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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, 1947

W. D. Cruickshank, M.B., Ch.B.
and E. Melson, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
of the
HINCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:

W. D. CRUICKSHANK, M.B., Ch.B.

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.

MRS. A. W. TAMS.

Rodent Operator:

T. FITZPATRICK.

Health and Sanitary Committee

(As composed 31st December, 1947)

Councillor Rev. Canon C. E. Turner (Chairman of the Council)

Councillor F. Hall (Chairman of Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Council).

Councillor G. E. BOAST.

Councillor H. CRAMP.

Councillor W. GREWCOCK.

Councillor J. JACQUES.

Councillor T. O. McGRAH.

Councillor E. W. MORE.

Councillor F. RALPH.

Councillor W. C. RIGBY.

Councillor K. E. M. SKINNER.

Councillor C. SWAN.

Councillor C. WARBURTON.

Councillor W. K. WILEMAN.

ANNUAL REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

My report for the year 1947 follows the usual pattern.

General Health of the Community.

The year passed with no remarkable incidence of any major or infective disease, (other than a small outbreak of measles). I cannot, however, fail to observe the increase of minor ailments, particularly of a nervous type, and I have every reason to believe that never before has so much sedative medicine been dispensed.

Nutrition.

There is no evidence of any serious deficiency in the nutritional standard.

Infectious Diseases.

Apart from the small outbreak of measles there was no undue incidence of infectious or contagious disease.

The Scabies Centre functioned throughout the year with an ever-decreasing number of cases attending. Some use was made of the Centre for cleansing of verminous persons. A total of 138 cases were treated during the year, the number of treatments given being 415.

Health Exhibition.

During the Easter Holidays a Health Exhibition was held in St. Mary's Hall, and, while I could have wished a better attendance by adults, I hope that the many interesting and instructive exhibits shown and demonstrations given may bear fruit later on, as many school children came, saw and, I trust, will remember.

Mortality Rates.

The infant mortality rate (46.8) and the General Death Rate (10.5) are slightly higher than the corresponding figures last year—but are within the bounds of normality.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	11,882
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	37,650
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate books	10,903
Rateable value	£195,786
Sum represented by a penny rate	£779

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	446	412	858
Legitimate	420	402	822
Illegitimate	26	10	36

This represents a live birth rate of 22.79 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

	Male	Female	Total
Still Births	6	7	13
Legitimate	6	6	12
Illegitimate	—	1	1

Rate (still births) per 1,000 total (live and still births) 14.9.

Deaths.

General.

Male	Female	Total
207	190	397

This represents a death rate of 10.5 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			1

Rate per 1,000 total live births 1.2.

Infants under One Year.

All infants per 1,000 live births			46.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			46.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			55.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			51
Deaths from Measles			2
Deaths from Whooping Cough			4
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			3

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.

Sputa for T.B.			214
Milk examinations (Bacteriological)			202

Swabs for diphtheria	48
Urine (general and bacteriological)	36
Sewage and water analyses	33
Milk for phosphatase test	32
Urine for T.B.	22
Ice-cream	7
Blood for Wassermann test	3
Films for gonococci	1
Blood counts	1
Miscellaneous	14
	613

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

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year was 476.

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	392	84
Total number immunised since commencement of scheme	2760	4834
Percentage immunised of total children	76.45	87.73

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1947.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	47	—
Diphtheria	1	—
Whooping Cough	66	4
Measles	280	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—
Acute Pneumonia	42	10
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	1
Dysentery	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—

Age Groups and Sex.

Age	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles		Polio-myelitis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	10	4	10	12	—	—
„ 3 ..	8	2	—	—	11	12	46	39	—	—
„ 5 ..	10	3	1	—	9	10	50	42	—	—
„ 10 ..	7	5	—	—	5	4	28	36	—	—
„ 15 ..	2	4	—	—	1	—	3	5	—	—
„ 25 ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	—
25 and over ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Totals	30	17	1	—	36	30	138	142	2	—

Age	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Cerebro Spinal Fever		Ery-sipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
„ 5 ..	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 15 ..	5	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
„ 45 ..	4	5	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	1
„ 65 ..	4	7	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—
65 and over ..	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	22	20	—	—	1	2	3	7	—	1

