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1952

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KNARESBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1952.

by

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

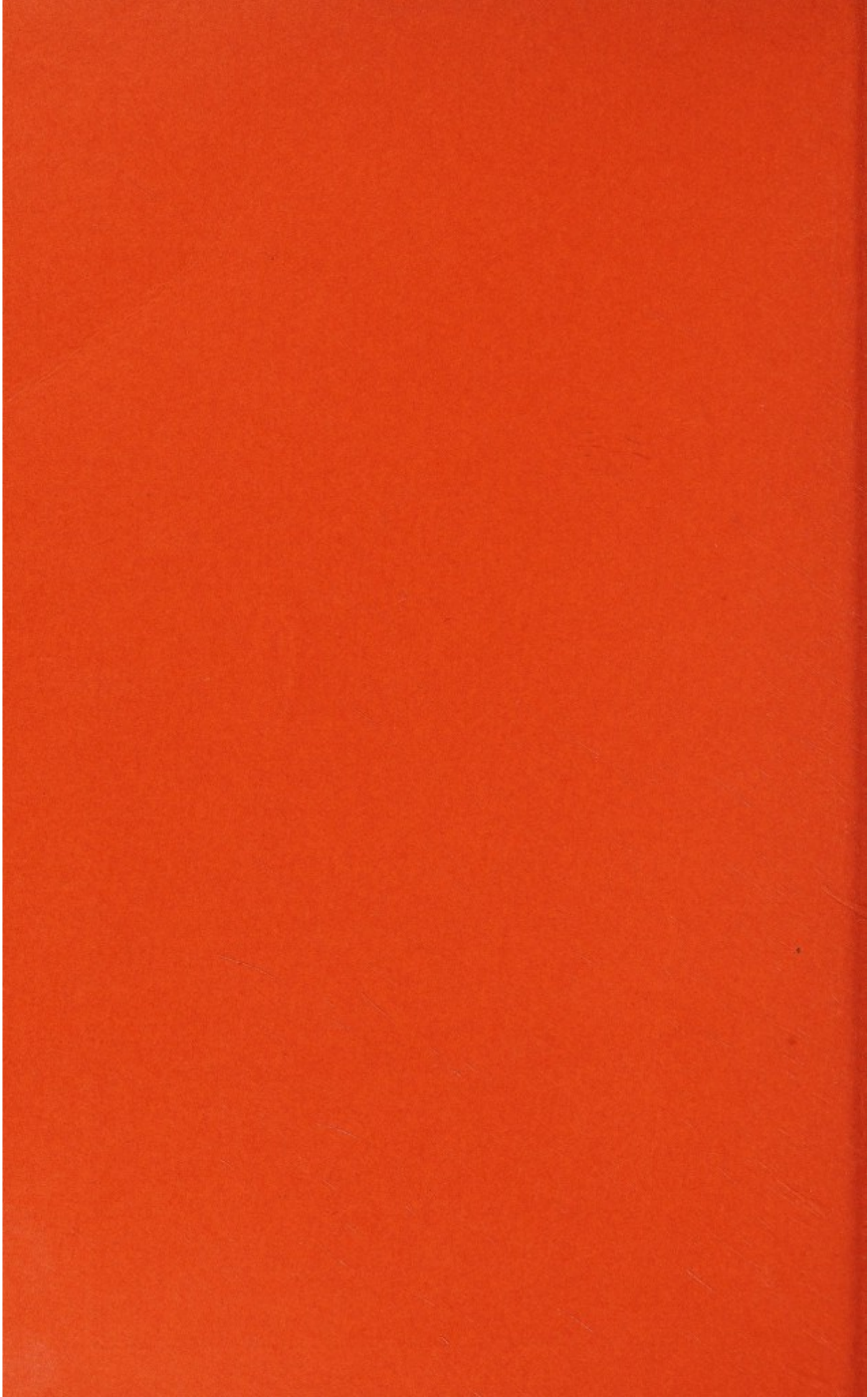
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Knaresborough :

Parrs Ltd., High Street.

1953.





# Knarborough Urban District Council

1952

## Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR G. A. HOLCH, J.P.

## Vice Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. EMMETT

COUNCILLOR R. R. ALLEN

COUNCILLOR E. JACKSON

„ P. BROADBELT

„ W. H. JACKSON

„ J. COLES

„ H. T. KNUTTON

„ C. COOPER

„ J. O. LOVE

„ H. CORPS

„ G. NICHOLSON

„ W. HENRY

„ Lt.-Col. B. C. WILKINSON

„ G. HUGHES

## Chairman of the Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR H. T. KNUTTON

## Chairman of the Housing Committee:

COUNCILLOR E. JACKSON

# Public Health Officers of the Council

1952

## Medical Officer of Health

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

## Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

P. S. R. BURRELL, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

(appointed 1-11-52)

## Sanitary Inspector:

W. JENNINGS, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., M.INST.P.C.



To the Chairman and Members of the

## Knaresborough Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration my Annual Report for the year 1952.

Dr. P. S. R. Burrell, an Assistant County Medical Officer in this Division, was appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health as from November 1st, 1952, in succession to Dr. H. O. M. Bryant, the previous Deputy, who resigned in August 1951. The vacancy created for an Assistant County Medical Officer by Dr. Burrell's promotion was not filled until 1953 when Dr. Mary Pullan was appointed and commenced her duties on January 1st, 1953. As a consequence of the shortage of a whole-time Medical Officer, the School Medical Service suffered and it was not possible to carry out routine medical examinations of school children in Knaresborough. There was also a decrease in the number of children immunised against diphtheria.

