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Contributors

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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, 1950

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



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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. (1.2.3.)

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. DEAMER, M.S.I.A. (1.2.4.)

Sanitary Inspectors :

L. F. WHITMORE, M.S.I.A. (1.2.)

F. D. T. GEORGE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (1.2.)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

R. C. LIGGINS

Clerks :

Mrs. E. E. CLARK.

M. WHEATLEY

Rodent Operator :

T. FITZPATRICK

1. Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector.
2. Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Other Foods Inspectors Certificate.
3. Royal Sanitary Institute Diploma for Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
4. Part I of the Sanitary Inspectors Association Diploma in Sanitary Science.

Health and Sanitary Committee

(As composed 31st December, 1950)

Councillor T. EATOUGH (Chairman of the Council).

Councillor J. JACQUES (Chairman of the Committee).

Councillor Mrs. D. ATKINS, J.P.

Councillor H. CRAMP.

Councillor Mrs. M. O. CRUICKSHANK, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Councillor F. HALL, J.P.

Councillor R. A. LUMB, B.A.

Councillor T. O. McGRAH.

Councillor F. RALPH.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1950. Attention is being paid everywhere to the increasing number of outbreaks of food poisoning, and the year under review began with a short sharp outbreak affecting ten people, believed to have been caused by toxins in a meat pie. The victims were very acutely ill for from 24 to 36 hours—but all recovered.

During the autumn there was another outbreak traced to infection by the organism called *Salmonella typhi-murium*, 28 persons were affected but the primary source of the infection could not be found, indeed so common is becoming the occurrence of this organism, that tracing the original source of any outbreak is well nigh impracticable.

Towards the end of the year Hinckley shared in the rising number of cases of dysentery affecting certain districts.

It is very difficult to pin-point the origin of any of these outbreaks.

Our food hygiene campaign has been most actively pursued throughout the year, and more and more food traders are co-operating well.

The infantile mortality rate is slightly higher than last year whereas the death rate is slightly lower. Our infantile mortality rate is the same as that for the whole of England and Wales but the death rate of 9.39 is below the national rate of 11.6.

No case of diphtheria occurred. I have no doubt that diphtheria will become a forgotten disease (as is cholera in England) if the people will continue to have their children immunised. It is opportune to draw attention to the need for at least 75 per cent. of all babies being immunised before the end of the first year of life if we are to continue being free from deaths from the disease. Owing to the absence of the disease there appears to be a tendency for parents to be less aware of the serious damage which it can cause. If this trend continues it cannot fail adversely to affect the numbers of children immunised.

General Health of the Community.

This continues to be satisfactory.

Nutrition.

No evidence of any general nutritional deficiency exists.

STATISTICS.

(For comparative purposes last year's figures have been inserted in brackets)

Area (acres)		11,882
Reg. General's estimate of population	..	39,050 (38,750)
Number of inhabited houses		11,597 (11,204)
Rateable value		£198,891 (£191,881)
Product of a penny rate		£786 6s. 3d. (£765 1s. 11d.)

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	363	317	680
Legitimate	348	309	657
Illegitimate	15	8	23

This represents a live birth rate of 17.41 (17.83) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

	Male	Female	Total
Still Births	8 (13)	7 (7)	15 (20)

There were no illegitimate still births.

Rate (still births) per 1,000 total (live and still births) 21.58 (28.1).

Deaths.

Male	Female	Total
179	188	367

This represents a death rate of 9.39 (10.2) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes Nil

Other maternal causes 1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births 26.85 (27.4)

	Males	Females
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	12 (13)	5 (4)
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	9	3

Vital Statistics—Comparative Table

	Birth rate per 1,000 population		Death rate per 1,000 pop. All causes	Rate per 1,000 live births. Total deaths under 1 yr.
	Live Births	Still Births		
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	17.6	0.45	12.3	33.8
148 smaller towns 25,000-50,000 at 1931 census ..	16.7	0.38	11.6	29.4
London	17.8	0.36	11.8	26.3
Hinckley U.D.C.	17.41	0.38	9.39	26.85

Other Mortality Statistics.

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths from	Cancer (all ages) ..	23 (39)	29 (23)	52 (62)
"	" Respiratory Tuberculosis	6 (9)	2 (8)	8 (17)
"	" Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
"	" Syphilitic diseases ..	— (4)	1 (—)	1 (4)
"	" Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1 (3)	— (1)	1 (4)
"	" Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	2	1	3
"	" Diabetes ..	—	2	2
"	" Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	20 (25)	26 (34)	46 (59)
"	" Coronary disease angina	31	12	43
"	" Hypertension with heart disease ..	5	12	17
"	" Other heart disease ..	19 (57)	43 (50)	62 (107)
"	" Other circulatory disease	6 (14)	6 (14)	12 (28)
"	" Influenza ..	— (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
"	" Pneumonia ..	6 (7)	5 (5)	11 (12)
"	" Bronchitis ..	13 (15)	6 (7)	19 (22)
"	" Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2 (1)	2 (—)	4 (1)
"	" Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2 (—)	2 (2)	4 (2)
"	" Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1 (1)	— (4)	1 (5)
"	" Nephritis and nephrosis	4 (5)	4 (3)	8 (8)
"	" Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
"	associated with birth ..	— (3)	1 (3)	1 (6)
"	from Congenital malformations	2	1	3
"	" other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	25 (16)	28 (18)	53 (34)
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	5 (2)	— (1)	5 (3)
"	" all other accidents ..	—	3	3
"	" Suicide ..	3 (2)	— (3)	3 (5)
"	" Homicide and operations of war ..	1	—	1
Total deaths from all causes ..		179 (216)	188 (180)	367 (396)

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. The Public Health Officers of the Authority are set out on page one of the report.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

Examinations are almost wholly performed at the Public Health Laboratory, at the Groby Road Hospital, Leicester which is under the control of Dr. E. H. Gillespie.

