe dressers.

A new concrete floor was constructed in the tripe preparing room at one of them during the year and painting and lime-washing was called for at each of the premises.

## 9. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Seventy-nine observations and inspections were made on chimney stacks in connection with eleven premises.

Ten nuisances were discovered, six of these being abated at the end of the year.

The six nuisances were abated by—

repairs to the boiler and automatic stoker and the ceasing of burning waste paper on the boiler, repairs to waste heat boiler, repairs to boilers at three factories, and greater care in stoking.

I regret to state no progress was made during the year to fully abate the two nuisances referred to in my 1945 report. No form "M" could be obtained for the new equipment. In this case improved stoking has lessened the smoke emission and some of the work has been transferred to another factory to ease the load on the boiler.

During the year, grit emission took place to a varying degree from one chimney stack. The management appear to have taken every precaution to minimise this emission.

On my representation the obtainment of a better quality fuel than the opencast slack, now being used, was taken up with the Ministry of Fuel and Power who agreed to release a slightly better fuel during the period when one waste heat boiler was undergoing overhaul and thus increasing the load on the boilers connected to the offending stack.

This will mitigate during a short period the grit emission but under the present conditions I cannot see any prospect of the full and satisfactory abatement of this nuisance.

The severe winter and the shortage of fuel have directed attention to the inefficiency of the usual form of house heating, the open fire. When an alternative system is being considered for the houses to be built I hope the abolition of smoke will not be overlooked.

#### **10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

Four privately owned houses were found to be infested and dealt with on behalf of the owners or occupiers.

Two of these were treated with Gammexane D. 034 and Lawvercide D.D.T. and the result of the treatment appeared to be satisfactory. Towards the close of the year Gammexane D. 034 vapour generators were used for disinfestation purposes. The vapour is expelled with a strong concentration, giving indication that they may be very efficient.

Sixty-two inspections were made relating to verminous premises.

#### **11. SCABIES.**

The original Treatment Centre was situate at the Civil Defence De-contamination Centre at the former Public Assistance Institution building, London Road, Hinckley.

The owners, the County Education Committee, required the premises for urgent educational purposes and we had to vacate them. It was decided to try home treatment, the Nurses visiting the houses of the patients by appointment. This method proved unsatisfactory and I was instructed to obtain a building and get a Treatment Centre in operation. A former dwelling-house on which we had a Closing Order was obtained from the owner on very favourable terms. It was adapted for the purpose at a total cost of £154 14s. 3d. It is far better than the previous centre and the situation and address is much more satisfactory.

155 inspections were made in connection with scabies.

#### **12. SCHOOLS.**

Three schools were inspected. At two of them the sanitary accommodation was not satisfactory. In one instance the necessary cleansing was promptly performed. In the other, it was necessary to obtain authority to commence Statutory action before the required works were attended to.



The study of Hygiene is now being included in the educational curriculum and therefore the maintenance of the highest possible standard of sanitary accommodation should be obtained to set before the scholars a practical example as a base for the theoretical instruction.

### 13. SWIMMING BATHS.

Three samples of the water were taken for examination, two were satisfactory but one was not fully satisfactory. Arrangements were made for the free chlorine content of the water to be examined twice daily and the result kept in a log book.

The swimming bath is owned by the Council and a Royles filtration and chlorination plant is installed. The bacteriological examination of the water samples is performed by the Leicestershire County Health Department.

### 14. HOUSING.

#### A. New Houses.

	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
(a) No. of houses in course of construction at beginning of year ... ..	434	124
(b) No. of houses completed at end of year.		
(i) Temporary prefabricated type ...	182	—
(ii) Permanent traditional type ...	8	26
(iii) No. of houses, many in advanced state of construction at end of year	244	—
(c) Number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year: 1,050.		

This number is the figure received in December when new forms of application were invited following a revision of the method of allocating tenancies.

#### B. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	195
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	482
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	nil
(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 ...	195



**C. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... .. 172

**D. 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 ... .. 24
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners ... .. 18
- (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 ... .. 48
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners ... .. 36
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... .. nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. nil
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. nil
- (2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. nil

**E. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.**

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... .. 21
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... .. 31
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... .. 187
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ... .. 6
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ... .. 1
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... .. 5
- (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.

One family who were rehoused in 1937 became overcrowded during the year owing to the return of sons from the Forces with their wives. One of the sons with his family was re-housed to mitigate the extent of the overcrowding.

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions under which the Sanitary Inspector may consider it desirable to report.