The Infant Mortality rate for the district was very satisfactory being 16.5 per thousand live births compared with the rate for England and Wales which was 27.6.

I desire to acknowledge the assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to record my appreciation of the work of Mr. Jennings.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. D. PAYNE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1953.

# General Statistics 1952

Area (acres) ....	2,488
Population (mid-summer, 1952, estimated by the Registrar-General) ...	8,154
Number of Inhabited Houses ...	2,547
Rateable Value ...	£55,370
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, ...	£218

## BIRTHS—

Live Births:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate, 47	} 52	Legitimate, 65	} 69
Illegitimate, 5		Illegitimate, 4	
Crude Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the estimated population)	...	...	14.8
* Adjusted Birth Rate	...	...	14.4

Still Births:	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate, 1	} 1	Legitimate 2	} 2	3
Illegitimate, 0		Illegitimate 0		
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births				24.2

## DEATHS—

Number of Deaths—Males 46, Females 55 ...	101
Crude Death Rate ...	12.4
* Adjusted Death Rate ..	11.1
Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:	Total
Males— Legitimate 0	0
Illegitimate 0	0
Females— Legitimate 2	2
Illegitimate 0	0
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:	
All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	16.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	17.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.0

	Rate (per 1,000 population)
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Nil ...	0.00
Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases Nil ...	0.00
Deaths from Infective and Parasitic Diseases, (excluding Tuberculosis) 2 ...	0.24
Deaths from Vascular lesions of the nervous system. 18	2.20
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases. 38	4.65
Deaths from Cancer. 18	2.20
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases. 6	0.73

\* Adjusted by Area Comparability factors (Births 0.97, Deaths 0.90), supplied by the Registrar-General. This adjustment makes allowance for the changing structure of the population.



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

---

The area is mainly agricultural and residential, and the town itself, on account of its historical associations and picturesque position on the banks of the Nidd, is a well-known holiday resort. Hence, during the summer months, catering forms one of the principal industries.

There are also a number of small industries in the town including Saw Mills, Plastic Goods Factory, Manufacture of Children's and other Clothing, and Linen Weaving Mills.

### Population

The population as at the middle of 1952 was estimated by the Registrar General at 8,164, 39 more than last year.

### Births

The number of live births registered in Knaresborough during the year was 41, 13 males and 28 females, but the figure supplied by the Registrar General and adjusted for inward and outward transfers was 121, 52 males and 69 females.

This was slightly higher than for 1951 when the number of live births was 110.

The birth rate (adjusted by the Area Comparability Factor) was 14.4 per thousand of the population which was 0.9 less than the rate for England and Wales (15.3).

There were 9 illegitimate births, 5 males and 4 females, the same number as in 1951, representing 7.4 per cent of the live births.

### Still-births

The still-birth figures, corrected for inward and outward transfers, supplied by the Registrar General, were 3, 1 male and 2 females. This gave a rate of 24.2 per thousand total births, and a still-birth rate of 0.37 per thousand of the population as compared with rates of 22.6 and 0.35 respectively for England and Wales.

## **Deaths**

The number of deaths registered during the year was 196, 77 males and 119 females, but the number of deaths of residents corrected for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General was 101, 46 males and 55 females. The crude death rate was 12.4 per thousand, but when adjusted in accordance with the comparability factor the rate was reduced to 11.1 which was 0.2 lower than the rate for England and Wales (11.3).

The causes of death are shown in Table I, page 6.

## **Infant Mortality**

During the year 2 resident infants, both females, died before reaching their first birthday. One of these children died from prematurity and the other from congenital heart disease. The infant mortality rate was 16.5 per thousand live births, compared with the rate for England and Wales which was 27.6.



TABLE I

Causes of Death in Knaresborough Urban District, 1952

Causes of Death.				1952	
				Males	Females
All Causes				46	55
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases			2	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...		—	1
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus			1	1
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	—	2
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	—	—
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms			6	7
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...		8	10
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	7	5
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...		1	—
20	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	8	12
21	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	1	4
22	Influenza	...	...	—	1
23	Pneumonia	...	...	1	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	2	1
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System			—	—
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...		1	—
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...		—	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	—	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...		—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	...		5	7
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	—	1
34	All other Accidents	...	...	3	—
35	Suicide	...	...	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	...		—	—
Total				101	

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

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

The names and qualifications of these are set out on page 1.

### **2. Health Services.**

#### **(a) Laboratory Facilities**

Bacteriological examination of clinical material (throat swabs, etc.) is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory at the Harrogate General Hospital.

Water, milk, and other foodstuffs, including ice cream, are also bacteriologically examined at this laboratory.

The examination of milk for tubercle bacilli is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton.

#### **(b) Ambulance Facilities**

Ambulance facilities are provided by the West Riding County Council. An Ambulance Depot is situated in Harrogate and the service is provided free under the National Health Service Act.

This Ambulance Service also covers removal of infectious cases to hospital.

### **Divisional Health Services**

Full details of the Divisional Health Services regarding Division No. 8 which covers the areas of Harrogate, Knaresborough, and Nidderdale, and which are administered from the Divisional Health Office, Municipal Offices, Harrogate, have been circulated to all members of the Council.