Chemical examination of water samples is performed by Mr. S. Bratley, F.C.S., of Oadby.

The following specimens were examined during the year at the Public Health Laboratory.

Throat and nose swabs	..	..	..	..	..	49
Sputa	..	..	..	..	..	334
Faeces and Urine	..	..	..	..	..	1287
Water	..	..	..	..	..	10
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	134
Pleural Fluid ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	19
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Total ..						1887

3. Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

	Children	
	Under 5 years	5-14 years
Total number immunised during year ..	455 (518)	29 (36)
Total number immunised since beginning of scheme	4254	4968
Percentage of children in age groups immunised during 1950	12.4 (12.23)	0.51 (0.65)
Number of children receiving booster dose of immunisation	198 (190)	

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows the diseases occurring during 1950, and the distribution of them.

Disease	Hinckley Central Wards	Barwell	Burbage	Earl Shilton	Total
Scarlet Fever	59 (38)	10 (13)	11 (20)	15 (16)	95 (87)
Erysipelas	— (5)	— (1)	1 (—)	5 (6)	6 (12)
Pneumonia	23 (16)	1 (—)	4 (11)	8 (3)	36 (30)
Poliomyelitis	5 (8)	— (3)	— (—)	2 (1)	7 (12)
Dysentery	40 (1)	2 (—)	16 (—)	— (—)	58 (1)
Measles	80 (423)	88 (31)	34 (68)	159 (9)	361 (531)
Whooping Cough	77 (93)	33 (24)	30 (30)	40 (4)	180 (151)
Meningococcal Infection	3 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	3 (—)
Food Poisoning	27 (2)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	28 (2)
Totals	314	135	96	229	774 (829)

Age Groups and Sex

		Under						Over 25	Age Un- known	Total		Total
		1	3	5	10	15	25			M	F	
Scarlet Fever	M	—	4	10	29	5	1	1	7	57		95
	F	—	2	6	21	3	1	1	4		38	
Erysipelas	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3		6
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—		3	
Pneumonia	M	—	2	1	5	—	1	12	1	22		36
	F	—	1	1	1	1	—	10	—		14	
Poliomyelitis	M	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	4		7
	F	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—		3	
Dysentery	M	2	4	4	8	2	1	5	—	26		58
	F	1	5	1	10	—	4	10	1		32	
Measles	M	4	43	75	58	—	1	2	7	190		361
	F	11	35	51	69	—	—	—	5		171	
Whooping Cough	M	9	25	35	23	—	—	1	—	93		180
	F	8	23	26	28	—	1	1	—		87	
Meningococcal Infection	M	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1		3
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		2	
Food Poisoning	M	1	2	2	1	—	1	8	1	16		28
	F	—	2	2	2	—	2	4	—		12	
TOTALS	M	17	80	127	126	8	6	32	16	412		774 (829)
	F	21	69	87	132	4	9	30	10		362	

National Assistance Act, 1947, Section 47.

Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

17 visits were made regarding aged people, mainly living alone, who through age or illness were in need of care and attention.

Whenever possible, attempts are made to get help from relatives or friends to enable them to carry on living at home if they wish to do so.

No Order was applied for.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public

Health Act, 1936. A total of 43 cases were added to the register during the year.

New Cases and Mortality, 1950.

Age		New Cases, 1950				Deaths, 1950			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 5 years	..	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	1
" 15 "	..	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
" 25 "	..	6	6	—	1	—	1	—	—
" 35 "	..	3	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
" 45 "	..	—	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
" 55 "	..	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Over 55	..	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	—
		14	18	3	8	6	2	1	1

Distribution of New Cases.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Hinckley (Central Wards) ..	5 (9)	8 (16)*	2 (1)	3 (1)
Barwell	— (4)	2 (1)	— (—)	1 (—)
Earl Shilton	5 (3)	3 (2)	1 (3)	1 (1)
Burbage	2 (2)	2 (3)	— (1)	3 (3)
Stoke Golding	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Inward Transfers of cases arising outside the area ..	1 (1)	4 (1)	— (—)	— (2)
Total	13	19	3	8

*Includes one previously notified case, who had left the district and returned.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the new cases of Tuberculosis notified were 25% less than in 1949 and the deaths were almost 50% less.

Conclusion.

In the Autumn of the year the Health Department moved from its old offices in Station Road to a new prefabricated building erected on a site adjoining Argents Mead. This released a private dwelling-house for its rightful use, and I think all the staff of the Department already feel the advantages of working in a building designed for the specific purpose.