Although the net increase of overcrowded houses is shown as five more than last year, it should be appreciated this may not be the full extent of the overcrowding in the district. To obtain this information would necessitate a complete overcrowding survey which would be obsolete almost as soon as it was completed. The overcrowding standard is a national one and although it appears to be shockingly low from our point of view it was sufficiently high to prove that certain burghs in Scotland had almost one out of every two houses overcrowded when the surveys were completed after 1935.

Few of the cases brought before us are legally overcrowded although in almost every instance the conditions are unsatisfactory from the housing and health aspects.

#### **F. Housing General Remarks.**

During the war years the clearance or closure of unfit houses ceased but conditions now existing are in certain cases so deplorable and unsatisfactory that the occupants should be granted high priority for rehousing to facilitate the demolition or closure of the unfit houses. I regret to state there are premises in this district which were condemned or for which undertakings to close, as individual unfit houses, were given in 1935, which are still occupied.

**The completion of repair works to abate serious nuisances or conditions prejudicial to health has been seriously impeded by the shortage of materials.**

Circulars issued by the Ministry of Health specify that licences should be restricted to the provision of new houses, of increased housing accommodation or to urgent repair works as specified in circular 138. No priority symbol is given for materials required to perform this urgent repair work, I understand the Merchant should release it from his stock after first meeting the requirements of the priority symbols. Apparently the materials available will not allow the merchant to do this with the result that in this district there are houses where the owners were called upon to abate nuisances etc., in January 1946, Statutory and Abatement notices were served in June, the builder received instructions to perform the works and they had not been commenced at the end of the year owing to his inability to get the materials. These houses need repairs to make them weatherproof and to prevent them becoming totally



unfit for habitation. They are included amongst those upon which the Health and Sanitary Committee asked me to report, following comments concerning their unsatisfactory condition.

As an indication of the difficulties and conditions now being dealt with, I set out a copy of the report presented to the Committee on the 8th May.

“In accordance with the request made at the last meeting of the Committee, I submit the following report upon action which has, and is still being taken to improve the property:—

The information I give relates to the period from March, 1935 to date. Constant attention was also given to the property from May 1927 to March 1935, but this period is not set out as the ten year period dealt with, in my opinion, should be sufficient to show that the attempts to keep this property decent have been both continuous and active. The property on my representation was inspected during 1936 by the Inspection Sub-Committee of the Housing and Health Committee and it was decided it should be dealt with by Slum Clearance procedure when some of the houses, then being surveyed in the outer wards, which were regarded as being in a worse condition, had been dealt with. This decision, meant, “that no works of an extensive character could reasonably be called for.”

During the past ten years, the following action has been taken:—

- 245 initial inspections have been made.
- 1032 re-inspections have been made.
- 585 nuisances or defects were found.
- 624 informal notices were served calling for these to be abated.
- 63 Statutory or Abatement Notices were served and
- 9 summonses were taken out.

Since 1939 conditions regarding labour, material and licences have mitigated against the prompt and efficient performance of the required repairs.

In my Annual Report for 1942, I reported concerning the summonses regarding nine houses and upon the Magistrates decision in adjourning them sine-die on three occasions, without making any orders as to payment of costs, or any Abatement Order or the fixing of penalties. I then stated:—

“Some of these nuisances had been in hand since 1941, and and one case 1939. In view of the amount of correspondence, interviews and time taken in trying to get the owners to do the work without recourse to Statutory proceedings one might reasonably anticipate receiving more support from the Court in the administration of the Public Health and Housing Acts.”

Despite the aforesaid conditions, a considerable amount of work has been performed at the property. The external wash-houses were overhauled and put in order in 1940, the roof,



chimneys, walls, sinks and coppers being repaired or renewed. In certain cases further repairs have been done but they are now again in an unsatisfactory condition. The main structures and the sanitary accommodation have been constantly repaired.

At present there are some works outstanding on the even number side and a fair amount of work outstanding on the odd number side, following our inspection of 30th December, 1945. Communication has been made on several occasions relating to these, and although some work has been done on both sides of the street, I am asking for authority to commence Statutory action.

The present position as to the performance of the repairs at seven houses on the odd number side, is that one of the tenants, who is a bricklayer's labourer has been instructed to get them done on behalf of the owners.

In December, 1943, and January and February, 1944, well over £200 was spent on repairs to six houses on the odd number side, following the service of Statutory Notices.