These services include Maternity and Child Welfare, School Health and Dental, Care and After-care, Midwifery, Home Nursing, Home Help, and Mental Health Services.

Brief details of some of these services are given below.

#### **Health Visiting and School Nursing**

Health Visiting and School Nursing have been carried out in the area by one part-time Health Visitor and one part-time School Nurse.

#### **School Medical Service**

A general School Clinic is held twice weekly and an Ophthalmic clinic is held on Friday mornings at Fysche Hall, Knares-



borough. The following special clinics for school children are held in Harrogate :—

Ear, Nose and Throat.

Orthopaedic

Sunlight

Speech Therapy

Cardiac.

Children from Knaresborough, when attending these clinics, are issued, when necessary, with travel vouchers.

### **Special Examinations of Handicapped Children**

Special examinations are made, sometimes at the clinic, but more often at the child's home, where it is found that a child is educationally retarded. Children who are ineducable are reported to the Mental Deficiency Committee of the West Riding County Council. These cases are placed under supervision and are visited from time to time by the Mental Health Social Visitor.

Other children who are physically handicapped are recommended for admission to special schools when this is considered desirable.

### **Routine School Medical Examinations**

Children attending the schools in Knaresborough are periodically medically examined. Arrangements are made for the treatment of any defects found at these examinations, children either being referred to their own doctor, to the hospital, or to the special clinics for such treatment.

### **Examination of Employees**

School children are medically examined for fitness for part-time employment as errand boys, shop assistants, etc. There is also close liaison with the Youth Employment Officer and medical reports are made from time to time to the Youth Employment Officer on children who are leaving school and who are in some way handicapped.

Information is given to the Youth Employment Officer as to any occupation which would not be suitable for a particular child on medical grounds. Where the disability is severe, and the parents give consent in writing, more detailed medical reports are given in order that the case may be registered under the Disabled Persons Act. This Act gives certain advantages to disabled persons, these include priority in gaining suitable employment.



## **Maternity Services,**

125 births, including 3 still-births, were notified in respect of Knaresborough residents during the year. Of these, 83 births, including the 3 still-births, took place in the Maternity Block of the Harrogate Hospital or other institutions, and 42 births took place in the patients' own homes under the care of a domiciliary midwife.

### **Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery Services**

There are 2 whole-time Home Nurses and 1 whole-time Midwife resident in Knaresborough and their services are much appreciated by the community. The majority of the work of the Home Nursing Service is amongst the elderly, particularly those who have some crippling defect and who are bed-ridden owing to chronic illness.

### **Home Help Service**

Throughout the year an average of 8 part-time Home Helps were employed each week in Knaresborough, the total number of hours worked being 6,935.

Assistance was given to 54 cases, of these 9 were to illness in the home, 13 to old age and sickness, 13 to old age and infirmity, 3 to expectant mothers and 2 to children of school age. Home Helps were supplied to 14 Knaresborough maternity cases, enabling the mother to have her baby at home.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

The West Riding County Council maintain Child Welfare Clinics and a School Clinic at Fysche Hall, Iles Lane, Knaresborough. The dates and times these Clinics are held are set out in tabular form on page 10.

### **Mental Health Service**

In September, 1952, group training commenced and two sessions were held weekly at the Knaresborough Clinic, Fysche Hall, for children who are mentally retarded and unable to benefit from education in school.

8 children have been attending for training at this Centre.

The training has proved very helpful to the children and also relieves the parents for some period during the week from the continual care and supervision required.



TABLE II

**West Riding County Council School Clinics and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics**

Held at FYSCHÉ HALL, ILES LANE, KNARESBOROUGH

SCHOOL CLINIC	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
General School Clinic ...	9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	—	—	9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	—
Ophthalmic Clinic ...	—	—	—	—	9-0 a.m. (by appointment only)
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE					
Child Welfare Centre ...	—	1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	—	* 1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.	—

\* Every 2nd and 4th THURSDAY in the month

## **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The number of cases notified are set out in Table III on page 13.

### **1. Scarlet Fever**

There was an increase in the prevalence of Scarlet Fever, 20 cases were notified as compared with 7 during 1951. 19 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 1 was isolated at home.

### **2. Diphtheria**

No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district during 1952.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation**

The Health Visitors during their visits, particularly to children under one year of age, stress the need for Diphtheria Immunisation, and it is felt that personal persuasion of this character is the best form of propaganda.

121 immunisations were carried out during the year and in addition 12 reinforcing injections were given to children in whom the degree of immunity had been diminished by the length of time since their initial inoculation.

### **3. Poliomyelitis**

A case of Poliomyelitis was notified in a school girl. The illness started in April. The child was admitted to hospital and there was some weakness of the spinal muscles and right leg. On discharge from hospital the paralysis was rapidly clearing up and subsequently when the child was seen at school, she had almost made a full recovery, except that slight weakness of the right leg was occasionally noticed after exertion or when the child got tired.

### **4. Whooping Cough**

23 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during 1952, as compared with 131 in 1951.

### **5. Measles**

119 cases of Measles were notified during 1952. The cases were of a mild type and there were no deaths from this disease.

### **6. Pneumonia**

3 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia were notified and all made a good recovery.



## **7. Sonne Dysentery**

6 cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred in January, 5 were school children and 1 was a pre-school child. 4 of the cases occurred in two families, 2 children in each family being affected.