To the members of the Health and Sanitary Committee I offer my thanks for their continued co-operation and support and to Mr. Melson and all members of the staff my gratitude for their help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. CRUICKSHANK,
Medical Officer of Health.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Our efforts to improve the conditions under which food is handled have been maintained and the results obtained are set out under the heading, Food and Drugs Act, in my report. These results could not have been obtained without the co-operation of the traders, the majority of whom are now very interested in food hygiene.

During the year, the investigation of outbreaks of food poisoning took up much time. It appears paradoxical that after four years sustained, and not unsuccessful, effort to improve the conditions under which food is handled, we should have more cases of food poisoning. I believe the majority of our cases arose through contact with a neighbouring city where many cases occurred.

I regret that I cannot report any improvement in the conditions under which people are housed in the older type rented house. Getting repairs completed at this type of house is difficult even when our requirements are restricted to ameliorative repairs only. Houses, formerly regarded as being out of the immediate range of Slum Clearance are being allowed to deteriorate and will, unless this deterioration is arrested, undoubtedly increase the numbers of houses to be dealt with in this manner.

The control of movable dwellings is now almost a daily problem and our administration of the Public Health Act has set out, to endeavour to pay recognition to the urgent need of this form of temporary housing accommodation without overlooking the fundamental sanitary conditions.

During the year, the last privy middens were abolished, and although 98% of the houses have sanitary accommodation on the water carriage system, there are still 205 pail closets in the area. This is far too many, for a progressive authority and I hope the necessary works of sewerage will be completed to enable the number to be drastically reduced.

As in most other walks of life, it is team work which produces the results, so it is with my department. I wish to pay tribute to the help which has readily been extended to me by the Members and Officers of the Council, by Dr. W. D. Cruickshank, the Medical Officer of Health and the members of my staff.

A sanitary inspector is always on duty, and I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to my staff for meeting in a ready and willing spirit calls upon their time which have had to be made.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. MELSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

3-8-51.

WATER SUPPLY

1. The quality of the water supply is satisfactory and whilst no serious shortage existed last year, mainly owing to the poor summer, the quantity available cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

Mr. H. M. Etherington, the Engineer and Surveyor, in his report for 1950 upon the Waterworks Department states :—

“There is reason to expect that the daily consumption of water will continue to increase year by year and a water shortage must therefore be anticipated until 1954 at least.”

The obtainment of an adequate supply of water has received much consideration and the Council have before them proposals from three sources in this respect.

The changing character of the town's water will tend to influence a higher consumption. The consumption per head per day for 1950 was 27.4 gallons, a figure which is on the low side compared with many other towns. Nevertheless, it has risen to this by a gradual increase and no doubt will continue to do so if the water continues to get softer.

The Snarestone well water has a total hardness of 35 deg., and the Nuneaton water a total hardness of 7 deg., but during the past ten years the water received via Nuneaton has increased from an amount equal to half the Snarestone supply to one almost equal to it.

2. No samples of raw water from any public supply were taken. Five bacteriological and three chemical samples of treated town water were taken and all of them were reported as satisfactory.

3. Three samples of well water were submitted for chemical examination and nine for bacteriological examination. All of them were unsatisfactory excepting one sample which was regarded as doubtful following both examinations.

As a result of these reports, one well was closed and three were repaired and cleaned out.

4. Although the town water is getting softer, the admixture of the Snarestone water with the Nuneaton supply appears to prevent any likelihood of plumbo-solvency.

5. Ninety seven per cent. of the people use the public water supply. There being 11,009 houses and 37,922 people with a direct supply inside the house, 270 houses and 810 people with a supply from external stand-posts and 106 houses and 318 people obtain their water supply from wells or springs.

With very few exceptions the houses on a well or spring supply are far removed from the public mains.

6. Sewerage.

A scheme is being prepared to deal with the disposal of surface water drainage for the Coventry Road district on the town side of the canal to abate the nuisance which occurs at properties on the northern side of the road.

The inadequate sewerage system in the same district beyond the canal also requires urgent attention.

7. Sewage Disposal.

The first-stage extension of the main disposal works is in preparation.

8. Cesspools.

The position remains the same as last year, there being 125 cesspools in the district.

9. Sanitary Accommodation.

Ninety-eight per cent. of the houses have sanitary accommodation on the water carriage system. There are 10707 water closets and 205 pail closets in the area. Four privy middens were converted to pail closets and 20 pail closets were converted to water closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

10. House refuse is collected by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor.

Six Karrier Bantam vehicles are used for its collection, the four horse drawn vehicles in use last year being replaced by two mechanical vehicles.

House refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjoining Heath Lane, Earl Shilton and trade refuse by controlled tipping on land at the Stapleton Lane Sewage disposal works.

The Heath Lane tip is operated in a most satisfactory manner.

House refuse is collected approximately every ten days. The weekly collection was maintained during summer but the shortage of labour is responsible for lengthening this period at other times of the year.

11. Dust-bins.

The provision of bins is in the same unsatisfactory position as last year. I prepared a special report for the Health and Sanitary Committee on the position. In this I pointed out the slow and cumbersome procedure which had to be followed to obtain replacement of defective bins and the confused position in view of the successful appeals against notices served upon owners and occupiers in various parts of the country. I suggested that if the Council were prepared to accept a change of policy in this matter a municipal bin provision scheme would be highly desirable on public health grounds.

