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Contributors

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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1954



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1954

Medical Officer of Health :

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.
(Also Divisional M.O. for North Herts.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

NORMAN HOLT, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Certs.R.San.Inst. (1. Meat and Foods 2. Smoke.)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

TREVOR HUBERT CUTLER, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
Certs.R.San.Inst. (1. Meat and Foods 2. Smoke.)

FRANK RUMMENS, M.S.I.A.
Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and Foods).

Clerical Staff :

FRANCIS SYDNEY BAILEY
MISS P. FOWLER (Up to 17th April, 1954).
MISS M. NEWSTONE (As from 3rd May, 1954).

Offices :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Divisional Health Office, 12, Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel. 3757.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

Council Offices, Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel. 4471-4.

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit the above report prepared on the direction of Ministry of Health Circular 28/54.

For this year live births (271) exceed registered deaths (192) giving more favourable rates than for the year 1953 when, very exceptionally, registered deaths considerably exceeded live births. The local death rate of 9.5 (against 11.3 for England and Wales) is particularly favourable in view of the age distribution of the local population. The general health of the town continued good and serious infectious disease was again low in incidence.

I would remark upon the increasing amount of investigation required following receipt of reports of very elderly persons living, usually alone, in an unsatisfactory environment. Mental infirmity, preference for solitude and lack of helpful relatives or friends, rather than any poverty, are the common factors. Only exceptionally is court action by the local sanitary authority under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, found to be indicated in such cases.

I would acknowledge having received during the year every assistance from your Council and its chief officers; particularly from Mr. N. Holt, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the attached sanitary report.

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER,

District Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1955.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	3,850
Home population—Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1954	20,280
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1955 ...	6,055
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1955	£155,057
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate for 1955/56 ...	£642

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR
THE YEAR 1954.

				HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rates for England and Wales
LIVE BIRTHS:					
	TOTALS	Males	Females		
Legitimate ...	259	134	125		
Illegitimate ...	12	6	6		
All	271	140	131		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				13.4	15.2
STILL BIRTHS:					
Legitimate ...	8	5	3		
Illegitimate ...	--	--	--		
All	8	5	3		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)				28.6	24.0
DEATHS:					
	192	103	89		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				9.5	11.3
DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE					
YEAR OF AGE:					
All infants per 1,000 live births ...				11.1	25.5
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births				11.2	
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births				0.0	
Actual number of such deaths:					
	(a) Under 4 weeks and (b) Under 1 year				
Legitimate		2			3
Illegitimate		--			--
All		2			3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	--
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	29
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	--
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	--
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1

COMMENT ON LOCAL VITAL STATISTICS:

The estimate by the Registrar General of local mid-year population shows a further rise of 170.

The Local infant mortality rate compares favourably with the National rate, while the still-birth rate is approximately equal.

Only two deaths are finally allocated to Tuberculosis (all forms).

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These are unchanged.

SECTIONS C—E .

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

For the whole year totals of notified cases of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: —

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	25
Measles	...	...	...	13
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	9
Dysentery	...	...	...	5
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	8

Scarlet Fever was rather more prevalent than in previous years with a quarterly incidence 3, 4, 2 and 16. Age distribution was: —

Under 5 years	...	...	...	3
5-9 years	...	...	...	20
And 10-14 years	...	...	...	2

The disease was at no time epidemic and in its incidence very scattered, indicating a fairly widespread 'carrier state' and much sub-clinical infection of children. Actual cases were almost

uniformly mild and sometimes the presence of a bright scarlet rash without fever placed a practitioner in a quandary regarding his legal duty to notify.

Measles and Whooping Cough notifications were most infrequent compared with previous years. During the latter half of the year immunisation of infants against whooping cough became available at Infant Welfare Centres.

Dysentery notifications were mainly institutional, all cases but one being children.

Puerperal Pyrexia was wholly institutional in its occurrence.