In all these cases the illness was trivial in character and cleared up rapidly with treatment.

## **8. Puerperal Pyrexia**

No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

## **9. Food Poisoning**

A case of Food Poisoning occurred in a baby aged eleven months. The organism known as salmonella typhi-murium was isolated, the child made a rapid recovery from the illness.

The source of infection could not be traced.

## **10. Smallpox**

No cases of Smallpox were notified during the year.

## **Smallpox Vaccination**

During the year 91 primary vaccinations and 46 re-vaccinations were carried out for residents of Knaresborough.

## **11. Tuberculosis**

2 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, both males, and 1 case of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, a male, were notified during the year. 1 case was admitted to Sanatorium and 1 patient removed from the area. There were no deaths from this disease during 1952.

**TABLE III**

Age Groups of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases for the year 1952.

No. of Cases Notified Ages—Years	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1	—	—	—	—	1	6	2
1—2	2	—	1	—	—	31	3
3—4	5	—	1	—	—	33	4
5—9	9	1	1	1	—	43	14
10—14	3	—	2	—	—	6	—
15—24	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total notified	20	3	6	1	1	119	23
No. of cases admitted to Hospital	19	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total No. of Deaths of Notified Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47**

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No cases have been dealt with in the area during 1952.



# Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1952.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Knaresborough  
Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Sixth Annual Report on the Sanitary and Cleansing Services for 1952.

With the Housing shortage, licensing and priority for works, substitute foods and rationing still with us, and with ever increasing rates, progress was not sensational, but progress was made—sewerage of part of Wetherby Road, new public conveniences, 19 new houses are noteworthy improvements that will benefit the town for many years and can be attributed to 1952. In addition, there is the other work mentioned in this report—the routine visits and improvements resulting therefrom, and the securing of compliance with various legislation—the majority of which are intended to safeguard the welfare or environment of the citizens as a whole.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees for their support and to the Medical Officer of Health for his co-operation and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. JENNINGS,

Sanitary Inspector.

Health Department,  
Knaresborough.

April, 1953.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Total number of inspections and visits made .. ..	2130
Number of contraventions found .. ..	305
Number of nuisances and contraventions in hand at 31/12/51	31
Number of nuisances abated and contraventions remedied during 1952 .. ..	306
Number of nuisances and contraventions outstanding at 31/12/52 .. ..	30
Number of informal notices served by letter or verbally ..	305
Formal Notices served .. ..	15
Formal Notices complied with .. ..	19

## Details of Inspections

### Public Health Acts

Obstructed drains and sewers .. ..	69
Drainage and sewer inspections .. ..	80
Drains tested:— Smoke test .. ..	14
Water test .. ..	—
Colour test .. ..	23
General nuisances and sanitary defects .. ..	97
Keeping of animals .. ..	26
Cleanliness of houses .. ..	12
Insect and other infestation (except rodents) .. ..	15
Rivers, streams and ditches—pollution .. ..	35
Smoke observations and boilerhouse inspections .. ..	5
Infectious diseases enquiries .. ..	27
Disinfections .. ..	2
Disinfestations .. ..	16
Water supply .. ..	15
Water samples—Bacteriological .. ..	11
Moveable dwellings .. ..	46

### Public Cleansing Service—

Refuse Collection .. ..	63
Refuse Disposal .. ..	68
Salvage .. ..	52
Old metal dealers .. ..	2
Re-interments .. ..	1
Cesspool drainage and unsewered premises .. ..	16
Re-inspections, Public Health Act .. ..	189
Hotels and places of entertainment—sanitary conveniences	17
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 .. ..	184
Re-visits .. ..	44
Survey of sewers .. ..	176



## Factories Act, 1937—

Part 1 .. .. .	40
Means of escape in case of fire .. .. .	4
Re Outworkers .. .. .	4
Shops Act, 1950 .. .. .	11
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951 .. .. .	3
Pet Animals Act, 1951 .. .. .	6
Hairdressers and Barbers .. .. .	4

## Housing Acts—

Inspections—Housing Act, 1949, Improvement Grants	5
Inspections—Housing Consol Regs. .. .. .	5
Re-inspections and miscellaneous visits .. .. .	71
Overcrowding .. .. .	3

## Food and Drugs—

Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	11
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	17
Bakehouses .. .. .	11
Grocery Shops and General Stores .. .. .	44
Greengrocers, Fishmongers, Poultry Dealers .. .. .	24
Hotel, Cafe and Canteen Kitchens .. .. .	75
Food preparing premises .. .. .	18
Confectionery Shops .. .. .	25
Ice Cream premises and selling points.. .. .	20
Hotels .. .. .	19
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	25
Unsound Food .. .. .	20
Miscellaneous food visits .. .. .	12
Bacteriological examination of food—other than milk and ice cream .. .. .	14
Bacteriological examinations of Milk .. .. .	35
Biological examinations of Milk .. .. .	5
Special examinations of Food .. .. .	2
Ice Cream and Lollipop Samples—Bacteriological examination .. .. .	43
Ice Cream—Samples of rinse water from server container .. .. .	4
Knackers Yard .. .. .	4
Food Hawkers and Food Hawkers' premises .. .. .	16
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	4
Market Inspections .. .. .	13
Meetings and Interviews .. .. .	62
Miscellaneous visits .. .. .	144