The Committee adjourned the matter for one year, or until a successful appeal was made against one of our notices. No appeal has yet been made.

604 inspections were made regarding dust bins. Statutory notice was served in respect of one house. 144 bins were supplied and four bins were supplied in default following service of statutory notice in 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

12. The number of recorded complaints was 372 and the total number of defects or nuisances discovered was 1,544. The main causes of complaint were 117 relating to infestation of rats or mice, 101 to defective houses and 46 to defective drainage systems.

13. Number of Inspections.						<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Revisits</i>
Animal Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	97	49
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	22	35
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	27	59
Drainage Works	..	..	..	..	..	123	180
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	..	..	..	..	..	1122	2292
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	444	382
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	5	7
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	254	379
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	1046	1140
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	6	4
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	10	53
Slaughter Houses and Meat and Food Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	496	85
Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	14	51
Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	67	43
Verminous and Dirty Premises	..	..	..	..	..	37	24
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	34	9
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	33	88
Other Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	541	27
						4378	4907
Grand Total						9285	

14. NOTICES

Informal

					Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1st January	..	..	..	..	52	22
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	110	293
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	140	267
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	1	6
Outstanding 31st December	..	..	..	..	21	42

15. Statutory

Outstanding on 1st January	..	..	..	..	2	8
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	3	6
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	3	10
Outstanding 31st December	..	..	..	..	2	4

16. Summary Action.

Two summonses were issued relating to contraventions of Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by a rag collector handing toys to children. Fines of £1 on each case with 10/- costs were imposed.

SHOPS ACT

17. 63 inspections were made at 12 premises, 3 contraventions were found, 14 contraventions were abated from action commenced in 1949 and 3 contraventions were unabated at the end of the year.

When inspecting food premises, the provisions of the Shop Acts are borne in mind. Visits made under these circumstances are not recorded as Shops Act inspections unless some contraventions are found and dealt with.

18. Movable Dwellings.

110 inspections were made relating to 28 moveable dwellings or sites.

9 new applications for licences were made. One was refused owing to the unsatisfactory water supply and to the fact that the van, if licensed, would have been overcrowded in contravention of Sec. 268 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The other applications were agreed to subject to the following conditions.

- (1) Planning consent being obtained from the Planning authority.
- (2) An adequate and wholesome water supply.
- (3) Satisfactory sanitary accommodation and drainage facilities.
- (4) Adequate paving and refuse storage facilities.
- (5) No other vans being allowed on the site, and
- (6) that the licence shall expire at the end of the year.

Applicants are told that if the serious housing shortage continues and the movable dwelling and the site are kept in a satisfactory condition, there is every possibility of the licence being renewed on a yearly basis.

Under the Town Planning Act of 1947, land may be used as a site for a movable dwelling for 28 days without permission being obtained, whereas the Public Health Act prescribes 42 days. For this reason, it was decided applicants for licences should first obtain planning consent.

Two applications for planning consent were refused, the sites being on land abutting a trunk road.

Three applicants did not proceed with their application when the list of works required was sent to them.

There are no licenced sites in the district and there were 12 licensed movable dwellings at the end of the year.

The control of movable dwellings is a growing problem and whilst recognition should be paid to the housing shortage and that support should be given to people who are prepared to help themselves by obtaining accommodation of this kind, rather than resting content to depend upon the Council to house them, such recognition and support cannot be at the expense of fundamental sanitary conditions.

REGULATED BUILDINGS

19. There is only one offensive trade carried on, a tripe-dresser, and conditions were fair.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

20. Twenty-six observations were made on chimneys in connection with 11 premises and 65 inspections were made.

15 nuisances occurred, 12 being abated at the end of the year. 3 nuisances were abated following action commenced in 1949.

The nuisances were abated by the following action :—

4 by greater care in stoking.

4 by ceasing to burn refuse and leather scraps.

2 by changing to a coke fuel.

1 by increasing the height of the chimney stack and burning coke, and

1 by ceasing to burn waste oil.

Nuisances have occurred at two factories where delivery is awaited of new boilers with smoke abatement plants.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

21. Disinfestation was performed at four houses. Three of the houses being amongst those scheduled for treatment under Part III of the Housing Act when we can deal with them.

VERMINOUS PERSONS

22. Three inspections were made regarding verminous persons.

No cases of scabies were drawn to our attention. The Cleansing Centre is being maintained, and for some months it has been partially used as a store for the department.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

23. One person, aged 74 was buried at a cost of £11 15s. 0d. The deceased was insured and the full cost of burial was recovered. The remainder of the estate was dealt with by the Treasury Solicitor.

Local undertakers were invited to tender for burial under Sec. 50, two sent in tenders, the lowest being accepted.

SCHOOLS

24. The unsatisfactory sanitary conditions still exist at the school referred to in last year's report. Invitations have now been sent out for tenders and the conditions should be made satisfactory during the early part of 1951.

SWIMMING BATH

25. Three samples of water were taken for analysis with the following results :—

24th January Free Chlorine—0.5 parts per million, Coliform organisms absent in 10 c.c.s.

10th August Chemical examination. "In my opinion this water is safe for bathers but I advise early renewal."

7th October Chemical examination. Sample collected after overhaul of filtration plant, cleaning of bath and before any bathers had used it.