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

	Hinckley	Barwell	Earl Shilton	Burbage	Stoke Golding
Scarlet Fever	20	8	11	8	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	33	18	9	5	1
Measles	255	13	3	9	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	7	—	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	24	2	11	5	—

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, 1947 and Mortality, 1947

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	2
„ 15	1	2	2	2	1	—	1	2
„ 25	4	8	—	3	—	1	—	—
„ 35	3	4	1	2	1	4	—	—
„ 45	2	5	—	—	3	3	—	—
„ 55	4	3	—	—	5	2	—	—
65 and over ..	3	1	—	1	3	—	—	—
Totals	17	23	4	10	13	10	1	4

31 of these new cases occurred in Hinckley ; 5 in Barwell ; 9 in Earl Shilton ; 8 in Burbage ; and 1 in Stoke Golding.

I desire to express my thanks to the Members of the Health Committee for the continuance of their co-operation and support in a year which is the last full year before the advent of the National Health Service, the influence of which has already begun to be felt.

I also thank Mr. Melson and the staff of the Health Department for their unfailing help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. CRUICKSHANK,

Medical Officer of Health.

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

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report upon the administration of your Sanitary Inspector's Department.

I should have liked to report that the environmental conditions were improving, but I regret I cannot do so. As far as a large number of the rented houses are concerned the standard is deteriorating rapidly.

Since the introduction of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations on May 1st, it has been my endeavour to assist the traders in every possible way to comply with its provisions and thus ensure the public receiving an Ice-cream which is both clean and safe. I am pleased to say that almost all the traders appreciate this attitude and they are doing their best to co-operate.

I wish to express my thanks to Doctor Cruickshank, the Medical Officer, and the Members and Officers of the Council for their support and co-operation and especially to my staff for their ready and valued assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. MELSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quality.

The quality of the water supply has been satisfactory throughout the year.

(b) Quantity.

The quantity available is not sufficient. Although a constant supply was maintained throughout the year, it was necessary to exhibit public notices appealing for economy in the use of water to prevent the supply having to be shut off for varying periods.

(c) Hardness.

The pressure water supply is hard and there is no likelihood of Plumbo-solvent action being set up.

(d) Obtainment of an Increased Water Supply.

A draft agreement has been prepared between the Leicester Corporation, this Urban District Council and Blaby R.D.C. which provides that as soon as the necessary mains and works have been constructed, Leicester Corporation will supply us with 250,000 gallons of water per day until 31st March, 1950 and an ultimate maximum supply of 400,000 gallons per day in 1955. The supply of 250,000 gallons per day at present being received from Leicester *via* Nuneaton will be discontinued, which means the net increase of supply will be 150,000 gallons per day. The Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer estimates this should be sufficient to last for five or six years. It is hoped that Leicester will then have obtained a new and sufficient water supply to enable the Council to obtain a supply on a long term policy.

(e) Examination of Water.

39 samples were taken, 17 being declared as satisfactory, 21 as unsatisfactory and 1 as doubtful.

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
5	—	1	—	7	22	1	7

17 of the 22 samples of well water were taken from wells in the hamlet of Wykin. All the first samples examined were declared as unfit for drinking, though in subsequent repeat samples, the water from three of the wells was reported as satisfactory following bacteriological examination. There is no proper system of sewerage in the

hamlet and for reasons of public health a piped water supply is an urgent necessity.

Report of analysis of sample of town water being a mixture of well water from Snarestone and water from the Thornton reservoir.

Bacteriological

Number of Colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in two days at 37 deg. Cent., per c.c.	1
Number of Colonies capable of growth on Repibel Agar in two days at 37 deg. Cent., per c.c.	0
Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in four days at 20 deg. Cent., per c.c.	4
Presumptive B. Coli in 100 c.c.	Absent

Chemical

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0080
Chlorine in chlorides	1.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	Trace
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours	0.129
Total solids dried at 100 deg. Cent...	19
Appearance	Bright, few small particles.
Nitrite	Absent.

(Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

This water is a very pure one and safe for use as a public supply.