## Summary of work carried out to abate Nuisances, 1952

Defective eavesgutters and downspouts renewed or repaired	32
Defective roofs repaired .. .. .	13
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired .. .. .	8
Obstructed or defective drains cleared, repaired or relaid	40
Keeping of animals so as to be a nuisance abated .. .. .	8
Cleanliness of houses improved .. .. .	5
Accumulations of refuse removed .. .. .	17
Defective w.c.s repaired .. .. .	13
Miscellaneous internal defects repaired .. .. .	16
Defective paths relaid .. .. .	2
Foul dustbins cleansed .. .. .	3
New dustbins provided in lieu of dilapidated bins .. .. .	119
Flooding in cellars abated .. .. .	2
Electrical cellar pumps provided .. .. .	2
External house walls rendered to abate dampness .. .. .	1
Water supply improved or repaired .. .. .	2
Dangerous fences rebuilt and buildings demolished .. .. .	2
Overflowing cesspools cleansed .. .. .	3
Defective fireplaces and smoky chimneys repaired .. .. .	3
Chimney stacks repaired and made safe .. .. .	2
Pollution of watercourse abated .. .. .	3
Watercourses cleaned out .. .. .	8
Insanitary urinal abolished .. .. .	1
Hotels—Sanitary accommodation rebuilt or improved .. .. .	2
Cinemas—do. .. .. .	1
Smoke nuisances abated .. .. .	3
Unsatisfactory private tip improved .. .. .	1
Nuisance from gas leakage abated .. .. .	1



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water

Water is supplied and distributed by Harrogate Corporation. A short description of the water supply was given in the Annual Report for 1950.

The supply has been excellent in quality and quantity throughout the district.

The following are the details of the 15 water samples taken during the year:—

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. after 2 days at 37° C.	Probable No. of faecal Coli
<b>Public Supply</b>	11	None	None
	1	1	1
	1	1	—
<b>Private Supplies</b>	2	None	None

Approximately 15 of the older houses in the town remain without internal water supplies, but only 4 occupied houses are not on the public supply.

### Public Cleansing

#### A. Collection

The weekly collection of house and trade refuse throughout the Urban District was maintained during 1952, approximately 2,200 tons of refuse being collected. A twice weekly collection was offered on payment from trade premises, where required.

124 informal notices were served to renew defective dustbins and 119 dustbins were provided during 1952 as a result of notices. Only in 2 instances was it necessary to serve statutory notices and in both instances the notices were complied with.

The very few genuine complaints received reflects credit not only on the Council in their desire to give a regular and efficient service, but also on the conscientious and pleasant manner in which the workmen carry out their task, which probably brings them more under public scrutiny than any other local government official or workman.

## B. Disposal

The disposal point continues to be in the old Grimbald Quarry, Wetherby Road, which will provide a very good site for another 5-6 years.

The completed Manse Lane Tip field was sold for £450.

## C. Salvage

The following are the amounts of salvage collected and disposed of in 1952:—

ITEM	1952
Paper .. ..	56.1 tons
Textiles .. ..	2.16 „
Scrap Metal .. ..	11.11 „
Bottles and Jars ..	965 doz.

At the beginning of the year waste paper prices and tonnage being sold by the Council were both the highest ever but by the middle of March the position had rapidly deteriorated, and it was very difficult to sell paper once again. Salvage was carried on, output being adjusted to demand and by the end of the financial year it was just possible to make waste paper baling pay. The majority of the waste paper collected would normally constitute trade refuse and the time appears to be fast approaching when this type of refuse must be charged for if an undue burden is not to be placed on the rates.

## D. The cost of the Public Cleansing Service during the year ended 31st March, 1953, was:—

Refuse Collection .. ..	2373 3 10
Refuse Disposal .. ..	432 9 8
	<hr/>
	£2805 13 6
Revenue .. ..	590 12 10
Salvage Profit .. ..	113 2 7
	<hr/>
	703 15 5
	<hr/>
Nett Cost of Service .. ..	£2101 18 1

The revenue includes the sum of £450, the proceeds from the sale of Manse Lane Field.



The number of bins is estimated to be 2843 and the cost of emptying each bin weekly and disposing of its contents is, therefore, approximately 3.4d. or 4.1d. if the sale of Manse Lane Field is not included.

### Sewers and Drains

Those portions of the district mentioned in previous years (parts of York, Wetherby, and Ripley Roads, and part of Crag Top) still remain unsewered. Some 295 yards of 9 in. sewer were laid during the year to serve these houses on the easterly side of the road between Manse Lane and the river. Regarding Mossop's Estate, the scheme for sewerage this area was prepared and the first submission of the scheme made to the appropriate Government ministry.

With a view to the completion of the sewerage of the district within a reasonable number of years a scheme was put forward to the Council and though it was decided to carry out two sections during 1953-54, these were later deferred (at consideration of 1953-54 estimates). As nuisances continue to occur in these districts, all except Ripley Road being within sight of the Sewage Works, it is hoped that progress in this field will not be delayed indefinitely and that the Council will soon feel themselves able to carry on this work.

The pollution and condition of ditches in Halfpenny Lane area and the backing up of the foul sewer and flooding of Water Lane during storms was reported to the Council. It does seem that in view of further proposed development in this area, work is necessary as soon as possible to eliminate the pollution, to take more surface water out of the foul sewer, to make certain as little surface water as possible is allowed into the foul sewer in the future and to ensure the ditches taking surface water are of adequate size during storms.