"In my opinion this water is organically very pure but the free Chlorine is excessive."

This sample was also examined bacteriologically.

HOUSING

26. A. New Houses

Houses, permanent type, completed during the year :—	
By local authority	158
By private enterprise	23
Houses in course of erection at the end of year—	
By local authority	156
By private enterprise	11
Total number of Post-war Houses completed—	
By local authority	731
By private enterprise	243
Number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year	919
Number of applications made for Council houses during year	329
Number of families re-housed since the termination of hostilities—	
(a) in new houses	719
(b) in vacancies which have arisen	151

27. 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) ..	405
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	1012
(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 ..	17
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	80
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	17
(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	388

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 ..	420
74 of these from action commenced in 1949.	

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	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	1
(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	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(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

28. CLEARANCE ORDERS

The following houses were in such a deplorable "worn out" condition that the only effective way of dealing with them was by Part III procedure of the Housing Act 1936.

Nos. 40 and 42 Windsor Street, Burbage.

Nos. 10, 12, 91 and 91½ Church Street, Earl Shilton.

Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 Spring Gardens, Earl Shilton and

Nos. 116, 118 and 120 Coventry Road, Hinckley.

Five clearance orders for these properties were being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health.

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

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	8
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	14
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	69
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	14
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	113
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	Nil

30. Houses

(a) Total number of occupied houses in the district	11597
(b) Total number of Council houses occupied in the district	2329

31. Housing Act 1949

One application was made for an Improvement grant under Sec. 20 by an owner-occupier but as the Council had not decided their policy on this matter and in view of the house not complying with the conditions, the application was not proceeded with.

32. Defence General Regulations 56a, 1939

Licences have been granted allowing temporary use of the following five condemned houses :—

Nos. 10 and 12 Freemans Lane, Burbage,
Nos. 2 and 3 Woodyard Cottages, Stoke Golding, and
No. 2 Blockleys Yard, Hinckley.

33. RENT ACTS

28 cases were dealt with, 6 regarding possession of houses, 5 regarding notice to quit to sub-tenants of unfurnished accommodation, 7 regarding notice to quit to sub-tenants of furnished accommodation, 8 regarding rent and 2 to other queries. The rent queries were mainly regarding alleged excessive rent.

47 visits were made by people in connection with these inquiries.

34. FURNISHED HOUSES (RENT CONTROL) ACT, 1946 AND LANDLORD AND TENANT (RENT CONTROL) ACT, 1949

Two cases were referred to the Rent Tribunal by sub-tenants :—

- (a) Where the sub-tenant was paying 12/- per week for the use of two rooms and joint use of kitchen and outbuildings.

The tribunal dismissed this reference and fixed the rent at 12/- per week.

- (b) Where the sub-tenant was paying £1 5s. 0d. per week for the use of one room and joint use of kitchen and outhouses.

The tribunal reduced the rent to £1 per week.

35. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Dairies

78 inspections were made at the 11 registered dairies, 44 contraventions were found, 49 being abated at the end of the year, 12 from action commenced in 1949 and 7 contraventions were outstanding at the end of the year.

The 44 contraventions consisted of: 10 relating to cleansing items, 15 to structural items, 8 to utensils and 11 to other various matters.

One dairyman closed down during the year, much work was necessary to make his dairy comply with the Regulations.

With two exceptions the dairies are adapted premises, and whilst complying with the regulations they cannot be regarded as desirable dairy premises.

Distributors

There are 23 on the register, 14 inspections were made in connection with them. 3 contraventions were found, 1 being abated at the end of the year and 5 being abated following action commenced in 1949.

36. Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949

(a) Pasteurised and Sterilised milk.

Three dealer's licences and one supplementary licence have been granted to use the designation Pasteurised.

Four dealer's licences have been granted for the sale of Sterilised milk

(b) Raw Milk (Tuberculin Tested).

Seven dealers and one supplementary licence have been granted.

Five of the licences are bottlers and dealers.

37. Milk Samples.

(a) Bacteriological

Designation	Number of Samples	Satisfactory M.B.	Unsatisfactory M.B.
Tuberculin Tested	46	41	5
Accredited	28	21	7
Non-designated	39	29	10
Total	113	91	22

2 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk were taken but no reports were issued on them as they did not reach the laboratory within two hours of sampling.

The year was a favourable one for milk sampling, there was no proper summer, no drought or hot humid weather, yet we had 22 unsatisfactory samples. The highest number of unsatisfactory samples during the previous six years was 14 and the last time we exceeded the 1950 figure was in 1943 when we had 29 unsatisfactory from 196 samples.

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 19.4 compared with the average percentage of 13.4 for the 22 years period from 1927 to 1949.

This is a very unsatisfactory feature and it will be interesting to see whether it is peculiar to this district or not.

Copies of the unsatisfactory results are sent to the County Milk Regulations Officer with a request that attention should be given towards eradicating the cause of the unsatisfactory samples. 1950 was the first complete year of supervision of milk production by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Pasteurised Milk

16 samples were taken and they all satisfied the Phosphatase and Deferred Methylene Blue tests.

Miscellaneous Samples

One sample of non-designated milk was examined chemically and found to have a fat content of 3.4 per cent. One sample of goat's milk which was to be used in food manufacture, was found to be unsatisfactory, the Methylene Blue being decolourised in less than 1 hour and Presumptive Coli being present in 1 ml.