The newly appointed Agent undertook to pay the builder and retain the rents until his expenditure had been met. When we began pressing for the repairs to be done following our inspection of December, 1945, he said he still required £70 or £80 to settle his expenditure and he was finishing with them. A new Agent was appointed who has since been trying to raise some money to pay for the repairs. He promised to meet me to discuss this but has not yet done so. He informed me there was still a mortgage on the property which was proving a stumbling block and asked me if the Council would undertake to do the repairs, he then undertaking to pay a sum each Quarter towards the cost, or alternatively would the Council buy the property. I informed him I thought neither would be acceptable but if he wished to discuss it with me and then still proceed, I would put the matter before the Committee.

The owners of the houses on the even number side, in May, 1945, asked the Council to buy the houses, but they did not do so.

In my service here, I do not think there has been any period longer than one month when this property has not been in hand. It has been my endeavour to keep it in the best possible condition and the evidence of the action taken gives some indication of the amount of effort which has been expended to do this.

I am not satisfied with its condition but cannot see any satisfactory and lasting solution other than demolition and the re-housing and re-education of most of the existing occupiers."

**7th May, 1946.**

It is evident that this particular property ought to have been demolished before the war, it has been very unsatisfactory accommodation for a period of years, it has been a continual source of abnormal expenditure to the owners, it has caused a continual expenditure of time to the local authority and provides striking evidence that when property reaches this condition the only possible

solution is to deal with it by Clearance Area procedure as promptly and boldly as possible.

#### 15. DEFENCE GENERAL REGULATIONS 56a, 1939.

Licences have been renewed for the temporary occupation of five condemned houses. Two of these were included in Clearance Orders and three were dealt with as Individual Unfit houses.

#### 16. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT, 1939.

30 complaints were received during the year,

15 relating to rents, 11 to possession of premises, 3 to sub-tenancies and one to boarders in a dwelling-house.

Following explanation of the Rent Acts, the rent of one house was reduced by the owner from 29/2 to 18/- per week and another was reduced from 14/- to 13/0½ per week with an agreed repayment of £5/14/10½ from the owner to the tenant representing overpayment of rent during the past two years.

In all cases the relevant provisions of the Rent Restriction Acts were explained to the applicants.

#### 17. FURNISHED HOUSES (RENT CONTROL) ACT, 1946.

Two complaints were received, one before the Act commenced to operate and one which was referred direct to the Clerk to the Rent Tribunal.

#### 18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### (a) Milk Supply—

Cowkeepers.

Number on register ... .. 78

Number of inspections ... .. 225

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk

(other than cowkeepers).

Number on register ... .. 64

Number of inspections ... .. 38

##### Total Contraventions:

	Outstanding from 1945	Found during year	Remedied during year	Out- standing on Dec. 31st
Cleansing ... ..	69	63	95	37
Structural Alterations	3	2	3	2
Utensils ... ..	2	2	2	2
Other ... ..	6	3	2	7
Total ... ..	80	70	102	48

In two cases, farm buildings were adapted to make them suitable for registration as milk producing premises.



**(b) Milk Samples.**

Seventy-five samples of milk were taken and the following results obtained:—

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory		Un-satisfactory	
		M.B.	B.Coli.	M.B.	B.Coli.
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	8	8	8	—	—
Non-designated ... ..	43	41	40	2	3
Total ... ..	51	49	48	2	3

**HEAT TREATED MILK.**

	No. of Samples	Phosphatase Test		Deferred M.B. Test	
		Sats.	Uns.	Sats.	Uns.
Pasteurised ... ..	14	14	—	13	1
Heat-treated but sold as ordinary ... ..	10	10	—	8	2
Total ... ..	24	24	—	21	3

**(c) Biological Examination of Milk.**

In accordance with the resolution of the Health and Sanitary Committee made in 1944, no samples were taken for this purpose.

**(d) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1946.**

The following licences were granted:—

- Two Tuberculin Tested dealers.
- One Tuberculin Tested supplementary.
- One to Pasteurise Milk.
- Two Pasteurised dealers.
- One Pasteurised Supplementary.

The licensed Pasteurising Dairy has a modern A.P.V., Heat Unit Exchange plant on the Holder principle with a capacity of about 400 gallons per hour. The Holder principle where the milk is heated to a temperature between 145° and 150° Fah., retained at that temperature for 30 minutes and then immediately cooled to a temperature not exceeding 55° Fah., is, in my opinion, a better method than the High Temperature Short Time process where the milk is heated to a temperature of not less than 162° retained at that temperature for 15 seconds and then immediately cooled to a temperature not exceeding 55° Fah.