### Factories

There are 54 factories on the Register consisting of:—

#### (a) Factories without power—

Baking factories ..	1	Hand knitwear factories	1
Tailoring factories ..	1	Upholstery and cabinet making factories ..	1
TOTAL .. .. .	4		

#### (b) Factories with power—

Bakeries .. .. .	4	Linen & cotton weaving	2
Brickwork machinery	1	Laundry .. .. .	2
Boot & shoe repairs ..	3	Light engineering ..	1



(b) **Factories with power (continued)**—

Boat making and repair	1	Manufactured meat	
Cabinet making and		foods .. ..	1
upholstery .. ..	2	Motor vehicle repairs	9
Chocolate and sweets	1	Pumping station (Gas	
Cotton sewing ..	1	Works) .. ..	1
Electricity generating ..	1	Photographic printing	1
Firewood .. ..	1	Plastic goods ..	1
Joinery and wheelright		Printing .. ..	1
and plumbing ..	4	Raincoat manufacture	1
		Shirt manufacture ..	2
		Sports clothes ..	1
		Timber sawing ..	2
		Skin curing .. ..	1
		Starshell parachutes ..	1
		Sausage making ..	1
TOTAL .. ..	47		

(c) **Other Premises**—

Building operations .. 3

TOTAL .. .. 3

Forty-four inspections were made of the above factories. Ten contraventions were found and 8 remedied during the year. Two matters were referred to the Council by the Factory Inspector and both received attention. One matter was referred to the Factory Inspector.

There were 17 names on the August lists of outworkers required by Sec. 110 of the Factories Act, including 3 residing in the Urban District.

### **Public Conveniences**

During the year the new conveniences at High Street and Low Bridge came into operation and it became the policy of the Council to retain and improve the ladies' Waterside conveniences. The popular areas of the town are now adequately served with public conveniences, but the bus station and adjacent proposed car park should have some sanitary conveniences—private or municipal—and small conveniences similar to those serving Fysche Hall playing fields should be provided for Moat Gardens, principally for the use of children, at some time in the future.

### **Licenced Premises and Places of Entertainment**

Routine visits were paid to licenced houses under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 89, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938,



Section 13. The reconstruction of sanitary conveniences at two hotels was completed during the year as a result of notices. Generally speaking, sanitary conveniences at licenced premises are now quite good.

The males sanitary accommodation at a local cinema was reconstructed and a w.c. added.

### **Smoke Abatement**

During 1951, 4 timed observations were taken of industrial chimneys in the district. In three instances smoke was emitted in such quantity as to constitute nuisances, and the occupiers were notified. There are very few industrial chimneys in the district these being limited to a few light industries, market gardens and hospitals. The high proportion of observations showing smoke nuisances is due to the fact that observations are normally restricted to periods when the chimneys are noticed to be commencing to emit smoke.

### **Moveable Dwellings**

At the end of the year there were five licensed sites for moveable dwellings. Two licences to station and use moveable dwellings were also in operation.

46 visits were made to sites and dwellings. In only 2 instances was there permanent occupation of dwellings on camping sites at the end of the year.

The sanitary conveniences at one site were improved.

### **Keeping of Animals**

The state under which animals were kept and the resulting conditions at certain allotments in the town were reported to the Council and the Council made unsuccessful approaches to the owner with a view to purchasing the area concerned as the most far-sighted and satisfactory solution of the matter.

### **Rodent Control**

The yearly test bait and twice yearly maintenance treatment of the infested sewers was carried out as in previous years and work under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, continued.

404 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with rodent infestation, surveys, or treatments, and the following table shows the details of rodent infestations of land which came to the Department's notice or were discovered by inspection.

Type of Property	L.A. Property	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business	Total
Properties ..	11	2386	84	514	2995
<b>1. Inspections:</b>					
As a result of Notification by occupier ..	1	15	3	6	25
Survey or Otherwise ..	10	65	29	160	264
Total ..	11	80	32	166	289
<b>2. Infestations found :</b>					
Rats—Major ..	2	—	4	2	8
Rats—Minor ..	2	31	5	11	49
Mice ..	—	7	—	8	15

## 2. Control measures by Local Authority:

Informal Notices (sec. 4)					
(a) Treatments	4	38	9	21	72
(b) Works ..	1	6	4	7	18
Formal Notices					
Treatments			1 (Works)	1 (Treat- ment)	2
carried out ..					
(a) Rats ..	4	31	8	12	55
(b) Mice ..	—	7	—	7	14
(c) Block ..					
Treatments	..	..	..	..	..

The new poison "Warfarin" has played a similar part in rodent control to that D.D.T. has played in insect control. It has been used with complete success in most cases of infestation by both mice and rats. At last there is a safe yet effective treatment for mice. Again it was found that bad hygiene and rodent infestation went hand in hand in many cases.

Free treatments for domestic premises and treatments on payment for other premises are offered by the department where there is co-operation from occupiers.



### **Offensive Trades**

There are now no offensive trades on the Register.

### **Shops**

11 inspections of shops were made under the provisions of Section 10 of the 1950 Act. Many more inspections were made in actual fact, but were not separately recorded, as the major reason for inspection was under other law.

In one case contraventions were found and remedied.

### **Swimming Baths or Pools**

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the Area.