38. Biological Samples

129 samples were taken, almost all of them from the producers' premises and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Groby Road, Leicester.

123 of the samples were negative, 2 were positive and 4 were not reported on owing to unavoidable mishap at the laboratory.

The type of milk sampled was as follows :—

Designation	Result		
	Neg.	Pos.	Not Re-ported on
Non-designated	48	1	3
Accredited	51	1	1
Tuberculin Tested	14	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (farm bottled)	5	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1	—	—
Pasteurised	3	—	—
Heat Treated	1	—	—
Totals	123	2	4

Disposal of Milk from Producers

Wholesale to Pasteurising Dairies	47
Wholesale to Raw milk distributors	23
Retailed by producer	9
Retailed by producer and any surplus to Pasteurising Dairy	9
	88

The difference between this figure and the total samples taken is accounted for by repeat samples.

Positive Samples

Positive samples were obtained from one undesignated milk producer and one from an Accredited producer.

The undesignated milk was sold raw by the producer and the Accredited milk went to a Pasteurising dairy. Although the milk was sold raw in the first case the Divisional Veterinary Inspector said it was not a case where notice should be served requiring the compulsory heat treatment of the milk. In both cases, cows with tuberculosis were removed from the herd and destroyed before the Veterinary Inspector's visit. Subsequent samples from the herd were negative.

During the year a meeting was arranged for the Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors of the county districts to discuss with the County Medical Officer, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory and the Divisional Veterinary Inspector the future of Biological sampling. Guinea pigs were limited and it was necessary that samples should not be duplicated and in the main that they should be concentrated on milk which was sold in its raw state.

Under this arrangement, our Council was restricted to 88 samples per year. This reduction was accepted with regret. Biological sampling is the most important of all sampling. Despite the delays and occasional frustrations, it is still an important phase of preventive action against Tuberculosis.

39. ICE-CREAM

(a) Registered Premises

(i) Manufacture and retail	..	..	..	8
(ii) Manufacturing only	..	..	..	Nil
(iii) Retail sale	..	..	..	71

127 inspections were made at 53 premises, 14 contraventions were found, 3 of them being abated at the end of the year.

The persons manufacturing ice-cream is three less than last year. The majority of the retailers now sell pre-packed ice-cream.

(b) Ice-Cream Samples

19 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and the grading and percentages are set out together with those for the years 1947-48-49.

No samples were taken for chemical analysis owing to the difficulty in getting this examination performed.

Year	Total No. of Samples	Grade	No. of Samples	Percentage
1950	19	I	13	68.41
		II	2	10.52
		III	3	15.78
		IV	1	5.26
1949	43	I	18	41.86
		II	18	41.86
		III	3	7.00
		IV	4	9.30
1948	49	I	9	18.36
		II	13	26.53
		III	15	30.61
		IV	12	24.44
1947	25	I	3	12.0
		II	3	12.0
		III	8	32.0
		IV	11	44.0

The results obtained continue to show a gratifying improvement.

40. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) Slaughtering takes place at one regional slaughterhouse in the Urban District.

Ante-mortem inspection is made on every possible occasion and one hundred per cent. post-mortem inspection takes place.

(b) Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
No. killed (if known)	1186	877	1542	5090	198	8893
No. inspected	1186	877	1542	5090	198	8893
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						Total Weight in lbs. 9512
Whole carcasses condemned	2	7	33	20	7	
Carcasses of which some part or or- gan was con- demned	360	453	15	1282	93	18296
Percentage of num- ber inspected aff- ected with tuber- culosis	30.52	52.45	3.11	25.57	50.50	27808 lbs
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses con- demned	12	34	2	—	2	32380
Carcasses of which some part or or- gan was con- demned	221	356	1	—	13	24588
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tu- berculosis	19.64	44.46	0.19	—	7.57	56968 lbs

Total weight condemned : 37 tons 16 cwts. 104 lbs.

(c) Meat Inspection

The amount of meat condemned was much higher than usual, 37 tons, 16 cwts, 104 lbs. in comparison with 24 tons during each of the last two years. This increase is due to the larger number of cows which have been slaughtered, the percentage of cows compared with other bovines, bullocks, heifers and bulls, was 73.9%, whereas the percentage for 1949 was 52%.

One out of every two cows killed is found, in some degree, to be diseased.

In 1939, the percentage of cows killed was 6.2 and the amount of meat condemned was 4 tons, 18 cwts., 48 lbs.

It is very evident that our efforts to maintain one hundred per cent. inspection is important and well worth while and Messrs. Deamer and Whitmore, who are mainly responsible for this duty are to be congratulated on their efficient and conscientious work.

(d) Other Foods

The following unsound food was surrendered, condemned and suitably disposed of.

888 tins of various foodstuffs.

11 tins of Stewed Steak.

87 tins of Luncheon Meat ($122\frac{1}{2}$ -lbs.).

4 tins of Boiled Ham.

13 tins of Brawn.

14 tins of Pork.

2 tins of Tongue (12 lbs.).

3 tins of Jellied Veal.

13 tins of Salmon.

101 tins of Herrings, Sardines or Pilchards.

27 tins of Corn Beef ($150\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.).