**(e) Meat and Other Foods.**

Number of regional slaughter-houses in area	...	...	...	ONE
Number of animals slaughtered therein	...	...	...	10,934
Number of animals examined therein	...	...	...	10,934
Number of animals slaughtered elsewhere (cottagers' pigs)				635
Number of animals examined elsewhere (cottagers' pigs)				130
Number of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	...			410
Number of Knackers Yards in area	...	...	...	nil

**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED**

	Cattle, exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
No. killed (if known)	1562	618	1898	6700	156	10934
No. inspected	1562	618	1898	6700	156	10934
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>						Total Weight in lbs.
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	6	9	15	2	3954
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	460	135	18	2160	38	15271
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	29.44	22.81	1.42	32.46	25.64	Combined Total in lbs. 19225
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						Total Weight in lbs.
Whole carcasses con- demned	15	19	4	—	3	17095
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	290	270	7	—	17	22630
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	19.52	46.76	0.579	—	12.82	Combined Total in lbs. 39725

Grand Total: 58,950 lbs.

**(f) Meat Inspection.**

The total weight of meat condemned, surrendered and disposed of for purposes other than human consumption was:—

26 tons, 6 cwts., 38 lbs. as compared with  
27 tons, 8 cwts., 87 lbs. last year.

The number of animals examined was slightly more than last year. The cattle excluding cows being approximately 200 more and the number of cows slightly less, a factor which no doubt has had some influence on the reduced amount of condemned meat.

**Percentage of animals found to be diseased.**

This shows little variation from last year, one out of every five cattle excluding cows and almost one out of every two cows examined was infected to a varying degree with Tuberculosis and approximately one out of every five animals examined was affected with some other disease or diseased condition. Our results appear to be similar to the average throughout the country and if the full amount of meat condemned as diseased in Great Britain could be given, it would be astounding and the cost of it colossal.

Around 1938, when H.M. the King opened the Royal Veterinary College, he said:—

“The value of the annual output of food from animal sources amount to over £170 million, but there is a considerable wastage through disease.”

From the information given above and the depreciated value of the £—a very rough estimate of the present cost of condemned food could be made.

This serious economic loss to the country should be reduced as speedily as possible.

Veterinary science is advancing but further research and practice is needed to extend the methods of cure and what is more important the prevention of disease. The Tuberculosis Order has been in force since 1925 but still almost one out of every two cows is found to be visibly infected with Tuberculosis on post-mortem examination.

What a field is open for a concentrated and sustained effort by Veterinarians on the live animal!

**(g) Congenital Tuberculosis.**

It will be seen from the following table that four calves were found to be infected with Congenital Tuberculosis.

Where possible, information relating to the infected calf is sent to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to enable the dam to be traced.

Information was received from the Warwickshire Divisional Inspector that one dam was traced, found to be infected with tuberculosis and removed from the herd under the Tuberculosis Order.

The young calves, known in the trade as “Bobbies,” arrive at the slaughter-house from the markets in groups, they have no number, no record of their colour is kept, and it is impossible to identify and trace them.

In view of the positive benefit to be obtained by the tracing of dams whose calves had Congenital Tuberculosis, this point should receive prompt attention.



**(h) Number of Carcasses Condemned and the Diseases or Diseased Conditions causing such Condemnation.**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Bulls</b>	<b>Bullocks</b>	<b>Heifers</b>	<b>Cows</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Calves</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tuberculosis (Generalised)	1	1	12	16	—	—	3	33
Tuberculosis (with emaciation)	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Tuberculosis (Congenital)	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Immaturity	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Sapraemia and Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Emaciation (Pathological)	—	—	—	2	5	—	1	8
Septic Peritonitis (with dropsy)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bruising (generalised)	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Acute Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Moribund	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	4
Dropsy	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Septic Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Pneumonia (gangrenous)	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Multiple Abscesses	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Septicaemia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Fever (acute)	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>73</b>

**(i) Other Foods.**

The amount of food inspected from grocers, greengrocers, etc., whilst being less than in 1945 was still fairly considerable.

**(j) Slaughter Houses.**

There was no change in the number of slaughter houses licensed or of the existing arrangement that all slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption takes place at the Central Slaughter House, Barwell.

**19. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.****FOOD PREMISES, MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.**

287 inspections were made.

17 contraventions relating to limewashing were found.

14 contraventions relating to absence of cleansing were found.

2 contraventions relating to structural items were found.

27 contraventions were abated during the year.

13 contraventions were abated from 1945.

6 contraventions were unabated at the end of the year.