For yet another year no case of Diphtheria was notified in the district. Despite its long continued absence the offer of infant protection by immunisation continues to be accepted by a good majority of parents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1954.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— I ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I— 5 ...	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	3(I)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	4(2)	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
35—45 ...	I	2	—	—	I	—	—	—
45—55 ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	I(I)	—	—	—	I	—	—	—
and over	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	13(4)	6	—	I	2	I	—	—
Deaths allocated by the Registrar-General after final transfers.					I	I	—	—

Foot note: Figures of new cases include inward transfers from other areas, the numbers of such being shown additionally in brackets.

Tuberculosis: New notifications of locally domiciled cases of respiratory tuberculosis were: Males 9, Females 6, a considerable reduction on the figures for the immediate preceding years. Only 4 (2 male and 2 female) fell in the dangerous 15-24 years' age group; one single (elderly) case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified. The total of deaths from tuberculosis was 2 (1 male and 1 female) against a total of 4 in each of the two preceding years.

V. R. WALKER,

District Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1955.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my thirteenth Annual Report upon the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending December 31st, 1954.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act became law during 1954, but up to the present time it seems to have had little effect upon the important problem of housing repairs. It appears that few owners are prepared to use the provisions of the Act for increasing the rents of the older type houses due to the likelihood of certificates of disrepair being granted by the Council on application by tenants. One application was made for such a certificate during the year and was granted. Applications for improvement grants have increased during 1954, but in the main have come from owner/occupiers of houses, usually desirous of providing bathrooms and internal waterclosets.

Following the decontrol of meat in July one small private slaughterhouse was licensed. One or two butchers in the town slaughter animals outside the district, but the majority seem to prefer to obtain their meat from wholesalers. Large scale slaughtering of pigs continues at the Bacon Factory and is likely to increase in the future when the intended enlargement of the slaughterhouse is completed.

I again express my thanks to the Additional Sanitary Inspectors and staff for their conscientious assistance, and to all the Council's officials for their continued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

N. HOLT,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1955.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS AND
NOTICES SERVED DURING
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1954.

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	518
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,020
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Housing Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	363
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse and Salvage Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	678
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Petroleum Installations	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Employment Agencies	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	664

HOUSING.

Under Public Health Acts—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	311
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	1,025

Under Housing Acts—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	49
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	313

Overcrowding—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	24
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	43

Verminous Premises—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	16
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	24

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	28
Visits re Disinfection	14
Visits in connetction with Food Poisoning	31

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspection of Meat—

Visits to Slaughterhouses	462
Visits to Shops and Stalls	29

Food Inspection—

Visits to shops and stalls	97
-----------------------------------	----

Visits to—

Butchers	224
Fishmongers and Poulterers	15
Fish Friers	16
Grocers	194
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	32
Dairies and Milkshops	10
Ice Cream Premises	17
Bakehouses	83
Food Preparing Premises	73
Market Stalls	67
Restaurants, Canteens, etc.	267
Licensed Premises	120
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	12

Visits in Connection with Sampling (Bacteriological)—

Milk	116
Ice Cream	157
Sterilisation of café utensils	21
Miscellaneous Food Visits	146

NOTICES SERVED.

Number of Informal Notices Served	617
Number of Informal Notices complied with	783
Number of Statutory Notices Served	34
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	35

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS. HOUSES, ETC.

Roofs repaired	51
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired	10
Chimney pots provided	14

Flashings repaired or replaced	14
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	26
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	16
Walls pointed or repaired	10
Walls cement rendered	6
Windows repaired	15
Windows replaced	6
New window sashcords provided	28
New window fasteners provided	1
Doors repaired (external)	5
Doors repaired (internal)	1
Door steps provided or repaired	2
New yard surfaces provided	1
Yard surfaces drained, repaired or relaid	22
Ceilings where plaster, etc., repaired or replaced	20
Ceilings cleansed	25
Floors relaid or repaired	6
Rooms where wall plaster, etc., repaired or replaced	34
Rooms where walls cleansed	31
Rooms where skirting board repaired or replaced	3
New firegrates provided	3
Dangerous structures demolished	1
Rooms where lighting improved	2
Rooms where dampness remedied	17
New sinks provided	13
Trapped sink waste pipes provided	17
Sink waste pipes repaired	2
New washbasins provided	12
Trapped washbasin waste pipes provided	25
New baths provided	16
Trapped bath waste pipes provided	15
Washing boilers repaired	1
Hot water systems provided or repaired	10
Houses where water service pipes repaired	10
Houses where water supply provided inside the house	11
Ventilated food stores provided	1
Rainwater butts provided	1
Houses painted externally	1
Other defects remedied	1