### **Infestation and Disinfestation**

Sixteen houses were disinfested during the year—2 for flies, 1 for bees, 2 for wasps and 11 for cockroaches. No bed bug infestations were reported or found during the year. Quick, cheap and effective treatments, with a minimum of disturbance to occupiers, are now available for all common domestic pests and gone are the days of repeated 'stoving' and complicated mixes of dangerous powders.

### **Infectious Disease and Disinfection**

In 27 instances investigations were made after cases of certain infectious diseases, and disinfection of houses and fomites carried out where necessary.

In the absence of any outbreaks of particularly serious types of infectious diseases, the investigations were all of a routine nature.

### **Hairdressers and Barbers**

The Council adopted Sec. 120 of the West Riding (County Council) General Powers Act, 1951, and required all hairdressers and their premises to be registered. Ten hairdressers were duly registered under the Act for the first time during the year.

Pending the confirmation of byelaws relating to hairdressing, no further action was taken.

### **Dealers in Scrap Metal**

During the year the Council adopted Sec. 86, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, and required the registration of the Scrap Metal Dealers in the town. Three such dealers were on the Register at the end of the year and four police officers were made authorised officers for the purpose of enforcing the Act in addition to the Council's own officers.



### **Knackers' Yards**

There is one Knackers Yard in the area and 4 visits of inspection were made during the year.

### **Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials**

Only 1 premise in town is registered under the provisions of the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. Three visits were made to registered or other premises during the year, but no samples of filling material were taken.

### **Pet Shops**

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, is administered by the department. Six visits were made under the provisions of the Act. Two premises are licenced as Pet Shops and both were satisfactory.

### **Housing**

Housing still constitutes the most urgent problem before the Authority. At the end of 1952 there were 262 applicants on the Council Housing Waiting List consisting of:—

- 103 without houses
- 55 with houses
- 58 living out of Knaresborough
- 46 applicants for bungalows and flats.

This is a slight increase on the position as reported last year.

In addition there were 35 applicants for private building licences, 16 being without houses, 19 with houses. 18 live out of Knaresborough.

Again only limited formal action under the Housing Acts with regard to unfit houses was taken as follows:—

Riverside Farm, Spitalcroft 4, Walker's Fold	Section 11, H. A., 1936 ,,	House rendered fit. Undertaking not to use house for human habitation accepted.
2 and 4, Union St.	,,	Implementation of demoli- tion order required but demolition not completed.
1, Cross Keys Yard	,,	Demolition Order made. House demolished.
2, Cross Keys Yard	,,	Demolition Order made. House demolished.
15, Park Row	,,	Demolition Order. De- molition in progress.
12, Fisher Gardens	,,	Demolition Order made. Demolished.



Parliament has discussed the problem of the old house. The press, wireless and professional and other bodies have thrashed it out many times but another year has passed without any practical solution to the problem. There is much to be said about this problem of decaying property, and a look round the streets of Knaresborough will reveal many houses, the paintwork of which has been neglected for years, fabric perished, and roofs defective and sagging. Further study internally will reveal the houses lack modern conveniences and are affected by dampness, are dark and poorly ventilated and woodwork and plasterwork are perished. In old towns like Knaresborough this problem is particularly important for, if the antiquity of the town is to be preserved, so too must much of this property be preserved. Action under the present Housing Acts against owners would normally only result in demolition. Is it desirable that such should be the result? Would increased rents solve the problem or is the expense too great? Or is the answer in the "municipalisation" of much of the older property in the town? The latter may be a solution provided generous government grants are made available.

Towards the end of the year the Minister of Housing and Local Government again, after 12 years, gave government encouragement to the recommencement of modified Slum Clearance as part of the Housing programme. There are areas in this town that can be reported on for such action whenever the Council feels the housing position is such that they can resume the work they carried on so thoroughly before the war.

### **Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants**

One application under Sec. 20 of the Act was received and approved. This Act provides a means of assisting owners to bring good old property up to modern standards, yet only three applications have been received in as many years. Can it be that enough publicity has not been given to the Section or is it that owners are not interested in modernising property erected before the days of bathrooms, sculleries and other modern amenities? Or is it that the financial inducement is not adequate? Houses built 50-75 years ago are particularly suitable for treatment under the Act and it is hoped that more applications will be forthcoming.

### **New Houses**

On Meadowside Estate a further 11 houses were completed, and 8 dwellings were built or provided by private enterprise.

The Council now own 482 houses of which 4 have 5 bedrooms; 19, 4 bedrooms; 346 3 bedrooms; 65 2 bedrooms; 40 bungalows; and flats and there are 8 miscellaneous house properties.

At the end of 1952 there were 10 requisitioned houses.

### **Land Searches**

In 153 cases information was given to complete land searches.



# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## Milk

The following are results of samples of milk taken during the year:—

TEST	Methylene Blue		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Type of Milk				
Pasteurised .. ..	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised .. ..	6	—	6	—
Tuberculin Tested ..	21	—	—	—
Ordinary .. ..	4	2	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	31	2	6	—

One sample was found to be ungraded milk in a pasteurised bottle and also unsatisfactory. A warning was given. One sample could not be examined.

Five samples of milk were submitted for biological examination and all were found to be negative to T.B. 2 were also examined for B. Abortus and found to be negative.