**20. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT—CIRCULAR 183/46.  
ICE CREAM .**

Following the occurrence of Typhoid Fever which was traced to an ice cream vendor and the very unsatisfactory reports which have been obtained where samples of ice-cream have been submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination, the Ministry of Health sent out circular 183/46 stating that Draft Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations were being made and drawing attention to the provisions of s. 13, 14, 16 and 37 of the Act relating to the premises where ice-cream is prepared and the obtainment of satisfactory hygienic precautions. As set out in my last year's report food premises have been constantly inspected, the premises where registration was required were dealt with immediately the Act came into force and whenever necessary since that date.

**21. BAKEHOUSES.**

87 inspections were made on 22 premises.

17 contraventions were found and 17 were abated, 3 from action commenced during 1945.

3 contraventions were unabated at the end of the year.

**22. FACTORIES ACT.**

(a) 96 inspections were made relating to 31 factories.

34 contraventions were found relating to inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation and

17 of these were abated at the end of the year in addition to 3 contraventions from action commenced during 1945.

(b) There are 186 factories in the Urban District on our register, consisting of the following trades:—

Hosiery Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	74
Underwear Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	6
Engineering factories	...	...	...	...	26
Boot and Shoe Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	24
Joiners and Timber Merchants	...	...	...	...	8



Printers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Machinery Manufacturers and Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Box Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Toy Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Gown Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Furniture and Upholstery Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Needle Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water and Beer Bottlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Manufacturing Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dyers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Electrical Component Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
and one each of the following:—								
Public Transport Depot,								
Transfer Manufacturers,								
Ribbon Manufacturers,								
Knitted Goods Manufacturer,								
Gas Manufacturer,								
Chemical Manufacturers,								
Washing Powder Manufacturer,								
Bakelite Moulders,								
Dental Mechanics,								
Caravan Body Manufacturers,								
Display Studio,								
Electro and Chrome Plater, and								
Firewood Dealer.								

### 23. RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919 and INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

810 visits were made to 173 private premises during the year. In almost every instance the infestations were of a minor character and were often associated with the keeping of pigs, poultry and rabbits. The fact that numerous complaints were received throughout the year from people who—"think they have seen a rat run across the garden"—is an exceptionally good indication that the intensive Publicity Campaigns of earlier years have made their mark.

The scale of charges adopted in 1944 has been maintained and is still proving satisfactory.

Continuous attention has been given to the sewage disposal works in the Urban District and regular monthly visits and treatments have been maintained. In October and November two full scale treatments were carried out at the Hinckley Refuse tip with the gratifying result of over 600 rats being killed.

The scheme of Contract Disinfestation at Industrial premises has progressed satisfactorily. 24 premises were on contract during the year, 6 of the contracts which expired during the year were not renewed. 2 of these were at factories previously occupied by evacuated firms which had returned to their own districts. 4 new contracts were entered into during the year.

### Sewer Baiting.

The whole of the sewers throughout the Urban District were given attention in the third Sewer Maintenance treatment. The treatment started in June and continued for 70 working days.

Severe weather made conditions very bad and several sections of sewer which had received a pre-bait on one day had to be again baited the following day as the bait had been washed off by storms during the night.

The numerous storms and subsequent flooding at the Sewage Disposal works made accurate checking of kills during the scheme almost impossible.

Approximately 70 rats were discovered on the screens of the Hinckley Works—30 of these were found on the days following the poison baiting of a large section of the town.

The poison baiting results for the district were as follows:—

District	Manholes inspected	Number Baited	Number not Baited	Complete Takes	Partial Takes	No Take
Hinckley ...	534	439	95	26	141	272
Barwell ...	156	133	23	—	24	109
Burbage ...	198	177	21	1	42	134
Earl Shilton ...	200	179	21	—	34	145
Totals ...	1088	928	160	27	241	660

The poison used was 20% Barium Carbonate in Bread Mash.

The estimated kill, based on the Ministry's formula was 1,073 rats: The effectiveness of previous schemes may be seen from the following comparative table of poison bait takes:—

Year	Number of Manholes Baited	Good or Complete Takes	Partial Takes	No Takes
1944	408	168	153	87
1945	861	117	288	456
1946	928	27	241	660



**24. STAFF.**

The staff of the department consists of three qualified sanitary inspectors, one unqualified assistant, one clerk, and one rodent operator.

The vacancy caused by the resignation of the deputy chief inspector, has not yet been filled, neither has the position of general assistant, which became vacant about a year ago.

At present, we are carrying on, but when more materials are available and when Slum Clearance and systematic housing inspections are being resumed, I shall then be obliged to ask for the appointment of another qualified inspector and a general assistant.





JOHN BAXTER & SONS, HINCKLEY