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts.

(f) Raw Piped Supplies

No samples were taken.

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

3 wells were closed and a pressure supply of town water was provided to the premises.

(h) Water Supplies from Public Mains.

- (a) Direct to houses—10,693 houses with a population of 36,487.
- (b) By stand pipe supply—273 houses with a population of 1,048.

(i) Water Supplies from Wells or Springs.

160 houses with a population of 470.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new works or extensions were completed neither was any progress made with the sewerage of Stoke Golding or the replacement of the inadequate pumping plant on the south-western side of the canal in Coventry Road, Hinckley.

Three cesspools were constructed during the year in connection with new houses.

The number of cesspools in the district is 149.

3. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The position at the end of the year was :—

Privies	4
Pail Closets	229
Water Closets	10,002

One privy and three pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year.

The privies and pails are situate at properties which are well beyond the reach of the sewer apart from a small number which are used in connection with property scheduled for treatment under Part III of the Housing Act.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

No important change took place in the service during the year. House refuse is collected in both mechanical and horse drawn vehicles and disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites, one at Hinckley and one at Barwell. These sites are on land belonging to the Council and adjoining sewage disposal works. During the year the Hinckley tip became on fire and despite various attempts to extinguish it, none were successful. Eventually a trench was cut through the tip to isolate the burning portion which was then allowed to burn itself out.

Numerous complaints were received concerning the offensive odour from the burning tip.

The tip was dealt with for an infestation of crickets, and constant attention was given to prevent any rat infestation.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Total number of complaints received	430
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	1,089

Number of Inspections:

	Inspections	Revisits
Animal keeping	47	32
Bakehouses	35	51
Dairies and Cowsheds	140	169
Drainage Works	81	51
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	789	1,177
Food Premises	223	250
Rats and Mice Destruction	1,137	1,227
Refuse collection, accumulations, etc.	84	108
Schools	5	10
Shops	25	21
Slaughter-houses and Meat and Food Inspection	474	66
Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.	10	19
Verminous Premises and Scabies	87	9

Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	53	30
Factories Act Inspections	..	..	..	..	41	74
Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	20	31
Rent Act, queries or investigations	..	..	..	..	60	4
Other Inspections	..	..	..	..	336	139
					3,647	3,468
Grand Total	..				7,115	

Notices.

Preliminary.

					Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January	..	..	..	..	57	29
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	162	216
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	187	177
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	22	13
Outstanding 31st December	..	..	..	..	32	68

Statutory.

					Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January	..	..	..	..	6	12
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	22	13
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	27	23
Outstanding 31st December	..	..	..	..	1	2

Summary Action.

No summonses were issued during the year.

6. SHOP ACTS.

(a) Action Taken.

	Outstanding from previous year	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding 31st Dec.
Sanitary Conveniences	2	4	6	—
Temperature ..	—	2	1	1
Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Washing facilities ..	1	4	4	1

(b) s. 10 Shops Act, 1934.

No certificates of exemption were granted from paragraphs 2 and 4 relating to washing facilities or sanitary accommodation. Unless the circumstances are very exceptional there is no need for granting exemption to the provision of these elementary facilities.

46 inspections were made at 21 shops relating to the various provisions of the Shop Acts. 17 contraventions were found, 16 being abated at the end of the year.

7. TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

29 inspections were made relating to 7 vans or sheds.

One van was removed from the district and one garden hut was closed for human habitation.

One licence was granted for the occupation of a hut by an aged man subject to it not being used by any other person.

Two applications for licences allowing the use of caravans as dwellings were refused.

Where licences have been issued, they apply to the structure and are subject to application for renewal being made each year.

8. REGULATED BUILDINGS.

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

(b) **Canal Boats.** None were inspected. Very few boats use the canal.

(c) **Offensive Trades.** There are two tripe dressers' premises, 7 inspections were made and two contraventions relating to cleansing of the walls and ceilings were abated.

9. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Fifty-one observations and inspections were made on chimney stacks in connection with ten premises.

Eleven nuisances were discovered, five being abated at the end of the year.

In two cases, orders have been placed for automatic underfeed stokers, but neither had been received at the end of the year. In these cases and at five other factories the importance of proper stoking has been explained to the occupiers.