No. of Registered Distributors .. ..	11
No. of Dealers Licences—Tuberculin-Tested milk	5
—Pasteurised milk ..	5
No. of Supplementary Licences	
—Tuberculin-Tested milk	4
—Pasteurised milk ..	5
—Sterilised milk ..	2

Only a very small quantity of undesignated milk is now retailed in the district.



## Meat

The Slaughterhouses in Knaresborough are still compulsorily closed and slaughtering continues at Harrogate.

Regular inspections of Butchers' shops were made, where conditions found were fairly satisfactory.

15 premises are registered with the Local Authority under Section 14, Foods and Drugs Act, to prepare or manufacture sausages, or potted, pressed, preserved, or pickled food. With one exception all are of a minor nature and usually connected with retail shops adjacent.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of Slaughtermen's licences in force at the end of the year was 15.

## Ice Cream

The conditions of the preparation and sale of this product were again watched during the year.

45 premises are registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Three premises are registered to manufacture and sell Ice Cream.

Three premises are registered to manufacture by the Cold Mix method and sell Ice Cream.

39 premises are registered to sell Ice Cream, 15 of these being for prepacked type only.

41 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results.

		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
Produced in Knaresborough	Hot Mix	12	4	—	—	16
	Cold Mix	7	—	—	—	7
	Total	19	4	—	—	23
Produced Elsewhere	Total	16	—	2	—	18
Total Samples		35	4	2	—	41

These results may be said to be quite satisfactory. Both the grade 3 samples were from the same retailer and were considered to be



due to lack of proper current sterilisation of servers. Four samples of rinse water from server containers were taken for examination, and three were unsatisfactory bacteriologically and causing contamination of the servers rather than sterilising them. In such cases the result of the sample is usually quite adequate proof for a retailer and the use of proper sterilising agents in an approved manner follows.

Two samples of Iced Lollies were examined bacteriologically and both were satisfactory.

### **Market**

13 visits were paid to the Market but there is no serious problem largely because of the types of food now retailed.

### **Other Foods**

It will be seen from the details of inspections on page 16 that visits were made to every type of food premises.

The Department has continued to seek the co-operation of Food Traders and handlers with a view to securing improved standards of food handling.

The Food Handling Byelaws have been invoked in many instances informally to secure improved conditions in handling food and regarding the condition and cleanliness of equipment at all stages of manufacture, storage, exposure for sale and delivery, and in some 55 cases improvements were secured.

It is regretted that such offences as mice infestation, dirty or unsatisfactory food rooms and equipment are still found and that some equipment such as Victorian tables and cupboards, which would not be tolerated in any well-run house, have found their last resting place in some food kitchens. This furniture with its many corners and decorative additions, forms excellent homes for dirt and germs.

There are in Knaresborough many very clean foodshops in each type of trade, but there are also some where behind the scenes dust and dirt, mice or other infestation, unsatisfactory refuse storage, want of decoration, undesirable items such as dirty bed linen, etc., unsatisfactory and dirty equipment have not been noticed or have been ignored until the Inspector pointed them out. Nor should the shop cat be tolerated. There can only be one main reason for this pet in a lock-up shop—and good hygiene, together with modern



rodent control methods, render it out of date and probably its presence contravenes the Food Handling Byelaws. There should be no place in the food room for the occupier's cat—or dog. Some nine substantial mice infestations of food premises were found, and each cleared up by either modern rodent control technique and/or improved hygiene.

And what of personal cleanliness? It is obviously desirable that clean light coloured overalls should be worn by all food handlers so that day clothes are reasonably but completely covered. But in a number of cases one still sees the pinafore or small apron the sole protective clothing used and these are often of a dark colour presumably so they will not show dirt so quickly. They leave one with the impression that it's the clothes that matter and not the food that is being handled. Protective clothing should be left on the food premises but all too commonly it is worn under outdoor clothes when going home. Smoking is a delightful pleasure to those to whom it has become a habit, but the food room is no place for the use of tobacco. The facilities for hand washing also sometimes leave one with the impression of their little use for this purpose. Other unhygienic practices are reported or detected all too frequently.

These are the simple problems of food handling that every occupier of food premises and every food handler can overcome and erradicate so easily.

Good hygiene and good trading practices go hand in hand and in the long run are the most economical. Science has given us pre-packing, modern catering equipment, the refrigerator, new types of flooring, new surfaces for equipment such as aluminium alloy and 'formica', new paints, efficient insecticides and rodenticides, detergents, sterilents, etc., and these are finding their practical application in more and more food premises. Competition, which is again returning, also plays no small part in food trading and often embraces improved hygiene—which may be intentional or incidental.

### **Food Hawking**

Under the provisions of Section 76, West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, six food hawkers and two food hawkers' premises were registered for the first time during the year. The six food hawkers traded as follows:—Ice Cream, 2; Greengrocery and/or fish, 3; and mobile canteen, 1.

### **Unsound Food**

Some 309 lbs. of food unfit for human consumption were surrendered and destroyed.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Analysis

The County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority and have kindly given the following particulars of samples taken during 1952:—

Milk—Genuine .. .. .	24
Adulterated .. .. .	—
Other Foods—Genuine .. .. .	7
Adulterated .. .. .	1*
Drugs—Genuine .. .. .	2
Adulterated .. .. .	—
Cautions .. .. .	1
Prosecutions .. .. .	—

\* Beef sausage, containing only 45.5 per cent meat.