$83\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of Bacon.

68 lbs. of Beef.

7 lbs. of Pudding Powder.

41. Slaughterhouses

There are 10 licensed slaughterhouses, one being used as the central slaughterhouse. The washing facilities and the sanitary accommodation at the central slaughterhouse were much improved during the year.

42. Knacker Yard

11 inspections were made at the one knacker yard and the occupier's attention was drawn to 10 items of omission. These were promptly dealt with and on the whole the premises have been operated satisfactorily.

In addition to staining of the meat, it must also be cooked before leaving the premises.

43. Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The following table shows the action taken regarding food premises.

	Ice-Cream premises	Meat prepar- ing rooms	Meat shops	Fried flsh and chipped potato premises	Cafes, Food Stores, etc.	Total
Part A. Food and Drugs Act.						
No. of premises in- spected	53	30	38	25	149	295
No. of inspections ..	127	77	90	47	356	697
Structural defects ..	2	10	14	8	58	92
Cleansing of internal structure	2	11	8	10	43	74
Cleansing of utensils or fittings	6	12	8	8	32	66
Public Health Act nuisances	4	2	5	4	27	42
No. of contraventions found	14	35	35	30	160	274
Contraventions abated	3	21	20	10	66	120
Contraventions unabated	11	14	15	20	94	154
Contraventions abated from 1949	—	45	32	10	244	331
Part B. Food Code.						
Protection of food required	14	—	1	2	48	65
Washing facilities inadequate	6	18	21	8	50	103
Sanitary accommo- dation inadequate	1	—	2	—	16	19
Protective clothing required	—	1	—	—	17	18
Structural defects	—	6	2	—	9	17
Exhibition of food code required	—	2	1	3	21	27
Other defects	22	2	4	3	21	52
Deficiencies of code remedied	24	5	10	5	74	118
Deficiencies of code not remedied	19	24	21	11	108	183

Amongst other items the following work was done :—

Constant hot water heaters provided	58
Sinks or lavatory basins provided	13
Washing facilities provided (towels and nail brushes)	70
Tiling or impervious walls constructed	10
Protection of food in show-cases, etc.	29

The improvement of the conditions under which food is prepared, stored or handled has received constant attention throughout the year.

As an indication of the progress made in this direction contraventions have been abated or items of improvement made in 569 cases. 331 of these were following action commenced in 1949.

Most of the food premises are now to a reasonable standard. The small general shops are not being dealt with so promptly, many are occupied by aged persons who find difficulty in meeting the expenditure to make their premises and facilities satisfactory. Some have been made satisfactory and I hope the results obtained will influence the remainder to do likewise.

44. Byelaws, Sec. 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The Council adopted the bye-laws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air and they came into operation on the 12th June, 1950.

Publicity was given to them and copies were made available to interested persons.

The bye-laws should be very helpful, two definite improvements are:

- (a) the definition of "stall" which includes any stand, mobile canteen, cart, barrow or any other vehicle, whether movable or immovable, and
- (b) the provisions of Part III dealing with the sale and exposure for sale in the open air.

Now the bye-laws have been adopted, the Council as the owners of the open weekly market, should put their house in order. Sketches have been submitted of the type of stall required to comply with the bye-laws and suggestions have been made to overcome the absence of washing facilities and sanitary accommodation. The Health and Sanitary Committee approved these proposals and passed them to the Highways and Estate Committee requesting them to implement them. Difficulty is being met in obtaining anyone who is prepared to manufacture the stalls.

45. Food Poisoning

(a) Total Number of Outbreaks

There were two outbreaks, one occurring on the evening of 31st December, 1949 to 3rd January, 1950, and one from August to October of 1950.

In the January outbreak 7 cases were notified and 3 cases were not notified.

In the second outbreak of 28 cases, 21 were notified and 7 not notified. No deaths occurred.

January Outbreak

The cause of this outbreak was unknown, it was believed to be some toxins associated with the meat used in the preparation of a meat pie which had been stewed for $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and then allowed to cool, first on the range top and then on the floor of the refrigerator room, it was then put back into the refrigerator until it was fetched out for putting into the meat pie and cooking the next day.

The illness occurred about 4 hours after partaking of the meal and was very severe for periods varying from 24 to 36 hours.

The premises where this occurred and the people engaged in the preparation of the food, were very clean. The utensils were also very satisfactory.

The proprietor was instructed to stew the meat on the same morning as it is required for pie making in future to obviate the cooling, storage and to a slighter degree the reheating of it.

August to October Outbreak

This outbreak was caused by *Salmonella* organisms, 18 by *Salmonella typhi* murium and 3 by *Salmonella Thompson*.

Clinical Features

The clinical symptoms were diarrhoea with blood, headache, vomiting, abdominal pains and temperature. The illness in the majority of cases was not severe, diarrhoea and general discomfort clearing after about five days.

Laboratory Investigation

Of the 178 specimens collected from notified cases, 101 were positive and 77 negative.

Of the 82 specimens collected from the unnotified cases 40 were positive and 42 negative.

Four food handlers were requested to stay away from work until three successive negative specimens were obtained. The period of absence varied from 5 to 22 days.

Food Samples

Samples of meat, stock, dried egg powder, duck eggs, mussels, synthetic cream and sausage were examined, but none were found to show any *salmonella* organisms.