Although there are about 190 factories in the Urban District, the atmospheric pollution is remarkably slight. The excessive emission of smoke which rarely occurs is from a very small number of them where, for various reasons, smoke abatement plant or adequate boiler plant is not installed.

10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Seven privately owned houses and two Council-owned houses were found to be infested. The privately owned houses were disinfested at a cost of 2/6d. per room on behalf of the owners or occupiers. The Housing Department of the Council dealt with the Council-owned houses.

A D.D.T. liquid solution and Gammexane D.034 powder and Gammexane vapour generators are used for disinfestation of the houses and their contents.

Considering the worn out condition of some of the dwellings in the town and the difficulties associated with the sharing of houses, the excessive amount of furniture in such houses, etc., it is remarkable that the verminous premises are so few. In my opinion there has been a general improvement in this respect over the past ten or fifteen years.

Thirty-nine inspections were made relating to verminous premises.

11. VERMINOUS PERSONS.

Fifty-five inspections were made, 35 relating to Scabies, and 20 to other verminous conditions.

One adult male who was alive with Pediculosis of the Capitas and Corporis type was cleansed at the Centre, 8 Wood Street.

The nurses at the Cleansing Centre have kept it very satisfactory and given very satisfactory treatment to the persons attending.

12. SCHOOLS.

Fifteen inspections were made regarding the sanitary accommodation at some of the schools. At one private school the accommodation was inadequate. Instructions were given for this condition to be improved.

13. SWIMMING BATH.

Three samples of bath water were submitted for bacteriological analysis and all were declared satisfactory.

The swimming bath is owned by the Council and the Royles filtration and chlorination plant which was installed in 1934 still continues to give efficient service.

14. HOUSING.

A. New Houses.

(a) Houses constructed and completed during the year :

	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
Permanent type	195	97
War Damaged houses re-built	2	3
Temporary prefabricated type	10	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	207	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(b) The average cost of these houses was £1,250.

(c) Total number of Post-War Houses completed by :

(a) Local Authority	407
and (b) Private Enterprise	129

(d) Houses in course of construction at the end of year :
69 permanent traditional type.

(e) Council owned houses in the Urban District 1,991

(f) Number of applicants for Council houses at the end of
the year 1,368

B. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year	
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 364
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 728
(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 7
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 30
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7
(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 357
C. 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 354
 (95 of these from action commenced in 1946).

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. (Housing Act s. 6 Bye-laws) 16
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
	(a) by owners 12
	(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 23
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
	(a) by owners 20
	(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 7
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 16
	and 1 informally.
(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

Nos. 1 and 2 Orton Square, Hinckley.

Demolition Orders were made upon these two houses owing to their unsatisfactory condition. The Council had re-housed two tenants from one of the houses owing to its condition and the Lettings Sub-Committee of the Housing Committee suggested the house be dealt with under the Act to prevent it being used again.

The owner agreed they were unfit, but wished to retain them as stores. An appeal was then made to County Court against the orders. The County Court Judge allowed the appeal and accepted the undertaking that the houses would not be used for human habitation.

Demolished Houses.

Thirteen of the demolished houses included those houses referred to in last year's report as being condemned in 1935, and still being occupied.

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

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	29
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	43
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	248
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	8
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	2
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	15

No houses again became overcrowded after the Council had taken steps to obtain the abatement of overcrowding.

The net increase of recorded overcrowding cases during the year was six. There appears to be considerable misapprehension upon the term overcrowding. Persons who wish to stress the urgency of their application for rehousing frequently state they are overcrowded and some of them receive a shock when the overcrowding standard as laid down by the Fifth Schedule of the Housing Act, 1936 is explained to them.

The "permitted number of persons" means in relation to any dwelling house, either

- (a) the number specified in the second column of table 1, or
- (b) the aggregate for all the rooms in the house based on the floor area based on the first column of table II, whichever is the less subject to no regard being had to
 - (a) any room having a floor area less than 50 square feet and
 - (b) rooms not normally used in the locality either as a living room or as a bedroom.

Table I.