Drainage—

New drains constructed	65
Old drains reconstructed	39
Drains repaired	17
Drains ventilated	13

Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	33
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	50
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	55
Self-cleansing gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	47
Soil pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Vent pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fresh air inlets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Septic tanks provided	...	...	...	...	...	1

Water closets—

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s where walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
New basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	40
W.C.'s where connections repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	37
New flush pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	19
W.C.'s provided with a sufficient supply of water	...	...	...	...	...	10
Door fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. seats repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	21
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
W.C.'s ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s decorated	...	...	...	...	...	5

FACTORIES AND SHOPS (including Licensed Premises)—

Sanitary Accommodation—

Insufficient sanitary accommodation remedied	...	...	...	...	...	4
Separate sanitary conveniences for sexes provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of new W.C. basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	36
Number of W.C.'s where lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of W.C.'s where permanent means of ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	20
Number of W.C.'s where intervening ventilated space provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of sanitary conveniences decorated	...	...	...	...	...	56
Number of new glazed urinals fixed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of new cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	29
Number of new washbasins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	45
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	207

MISCELLANEOUS—

New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	460
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	5

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water.*

With the exception of a few outlying houses, which have satisfactory private water supplies, Hitchin obtains water from a piped supply controlled by the Council. I am indebted to Mr. S. Davey, Water Engineer, for the following information:

Water is obtained from three wells, Well Head and Temple End, situated at the village of Charlton within the Urban District, and Oughton Head situated on the boundary of Pirton just outside the Urban District. At the present time the safe yield from the three wells gives a margin over requirements and no restrictions are necessary. Expansion for the next few years can easily be coped with. The subsoil of the district is mainly chalk.

The Council supply water in bulk to the Hitchin Rural District Council for the areas of Ickleford and Cadwell and also give emergency supplies for the St. Ippolytts and Pirton areas when required.

The highest standard of purity has been maintained throughout the year. Samples of the raw and treated water have been regularly sent to the Council's analysts in London. Samples of the water as delivered to the consumer have also been regularly sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton. In all cases the reports have been satisfactory. The total number of samples taken during the year are as follows:

Raw Water : Sixty-two samples for bacteriological and 8 samples for chemical examination.

Treated Water : Eighty-eight samples for bacteriological examination.

The water from Well Head and Temple End wells is chlorinated at the Pumping Station, Queen Street, and after a minimum of six hours contact is dechlorinated before being pumped into supply. The water from Oughton Head well is chlorinated and after a contact time of twenty minutes a residual of .15 p.p.m. is maintained.

The water from the wells being hard no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the houses is 5,899, serving approximately 19,620 persons, whilst the number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains

by means of stand-pipes is 155, serving 516 persons. In the case of 42 houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding. One house obtains its water supply from a well.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage :*

The only extensions to the sewers during the year were on the new Westmill housing estate, Stormont Road, Bedford Road and Wilbury Way.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

No action taken.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation:*

With the exception of 27 of the 32 houses comprising the main village of Charlton, and a few outlying premises, the whole of the district is provided with waterclosets, which, excluding a few waterclosets discharging into cess-pools, are connected to the Council's sewers. The 27 houses mentioned above are provided with pail closets.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

It was again possible to maintain a regular weekly collection of refuse despite increasing labour difficulties. Only at Bank Holiday periods was it necessary to break the regularity of collection. House and trade refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. Approximately 295 tons of wastepaper were collected and sold to the board mills during the financial year 1954-55 ; an increase of 25 tons on the previous year.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.* See pages 8, 9, 10, 11.

