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KNARESBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
  
ANNUAL REPORT  
  
OF THE  
  
Medical Officer of Health  
  
For the year 1953

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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# Knarborough Urban District Council

1953

## **Chairman of the Council:**

Councillor W. EMMETT J.P.

## **Vice Chairman :**

Councillor C. COOPER

Councillor R. R. ALLEN

Councillor G. HUGHES

„ P. BROADBELT

„ E. JACKSON, D.C.M.

„ H. CORPS

„ J. O. LOVE

„ A. J. DYER

„ G. NICHOLSON

„ F. C. EDEN

„ E. STUBLEY

„ H. HILL

„ Lt.-Col. B. C. WILKINSON

„ G. A. HOLCH, J.P.

## **Chairman of the Health Committee :**

Councillor G. A. HOLCH, J.P.

## **Chairman of the Buildings and Housing Committee :**

Councillor Lt. Col. B. C. WILKINSON

# Public Health Officers of the Council

1953

## **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.

## **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 1953.

The very high death rate registered during the year requires an explanation. The rate was 25.6 compared with 11.1 for 1952. The reason for the increase is a change by the Registrar General of the rules governing the transfers of deaths for statistical purposes. Since 1933 the rules have stated that the deaths of inmates dying in public assistance institutions or hospitals for the chronic sick were to be transferred to the district of residence at the time of admission, when this was a fixed or usual address. At the beginning of 1953 new rules came into operation, deaths in hospitals for the chronic sick and accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act were made non-transferable.

Thus, in 1953, all deaths in Knaresborough Hospital were included in the returns for the town despite the fact that elderly chronic sick persons were admitted to the Hospital from a wide surrounding area. This makes the death rate for Knaresborough for 1953 practically valueless for comparison with those of other areas and with those of the district itself for previous years.

A further change of policy is announced which comes into effect for deaths occurring in 1954. In 1954 deaths occurring in the chronic sick wards at Knaresborough Hospital will again become transferable, though deaths in the Part III accommodation will remain non-transferable. This last change will do much to correct for the future the misleading death rate for Knaresborough which appears in the present report.

In Knaresborough 13 per cent. of the population are over the age of 65. Of this proportion 60 per cent. are women and this clearly shows the well known fact of the greater degree of longevity of women.

Whilst the statutory health services such as the home nurses, the health visitors and the home helps do much to help the elderly; it is fitting to pay a tribute to the important work of the Knaresborough Old Peoples Welfare Committee with their Darby and Joan Club, Chiropody Service, the visiting of old people in their homes and the organisation of outings or social gatherings.

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.

August, 1954.

# General Statistics, 1953

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,488
Population (mid-summer, 1953, estimated by the Registrar General).	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,182
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,630
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£57,408
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£225

## BIRTHS—

Live Births :	Males		Females		Total
	Legitimate, 53	} 55	Legitimate, 48	} 50	105
	Illegitimate, 2		Illegitimate, 2		

Crude Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the estimated population)	...	...	...	...	12.8
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

*Adjusted Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	12.4
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Still Births :	Males		Females		Total
	Legitimate, 1	} 1	Legitimate, 0	} 0	1
	Illegitimate, 0		Illegitimate, 0		

Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	...	...	...	...	9.4
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## DEATHS—

Number of Deaths—Males 109, Females 124.	...	...	...	...	233
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	28.5
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

*Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	...	25.6
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :					Total
---	--	--	--	--	-------

	Males		Females		
	Legitimate 1	} 1	Legitimate 2	} 2	3
	Illegitimate 0		Illegitimate 0		

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	28.6
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	29.7
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	...	...	...	...	0.0
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Rate (per 1,000 population)

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1	...	...	...	...	0.12
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases Nil	...	...	...	...	0.00
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths from Infective and Parasitic Diseases, (excluding Tuberculosis) 1	...	...	...	...	0.12
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths from Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 40	...	...	...	...	4.89
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases, 94	...	...	...	...	11.49
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Deaths from Cancer 22.	...	...	...	...	2.69
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases. 25	...	...	...	...	3.06
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

\*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**

### **1. POPULATION.**

The population as at the middle of 1953 was estimated by the Registrar General at 8,182, an increase of 18 over the estimated population for the previous year.