Where a house consists of

(a)	One room	2 units or persons.
(b)	Two rooms	3 units or persons.
(c)	Three rooms	5 units or persons.
(d)	Four rooms	7½ units or persons.
(e)	Five rooms or more	10, with an additional 2 in respect of each room in excess of five.

Table II.

Where the floor area of a room is :—

(a)	110 sq. feet or more	2 units or persons.
(b)	90 sq. ft. or more, but less than 110 sq. ft.	1½ units or persons.
(c)	70 sq. ft. or more, but less than 90 sq. ft.	1 unit or person.
(d)	50 sq. ft. or more, but less than 70 sq. ft.	½ unit or person.
(e)	Under 50 sq. ft.	Nil.

A person over 10 years of age is regarded as one unit, over 1 year and under 10 years is regarded as half a unit and a child under one year is not taken into account when assessing the number of persons sleeping in a house or room.

F. Housing. General Remarks.

Conditions regarding the abatement of nuisances or defects at dwelling houses have not improved. Although our requirements in this respect are limited to essential works, great difficulty seems to be encountered in getting the repairs completed.

Procrastination has been responsible for general deterioration of the condition of rented houses, the standard is falling at a far greater pace than it was lifted from 1930 to 1939 and unless this deterioration is halted, conditions will be as low as they were about 27 years ago.

The rents of controlled houses have remained almost static since pre-war times yet the cost of repairs has gone up tremendously. This fact is one of the many which is responsible for the unsatisfactory condition of many of the dwellings in the district.

15. DEFENCE GENERAL REGULATIONS 56a 1939.

One house for which a licence was granted was demolished. This leaves four licences which allow the temporary use of two houses included in a Clearance Order and two dealt with as Individual Unfit houses.

16. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT, 1939.

Twenty-nine complaints were received during the year. These related to notice to quit, excessive rents, sub-tenancies, etc.

In numerous instances the provisions relating to the allowable increases of rent were explained to owners and tenants.

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

Three cases were referred to the Clerk to the Tribunal. One, where a man, wife and one child had two rooms and the joint use of the scullery and bathroom at a rent of 12/6. per week, went before the the Tribunal who reduced the rent to 8/- per week.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply—

Cowkeepers.

Number on register 77

Number of inspections 256

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk.

(other than cowkeepers)

Number on register 66

Number of inspections 53

Total Contraventions:

	Out-standing from 1946	Found during year	Remedied during year	Out-standing on 31st Dec
Cleansing	37	72	48	61
Structural alterations ..	2	10	2	10
Utensils	2	7	5	4
Other	7	1	7	1
Total	48	90	62	76

Four buildings were adapted to comply with the Milk and Dairies Order to enable them to be registered for milk production. The drainage at one dairy farm was reconstructed and a new septic tank provided.

(b) Milk Samples.

Sixty-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	11	10	11	1	—
Non-designated	35	32	34	3	1
Total	46	42	45	4	1

	No. of Samples	Phosphatase Test		Deferred M.B. Test	
		Sats.	Uns.	Sats.	Uns.
Pasteurised	15	15	—	15	—
Heat-treated, but sold as ordinary	4	4	—	4	—
Total	19	19	—	19	—

(c) Biological Examination of Milk.

No samples were taken. Although there has been no alteration of the law to require milk from a herd from which a bulk sample has been taken and found to be infected with tuberculosis to be compulsorily heat treated until the offending cow or cows have been removed from the herd, I suggest to the Committee it is necessary to recommence sampling milk for biological examination.

The examination of the raw milk supplies now being performed gives an indication of its cleanliness whereas the biological examination shows whether the germs of Tuberculosis are present and whether the milk is safe in this respect.

(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 and
- One Pasteurised supplementary.

The licensed Pasteuring Dairy is of modern construction, the plant is modern and is based on the Holder principle. During the year the tiling of the dairy was repaired and the cold store interior surfaces were reconstructed. Certain of the thermographs and the indicating thermometers are defective on the plant and have been in this condition for some time despite the fact that orders for their repair or renewal have been placed.

(e) Ice-Cream.