(iv) *Shops and Offices.*

In the case of shops 4 additional sanitary conveniences were constructed and 1 sanitary convenience was improved during the year, 5 shops were decorated and 4 shops were provided with washing facilities at the request of the Department.

Regarding offices, 2 additional sanitary conveniences and 1 urinal were constructed and 1 sanitary convenience was improved. Washing facilities were provided at four offices.

(v) *Camping Sites.*

At December 31st, 1954, there were eight sites in the area where moveable dwellings were stationed under licence of the Council.

1. Two sites licensed to stand 48 and 19 mobile trailer caravans respectively, provided with waterclosets, main drainage, bathrooms and laundries. Water and electricity are laid on into each caravan.
2. One site, licensed to stand 10 mobile trailer caravans, provided with waterclosets, main drainage and water supply.
3. Three sites, licensed to stand 1, 1, and 2 mobile trailer caravans respectively, provided with main drainage and water supply.
4. Two sites, licensed to stand 1 and 2 mobile trailer caravans respectively, provided with a main water supply, and a readily accessible drainage system.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

Several smoke observations of factory chimneys were made during the year, special attention being given to three particular chimneys. Advisory visits were made to the three boiler plants concerned.

(vii) *Swimming Baths.*

There are two swimming baths in the district, (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main pool and a children's pool, and (b) a private open-air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School.

Eighty samples of water in the two pools at the Council's bath were taken, 40 being submitted to a bacteriological examination and 40 to a residual chlorine test. All the samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath during the year.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

(a) Council houses found to be infested	...	3
(b) Other houses found to be infested	...	5

All the infested houses were disinfested, a service which the Council carried out free of cost.

4. *Schools.*

During 1954 inspections of school premises were undertaken using the Standards for School Premises Regulations 1951 as a guide.

In the case of two schools improvements were carried out to the sanitary accommodation.

SECTION D.

1.	INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.	
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	360
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,338
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	49
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	49
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(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	137
2.	REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	154
3.	ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.	
(A)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	26
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By Owners	12
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	13

(C) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	2

(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 ...	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ...	3

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	17
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	28
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	134
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ...	13
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ...	11
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	97
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	
(1) Number of cases ...	—
(2) Number of families concerned ...	—
(3) Number of persons ...	—

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Milk Supply.*

Eight persons carry on the trade of distributors of milk in the district and five premises are used as dairies. All are registered with this authority in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The table below shows the annual licences issued by this authority for the sale of designated milk:

Dealer's Licences

Tuberculin Tested (bottled at dairy)	...	3
Tuberculin Tested (received in bottles)	...	1
Pasteurised (received in bottles)	...	1
Sterilised (received in bottles)	...	1

Supplementary Licences

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	1
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	2

In addition three dairies in the district hold licences granted by the County Council to pasteurise milk. One dairy pasteurises by the 'High Temperature Short Time' method and the other two by the 'Holder' method. All the milk retailed in the district is heat treated.

Numerous inspections of dairies were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

During the year 97 samples of milk were taken and were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:

Number of Samples	Class of Milk	Satisfactory	Un-Satisfactory	Percentage Satisfactory
55	Pasteurised	53	2	96.4%
38	Tuberculin Tested			
	(Pasteurised)	36	2	95.3%
4	Sterilised	4	--	100%

The majority of the samples were bottled milks taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

Two slaughterhouses are licensed by the Council to slaughter animals (a) the Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory where extensive slaughtering of pigs is carried out, and (b) a slaughterhouse where a small number of cattle, sheep and pigs are slaughtered annually. 75,516 pigs were killed and inspected at the Bacon Factory during the year. A system of detention

is in operation at this slaughterhouse, *i.e.* slaughtermen examine the pigs during the course of slaughter, incising head and offal glands. Animals showing any disease or abnormalities in carcase or organs are detained and brought to the attention of the meat inspector whilst he is engaged on routine meat inspection.

This system of detention is the best that can be adopted, and obviates appointing a full-time meat inspector, working well in practice. One Sanitary Inspector is engaged for the equivalent of five afternoons per week on meat inspection at the Bacon Factory.