### **2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**

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 smaller industries in the town including Saw Mills, Plastic Goods Factory, Manufacture of Children's and other Clothing and Linen Weaving Mills.

### **3. BIRTHS.**

#### **(a) Live Births :**

The number of live births registered in Knaresborough during the year was 32, 20 males and 12 females, but the corrected figure supplied by the Registrar General which takes into account inward and outward transfers was 105, 55 males and 50 females.

The birth rate, when adjusted by the area comparability factor as given by the Registrar General was 12.4 per thousand of the population which was 3.1 less than the rate for England and Wales. (15.5)

There were 4 illegitimate births, 2 males and 2 females, representing 3.8 per cent of the live births.

#### **(b) Still Births :**

After adjustment for inward and outward transfers there was 1 still birth, in a male child, during the year.

#### 4. DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 230, 102 males and 128 females, but the number of deaths of residents corrected for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General was 233, 109 males and 124 females. The crude death rate was 28.5 per thousand, but when adjusted in accordance with the comparability factor the rate was reduced to 25.6 which was 14.2 higher than the rate for England and Wales (11.4).

The causes of death are shown in the table on page 8.

#### 5. INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year 3 resident infants, 1 male and 2 females, died before reaching their first birthday. Two of these children died from prematurity and the other from rhesus incompatibility. The infant mortality rate was 28.6 per thousand live births compared with the rate of 26.8 for England and Wales.

# Causes of Death in Knaresborough Urban District, 1953

Causes of Death						1953	
						Male	Female
All Causes						109	124
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	—	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	3	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	6	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	21	19
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	14	12
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	6	11
20	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	17	17
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	10	7
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	11
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	6	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	8	15
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total						233	

## **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 2.

### **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.

Knaresborough is fortunate in having a public health laboratory situated so close at hand. Dr. L. A. Little is the bacteriologist in charge of this laboratory, and there is the closest co-operation between Dr. Little and the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

The services of the laboratory are most valuable when there is an outbreak of infection or suspected cases of food poisoning.

#### **(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.

Of the 6 ambulances 3 are equipped with short wave wireless transmission and reception apparatus, enabling information to be passed to and from a central control. By this means, ambulances can be diverted to accidents and other emergencies and can save life and time.

### **3. 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 as follows :

**(a) 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.

**(b) School Medical Service.**

A general School Clinic is held twice weekly and an Ophthalmic Clinic is held on Friday mornings at Fysche Hall, Knaresborough.

The following special Clinics for school children are held in Harrogate :—

Ear, Nose and Throat.  
Orthopaedic.  
Sunlight.  
Speech Therapy.  
Cardiac.

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

A dental surgeon on the staff of the West Riding County Council spends part of his time inspecting and treating children at the schools in Knaresborough.

**(c) Special Examination 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, in certain cases special education is advised. There are 6 children resident in Knaresborough who are educationally sub-normal of whom 2 are attending special schools for this purpose.

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 Worker.

Other children who are physically handicapped are recommended for admission to special schools when this is considered desirable. 1 partially sighted child, 1 partially deaf child, and 2 delicate children are also attending residential special schools.

**(d) 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.

885 school medical examinations were carried out during the year.

**(e) Examinations of Employees.**

School children are medically examined for fitness for part-time employment as errand boys, shop assistants, etc. 25 children, all boys, were medically examined during 1953 for this purpose.

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 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.

**(f) Maternity Services.**

110 births, including 1 still birth, were notified in respect of Knaresborough residents during the year. Of these, 54 births including one still birth took place in the maternity block of the Harrogate General Hospital, 20 in Carlton Lodge Maternity Home and 4 in other institutions. The remaining 32 births took place in the patients' own homes under the care of the whole-time domiciliary midwife.

**(g) Home Nursing.**

There are 2 whole-time home nurses 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.

**(h) Home Help Service.**

At the end of the year 12 part-time home helps were employed in Knaresborough. The total number of hours worked during the year was 9,264, an increase of 2,329 hours compared with 1952.

Assistance was given to 53 cases, of these 11 were due to illness in the home, excluding illness of aged persons, and 29 related to illness or infirmity of the aged. In 2 cases where the mother had been admitted to hospital, a home help was provided to look after the children and home helps were supplied to 11 Knaresborough maternity cases, enabling the mother to have her baby at home.