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations of 1947, came into operation on May 1st, 1947. The Regulations require, subject to certain qualifications, that the Ice-cream ingredients shall be heat treated after being mixed to a temperature of 150 deg. Fah. for 30 minutes or alternatively to 160 deg. Fah. for 10 minutes, it shall then be cooled to a temperature of 45 deg. Fah. or less within a period of 1½ hours, and then frozen.

Ice-cream shall not be sold if its temperature exceeds 28 deg. Fah. The regulations also contain many other helpful provisions. Briefly they are designed to make the Ice-cream safer by using the principles of Hygiene and Pasteurisation.

I prepared a draft standard for Ice-cream premises based largely on the standard adopted by the Council in 1939 and a draft code of practice for the Ice-cream Regulations.

These drafts were placed before a meeting of the Ice-cream traders which was held in the Council Chamber under the chairmanship of Councillor F. Hall, Chairman of the Health and Sanitary Committee. Thirty traders attended, each one was given a copy of the drafts and after talks by the Medical Officer of Health and myself, questions were invited. The traders were then asked to make any representation or inquiry which they thought necessary to me within one month. Several questions were asked at the meeting, very few inquiries were made and no representation of any kind was made.

The drafts were then placed before the Health and Sanitary Committee and left with each member for one month to enable full consideration to be given to them. Eventually, with one minor amendment, the drafts were approved and sent out to all traders with a letter requesting compliance with their provisions before the Spring of 1948.

The following two resolutions were passed by the Health and Sanitary Committee :—

(a) on the 30th June, 1947.

Separate Ice-cream rooms shall be required for Ice-cream manufactured by the "Hot Mix" method and that no new premises be registered under the Food and Drugs Act unless such provision is made and that for existing registered premises the separate Ice-cream rooms be provided as soon as possible, and when materials and labour are available, an appointed day shall be fixed for the separate rooms to be provided.

(b) on the 22nd September, 1947.

That the Standard Code of Practice and Interpretation of which a copy is attached, shall be adopted as a guide in connection with applications for the registration of premises for the production, storage or sale of Ice-cream.

The standard deals with the structure and sanitary facilities of the premises, the cleansing and sterilisation of the utensils and equipment and the Code of Practice and Interpretation deals with the Ice-cream Regulations, the machinery, temperatures, thermometers and sale of Ice-cream from vehicles, etc.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

The following contraventions of these Regulations were found during the year :—

Insufficient or incorrect Thermometers	..	..	..	25
Faulty or incorrect Homogenisers	..	..	..	1
Insufficient or incorrect Heat Treatment	..	..	..	4

Using an unapproved mix without Heat Treatment ..	11
Insufficient or incorrect pre-cooling	11
	—
Total	52
Contraventions abated	7
	—
Contraventions unabated	45
	—

Distributing Vehicles.

Whilst article 5 of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 gives some control of the distribution of Ice-cream from vehicles, it is in my opinion inadequate and the power to register the person and the vehicle, which some authorities have obtained by Private Acts, should be made available for all authorities or as an alternative the definition of premises, mentioned in s. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act should be set out to include vehicles.

Registered Premises.

(a) For manufacture and Retail	21
(b) For manufacture only	Nil
(c) For retail sale	36
	—
Total	57

There is no large manufacturer in the district.

129 inspections were made, 14 contraventions were found, 10 of them being abated at the end of the year.

Ice-cream Samples.

Forty-five samples were taken and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory Service and the County Council Laboratory.

The results were as follows:—

- 6 samples were Grade 1
- 5 samples were Grade 2
- 17 samples were Grade 3 and
- 12 samples were Grade 4.

Five samples were not reported on by the County Council Laboratory owing to the temperature of the water bath being above 20 deg. Cent. during the pre-incubation period.

These results were very disappointing. The need for thorough cleansing and sterilisation was explained to the traders and in certain cases assistance was given by taking samples at various stages of the manufacture of the Ice-cream.

(f) Meat and Food Inspection.

There is one regional slaughter-house in the Urban District which is situate at Barwell.