The following table gives details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found to be diseased or unsound and unfit for food. The diseased or unsound meat is voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ..	41	3	1	88	75,611
Number inspected ..	41	3	1	88	75,611
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	—	196
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	13	—	—	2	6,501
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- eases other than tuberculosis ..	31.7%	—	100%	2.27%	8.85%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	1	—	—	2,036
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	2.4%	33.3%	—	—	2.71%

The following table gives summarised information relating to the carcasses, offal, etc., condemned:

(a) *Private slaughterhouse.*

<i>Tuberculosis</i>					<i>lbs.</i>
1	Part carcase of beef	...	...	...	62
2	Beasts' heads	...	...	...	53
2	Beasts' livers	...	...	...	28
2	Beasts' lungs and heart	...	...	...	13
1	Pig's lungs	...	...	...	3
6	Pigs' heads	...	...	...	61

<i>Other Diseases.</i>					
1	Calf carcase	.....	Immaturity (Unborn)		26
6	Beasts' livers	.....	Distoma Hepaticum		84
5	Beasts' part livers	.....	Distoma Hepaticum		23
1	Beast's liver	.....	Cavernous Angioma		14
1	Beast's liver	.....	Abscesses		14
1	Beast's lungs	.....	Emphysema		16
2	Sheeps' livers	.....	Cirrhosis		6
2	Pigs' carcasses	.....	Generalised Oedema		89
1	Pig's carcase	.....	Pathological Emaciation		29
6	Pigs' livers	.....	Cirrhosis		24
5	Pigs' lungs	.....	Congestion		10
1	Pig's heart	.....	Pericarditis		1½
					556½

Total: 4 cwts. 3 qrs. 24½lbs.

(b) *Herts. and Beds. Bacon Factory.*

<i>Tuberculosis</i>					
17	Pigs' carcasses	...	...	...	2,816
32	Miscellaneous fores and collars	...	...	...	504
1,355	Pigs' heads and tongues	...	...	...	16,690
95	Pigs' plucks	...	...	...	552
827	Pigs' mesenteric fats	...	...	...	5,782
					26,344

<i>Other Diseases</i>					
17	Pigs, carsases	.....	Fevered		1,832
49	Pigs' carcasses	.....	Moribund		5,217
20	Pigs' carcasses	.....	Septic Pneumonia		1,501
8	Pigs' carcasses	.....	Septic Pericarditis		655

2	Pigs' carcasses	Septic Peritonitis	158
1	Pig's carcase	Septic Metritis	268
58	Pigs' carcasses	Generalised Oedema	2,020
8	Pigs' carcasses	Pyaemia	1,139
2	Pigs' carcasses	Jaundice	179
22	Pigs' carcasses	Pathological Emaciation	1,560
6	Pigs' carcasses	Extensive Bruising	586
3	Pigs' carcasses	Swine Erysipelas	210
	Miscellaneous Fores, hindquarters and collars	Abscesses, etc.	1,027
80	Pigs' legs	Injury	1,734
383	Pigs' legs	Arthritis	1,224
7	Pigs' legs	Abscesses	146
	Miscellaneous Parts	Injury	1,344
	Miscellaneous Parts	Abscesses	196
	Miscellaneous Parts, Melanosis and Mammatis		248
	Miscellaneous Parts	Oedema	161
	Miscellaneous Parts	Inflammation	214
1,443	Pigs' Plucks	Cirrhosis	6,866
971	Pigs' lungs	Congestion and Pneumonia	2,941
1,663	Pigs' kidneys	Cystic and Nephritis	410
1,376	Pigs' Stomachs	Inflammation	3,690
			35,526

Total: 27 tons. 12 cwts. 1 qr. 18 lbs.

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food preparing premises. The following quantities of foodstuffs were also found to be unsound and unfit for food, were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption:

<i>Meat from Butchers' Shops</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
2	Legs of pork	Abscesses 25
	Part brisket and fore ribs of beef ...	Bruising 20
	Rump, thick flank and fillet of beef	
	.....	Decomposition 89
	Part hindquarters of pork	Abscess 20½
	Leg of pork and part loin	Injury 20
2	Legs of pork	Injury 104
	Part rib of beef	Bruising 7
	Chitterlings	Decomposition 112
	Pork sausages	Decomposition 24
		421½

Total: -- tons. 3 cwts. 3 qrs. 1½lbs.

Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	11,311 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imported lambs' livers	...	...	...	...	...	120
Miscellaneous tinned meats	...	...	...	...	...	342 $\frac{3}{4}$
Miscellaneous tinned and packed food	...	...	...	...	...	1,014
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	110
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	...	214
						13,112 $\frac{1}{4}$

Total: 5 tons. 17 cwts. 0 qrs. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Grand Total of Foodstuffs condemned (all classes):
33 tons. 18 cwts. 0 qrs. 24 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

ICE CREAM

Four premises are registered under the provision of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream and 74 premises for the storage and sale of ice cream. Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provision of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, and for the purpose of sampling, the results of which follow:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	66	} Satisfactory.
Grade 2	...	...	...	6	
Grade 3	...	...	...	7	} Unsatisfactory.
Grade 4	...	...	...	--	

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

1. There are 240 food premises in the area consisting of 55 grocers, 22 confectioners (sweets), 7 confectioners (cakes, etc.), 19 greengrocers, 4 fish-friers, 4 fishmongers, 2 poulterers, 18 butchers, 44 restaurant kitchens, 8 food factories, 3 bakehouses, 51 licensed premises and 3 warehouses, the latter being used for the storage of food only.
2. The following premises are registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, 17 butchers (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food), 1 butcher (for the pickling of meat), 2 fishmongers (for the preservation of fish), 3 food factories (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food), 1 food factory (for the pickling or preservation of food).

Regarding ice cream the following are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, 27 grocers, 3 greengrocers, 32 confectioners (sweets), 10 restaurants and 2 dairies. There are also 4 premises registered under the above enactment for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

Five dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

3. Regarding inspection of food premises see pages 21, 22.
4. Condemned food is disposed of at the premises of the Herts. & Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory, where it is processed in a digester plant.
5. The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for the preparation, sale, etc., of food:—

Washing facilities

Number of new wash basins provided	19
Number of new sinks provided	24
Number of fitments provided with running hot and cold water	44
Number of trapped waste pipes provided ...	40
Number of new draining boards provided ...	19

Structural Work

Number of rooms where walls repaired or improved	59
Number of rooms where ceilings repaired or improved	48
Number of rooms where floor repaired or improved	48
Number of rooms where walls decorated ...	116
Number of rooms where ceilings decorated ...	105
Number of rooms where woodwork decorated ...	111
Number of rooms where new floor coverings provided	29

Equipment

Number of premises where new equipment provided	19
Number of premises where new counter tops installed	18
Number of premises where new shop fronts provided	3
Number of premises where refrigerated display cabinets provided	4
Number of premises where glass screening provided	17

Food Hygiene

Number of new refrigerators provided ...	10
Number of premises where suitable overalls and head covering provided	4
Number of premises where sterilising agent provided	7
Number of premises where soap and towel provided	18
Other defects remedied	160

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1954.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

- 1 *Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).*

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupiers prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authori- ties	27	47	--	--
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority	154	316	--	--
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	3	--	--
Total ...	184	366	--	--

2. *Cases in which defects were found.*

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred to by H.M. H.M. In- In- spectors spectors		Number of cases in which prose- cutions were insti- tuted
	Found	Reme- died			
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	2	--	--	--
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	--	--	--	--	--
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	--	--	--	--	--
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	--	--	--	--	--
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	--	--	--	--	--
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	3	--	--	--
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive ...	11	15	--	--	--
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	4	--	--	--
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	--	--	--	--	--
Total ...	15	24	--	--	--

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 110 AND 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	Number of out workers in August list re- quired by Section 110(i)c	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Coun- cil	Number of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	Number of in- stances of work in un- whole- some prem- ises	No- tices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing apparel making, etc. ...	34	--	--	--	--	--