General

No food was definitely identified as the cause of the illness.

In the majority of the cases, food was consumed mainly at home, complaints were received from persons having lunched at one premises and although many samples were taken they were all negative.

All specimens were taken to the Public Health Laboratory at Groby Road, Leicester and Dr. E. H. Gillespie, the Director, was very helpful in all respects.

Full reports of the outbreaks, together with charts showing the connection of the cases with various foods and premises were sent to the Ministry of Health.

46. Bakehouses

57 inspections were made at 16 premises.

47 contraventions were found, 12 relating to limewashing, 15 to cleansing, 11 to structural deficiencies, 8 to Public Health Act nuisances

and one to absence of the general register. 37 of these were abated at the end of the year and 8 were abated from action commenced in 1949.

4 Bakehouses were closed during the year, owing to change in the ownership of the premises. One of these was very unsatisfactory and the owner had been informed that extensive work would be necessary if it was to be kept in use.

47. Factories Act, 1937

(a) There are 196 factories in the district, 4 of these being non-mechanical factories.

91 inspections were made at 24 premises and 24 contraventions or defects were found, 18 being remedied at the end of the year. 10 of the defects were referred to us by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

20 of the 24 defects concerned the unsuitable or defective condition of the sanitary accommodation, mainly relating to the provision of the intervening ventilated space and the provision of artificial lighting.

(b) Outworkers

790 outworkers were employed by 80 factories.

A few complaints were received regarding alleged nuisances from the operation of machines in dwelling houses. Whilst we have no power to deal with noise nuisances the Health and Sanitary Committee instructed me to investigate such complaints and endeavour to abate any nuisance found by informal action. The outworkers are requested to restrict the operation of the machines to reasonable hours and not to operate them after 7 or 8 p.m. or on Sundays. Occasionally, the siting and the fixing of the machine can be improved, but the main essential, ample light, means that in many cases the machines are sited very near to the party walls.

This informal method of control is unsatisfactory from an administrative point of view.

48. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act commenced to operate on the 31st March, 1950 and repealed the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act of 1919.

The Act places the primary responsibility upon the local authority to ensure that, so far as practicable, its area is kept free from rats or mice.

It was decided to keep on with the contract service of disinfection at various premises despite the unfavourable way in which they are regarded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as set out in their memo. P.D.P. 1950/1.

The following return was sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Infestation Division, for the nine-monthly period ending on the 31st December, 1950.

Prevalence of Rats and Mice

Infestations notified by occupier	..	..	81
Infestations otherwise discovered	..	..	29
Major infestations..	..	..	1

Minor infestations	..	..	..	..	94
Mice infestations	..	..	..	..	15

Measures of Control

Number of properties inspected	..	..	..	341
Number of inspections made	..	..	..	1298
Number of treatments carried out for rats	..	..	..	236
Number of treatments carried out for mice	..	..	..	34
Block treatments of properties	..	..	..	2
Number of separate occupancies in blocks	..	..	..	63
Number of manholes treated in connection with block treatments	..	..	..	27

Contract Premises

31 business premises were on contract at the end of the year.

Inspections during the Year

1046 initial visits and 1140 return visits were made.

49. Sewer Baiting

The seventh maintenance treatment of the sewers in the Urban District was commenced on the 2nd October, 1950 and was completed in fifteen working days.

The sewers which previous treatments had shown to be infested were pre-baited with bait base of sausage rusk on the first and third days. On the fifth day a 2½% Zinc Phosphide poison bait was laid.

Those which previous treatments had shown to be clear were test baited with a view to treatment should any of them prove to be infested but in no instance was reinfestation found.

In the portions of the Hinckley sewers which were found to be infested, checks were made at a number of the manholes upon the amount of the poison bait which had been taken. In all cases only small partial takes had been made.

Of the 1119 manholes now recorded in the district, 147 of them are unbaitable owing to their construction, inaccessible position or immovable covers.

50. Staff

One additional sanitary inspector and one junior clerk were appointed during the year. The staff is now composed of 4 sanitary inspectors, 1 unqualified assistant sanitary inspector, two female clerks and one rat-catcher.

TABLE OF STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL

Year	Popu- lation	Births	Birth Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1899	11,019	361	30.08	193	16.08	160.6
1909	12,576	335	27.6	190	15.1	146.2
1919	13,707	208	12.99	171	11.12	100.9
1924	14,266	308	21.13	183	12.6	49.02
1929	15,650	294	18.9	223	14.2	71.4
1934	16,920	302	17.7	182	10.7	46.0
1939	34,360	594	17.2	336	9.6	47.0
1940	35,060	601	17.1	364	10.38	47.0
1941	35,887	574	15.96	397	11.06	50.5
1942	35,044	654	18.66	321	9.11	42.8
1943	34,498	681	19.71	328	9.5	36.7
1944	34,430	753	21.9	335	9.7	27.9
1945	34,400	688	20.0	323	9.3	26.1
1946	36,620	855	23.3	366	9.9	44.4
1947	37,650	858	22.79	397	10.5	46.8
1948	38,580	785	20.39	364	9.4	24.2
1949	38,750	691	17.83	396	10.2	27.4
1950	39,050	680	17.41	367	9.39	26.85