Number of animals slaughtered therein	7,938
Number of animals examined therein	7,938

Number of animals slaughtered elsewhere (Cottagers' pigs)	679
Number of animals examined elsewhere (Cottagers' pigs)	234
Number of inspections of meat at time of slaughter ..	529

There are no knackers yards in the district.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
No. killed (if known) ..	931	593	1813	4564	37	7938
No. inspected ..	931	593	1813	4564	37	7938
All diseases ex- cept Tubercu- losis						Total Weight in lbs. 10461
Whole carcases condemned ..	2	16	22	3	2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	326	258	17	1384	20	12973
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis	35.12	42.20	2.15	30.39	59.48	23434
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned ..	9	23	5	—	1	19567
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	167	259	2	—	1	18699
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with Tubercu- losis	18.90	47.55	.38	—	5.95	38266

Grand Total : 27 tons, 1 cwt., 108 lbs.

(g) Meat Inspection.

The total weight of meat condemned, surrendered and disposed of for purposes other than human consumption was :—27 tons, 10 cwts., 108 lbs., as compared with 26 tons, 6 cwts., 38 lbs., last year.

The number of animals examined was 3,000 less than last year. The number of cows killed was almost the same as during 1946, but the numbers of bullocks, heifers and bulls killed was approximately 600 less than during 1946.

The percentage of animals found to be diseased on post-mortem examination shows slight variation from last year's figures. The number of diseased animals is still too high, and further substantiates the remarks I made in last year's report on this subject.

(h) Other Foods.

A considerable amount of food has been inspected. The amount condemned appears to be slightly less than last year.

(i) Slaughter Houses.

There was no change in the number of slaughter-houses for which applications for licences were received 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.

The following table shows the number of inspections and the resultant action taken.

	Meat pre- paring Rooms	Meat Shops	Fried Fish & Chipped Potato Rooms	Cafés, Food Stores, etc.	Totals
No. of inspections	88	75	58	33	254
Structural defects	5	—	2	6	13
Cleansing of internal structure	11	2	8	8	29
Cleansing of utensils ..	4	—	2	3	9
Public Health Act nuisances	—	1	—	—	1
No. of contraventions found	20	3	12	17	52
Contraventions abated ..	18	1	6	11	36
Contraventions unabated ..	2	2	6	6	16
Contraventions abated from 1946	1	1	1	—	3

The importance of cleanliness in all its aspects as a preventative against food infections has been stressed on every possible occasion when inspecting food premises.

20. BAKEHOUSES.

86 inspections were made on 23 premises.

21 contraventions were found and 22 were abated, 19 following inspections this year and 3 following action commenced in 1946.

One new bakehouse was built during the year.

21. FACTORIES ACT.

(a) 115 inspections were made relating to 37 factories.

6 inspections were made regarding the provision of sanitary accommodation at 3 sites where building operations were in progress. 2 notices were served and complied with.

3 factories had insufficient sanitary accommodation. This condition at two of the factories was abated at the end of the year.

29 factories had unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation. The unsatisfactory conditions were abated at 17 factories by the end of the year. 14 contraventions were also abated last year from action commenced in 1946.

Three reports were received from H.M. Factory Inspectors regarding unsatisfactory accommodation.

(b) Outworkers.

There are 104 factories in the Urban District who manufacture Hosiery or Boots and Shoes. Both these trades make use of outworkers and although there have been reports of the increasing number being employed only 10 were notified to this office in accordance with the provisions of the Factories Act.

I propose to revert to the practice of sending out cards to the occupiers of factories previous to February 1st and August 1st reminding them of their statutory obligation to return a list of the outworkers employed by them to the Health Department.

One complaint was received regarding the noise caused by a linking machine which was installed in a living room and being used during the evening. Although the Public Health Act does not apply to noise nuisances, we investigate complaints regarding them and generally manage to abate or mitigate them by obtaining the co-operation of the manufacturer who supplies the machine and the person operating it.

22. RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919, and INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

111 private premises were visited during the year and disinfestation work against rats or mice was carried out at 108 of them. The infestations discovered at these private properties were found to be, in every instance, of a minor character only.

The seven sewage disposal works in the district, the house refuse tip at Hinckley and the trade refuse tip at Barwell have all received constant attention throughout the year.

In the late Summer, fire broke out in the Hinckley house refuse tip and displaced the residual infestation of rats to the old part of the tip which, up to that time, had been successfully cleared of vermin; disinfestation of this part of the tip was immediately carried out and has been continued since, but much work has yet to be done to reduce or totally wipe out the vermin population. In addition to laying over 70 lbs. of poisoned bait, trapping and gassing campaigns have been carried out. More than 150 dead rats have been picked up following poison baiting and of the poisoned bait laid over half has been "taken" at every treatment, giving an estimated kill for this tip alone of 1,400 rats.

Contract disinfestation at industrial premises has proceeded satisfactorily; 24 premises were on contract during the year. Two contracts were not renewed for a further year and two new contracts were entered into. Several of the premises now on contract are clear of rats and mice but monthly check visits are made to guard against re-infestation.

Sewer Baiting.

The sewers throughout the Urban District were baited in the fourth Sewer Maintenance Treatment. In view of the minor infestation of the sewers discovered in the third treatment, arrangements were made to test bait the manholes in each section of the District before pre-baiting and poison baiting. The procedure was as follows:

On the first day, 4 oz. test baits were laid in every manhole of each section. On the third day this test bait was checked and where a "take" was recorded, a 4 oz. pre-bait was laid. On the fifth day, 6 oz. of poisoned bait was laid in the manhole where the test bait "take" was recorded, and in the manholes to either side of it.

The treatment was commenced on the 5th May and was completed in 29 working days—21 days under the estimated 50 working days, and 41 days inside the 70 day period occupied in 1946. The chief factors contributing to the speed with which this treatment was carried out were the utilising of motor transport, the favourable weather and the fact that no checks were made on poisoned bait "takes."

The bait and poison used were damp sausage rusk and 2½% zinc phosphide.

The test and pre-bait results for the District were as follows:—

District	Manholes inspected	Number Baited	Number not Baited	Complete Takes	Partial Takes	No Take
Hinckley	537	447	90	15	13	419
Barwell	156	137	19	7	2	128
Earl Shilton ..	202	182	20	12	7	163
Burbage	198	182	16	21	5	156
Totals	1093	948	145	55	27	866

The reduction of infestation since sewer baiting was commenced in 1944 may be seen in the following comparative table which shows the number of manholes baited each year and the number of them in which no "take" of bait was recorded.

Year	Number of Man-holes Baited	No Takes
1944	408	87
1945	861	456
1946	928	660
1947	948	866

23. HEALTH WEEK.

Sunday 13th April to Saturday, 19th April.

During 1946 a Venereal Disease publicity meeting was held at the Regent Cinema when an audience of 450 attended. The Health and Sanitary Committee thought Health Publicity on a wider scale should be attempted and it was decided to organise a Health Week.

The Church Hall, St. Mary's Road was obtained for the exhibition, the Regent Cinema for the V.D. lecture and film, the Scout Hut behind the Church Hall for the films and the Church School, Station Road for the "Keep Fit" display. An essay competition was arranged with very good cash prizes.

The Health Exhibition was opened by Mr. A. S. Atkins, who, until his retirement, had been Clerk to the Council for 45 years.

A considerable amount of pre-publicity was arranged by the use of all available mediums.

The attendances on Monday at the opening, on Wednesday and Saturday were good, but at other periods they were disappointing.

The total attendance was approximately 1,500 to the various functions during the week and 150 to the V.D. lecture on Sunday.

A better attendance might have been made if the Exhibition could have been held during the school terms, but as the Church Hall is used as a day school this could not be done.

Considerable assistance was received from the Ministry of Food, who had stalls and arranged cookery demonstrations.

24. STAFF.

The staff of the department remains unchanged. The vacancies referred to in last year's report have not been filled.

The increase of duties associated with the administration of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, the administration of the Rats and Mice Act, etc., together with the inability of one of the Additional Sanitary Inspectors to get a car for the performance of his duties has brought us to the stage when we cannot do routine visits. Whilst I was not too anxious to ask the Committee to fill these vacancies during the present period of shortage of material, I may have no alternative unless there is some favourable change in the position during next year.

W. PICKERING & SONS, LTD., HINDLEY.