**(i) Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

The West Riding County Council maintain a Child Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic at Fysche Hall, Iles Lane, Knaresborough. The days and times these clinics are held are set out in tabular form on page 13.

**(j) Mental Health Service.**

Group Training was continued during the year, 2 sessions being held weekly at the Fysche Hall Clinic for children who are mentally retarded and unable to benefit from education in school. 5 children were attending for training at this centre at the end of the year.

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.

**West Riding County Council Clinics held at Fysche Hall**  
**Hes Lane, Knaresborough**

	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 a.m. (by appointment only)
Child Welfare Centre ...	—	1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	—	*1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.	—
Group Training Centre ...	1-45 p.m. to 4 p.m.	—	1-45 p.m. to 4 p.m.	—	—

\* Every 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month.

## **THE PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THEIR CONTROL.**

The number of cases notified are set out in the table on page 16.

**1. Scarlet Fever.**

20 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. 17 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 3 were isolated at home.

**2. Diphtheria.**

No case of diphtheria occurred in the district during 1953.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The health visitors, during their visits to children under one year in particular, stress the need for diphtheria immunisation, and it is felt that personal persuasion of this character is the best form of propaganda.

158 immunisations were carried out during the year and in addition 437 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.**

No case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

**4. Whooping Cough.**

38 cases of whooping cough were notified in 1953 as compared with 23 cases in 1952.

**Whooping Cough Immunisation.**

The number of whooping cough immunisations carried out during 1953 was 17.

**5. Measles.**

105 cases of measles were notified during 1953 as compared with 119 in 1952. There were no deaths from this disease.

**6. Pneumonia.**

4 cases of pneumonia were notified and all made a good recovery.

**7. Bacillary Dysentery.**

1 case of bacillary dysentery was notified in an adult who made a rapid recovery.

**8. Puerperal Pyrexia.**

No case of puerperal pyrexia was notified during the year.

9. **Food Poisoning.**

No case of food poisoning occurred in 1953.

10. **Smallpox.**

No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

**Smallpox Vaccination.**

During the year 204 primary vaccinations and 172 re-vaccinations were carried out for residents of Knaresborough. The large number of vaccinations carried out during the year was undoubtedly due to the proximity of smallpox cases to the district. Cases of smallpox occurred in the County Borough of Leeds.

11. **Erysipelas.**

1 case of erysipelas was notified during 1953.

12. **Tuberculosis.**

6 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 3 males and 3 females, and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, both females were notified during the year. 6 patients were admitted to sanatoria and 5 patients removed from the area. There was one death from this disease during 1953.

**Mass Radiography.**

The Mass Radiography Unit undertook a survey in Knaresborough during 1953, the Unit was stationed at the Holy Trinity Parochial Hall, Knaresborough. 780 persons were examined, 365 males and 415 females.

The main groups examined were:—

	Males	Females	Total
Civil Service employees ... ..	13	29	42
School children of 14 years and over (together with teachers and student teachers) ... ..	112	133	245
Staff of the West Riding County Council and the Urban District of Knaresborough ... ..	100	23	123
	<hr/> 225	<hr/> 185	<hr/> 410

No active cases of tuberculosis were discovered as a result of this survey. 5 cases of inactive tuberculosis and 3 cases where there was some other non-tuberculous abnormality of the heart and lungs were found.

Age Groups of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases for the year 1953.

No. of Cases Notified Ages—Years	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1	—	—	—	—	1	2
1—2	—	—	—	—	22	9
3—4	4	—	—	—	19	13
5—9	14	—	—	—	56	13
10—14	1	—	—	—	3	1
15—24	1	—	—	—	4	—
25 and over	—	4	1	1	—	—
Total notified	20	4	1	1	105	38
No of cases admitted to Hospital	17	—	—	—	4	—
Total No. of Deaths of Notified Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—

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

This section of the Act gives authority to order the removal to hospital or Part III accommodation of persons in need of care and attention where this is not being provided in their own homes. No cases were dealt with under this section during 1953.

# Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1953.

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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 Seventh Annual Report on the Sanitary and Cleansing Services for 1953.

The year was one of steady progress in all fields but it became obvious towards the end of the year that the housing searchlight was turning to the problem of the old house and that the Government also intended to amend and strengthen the legislation of Food and Drugs. The end of rationing and licensing appeared to be in sight also.

These changes will undoubtedly bring increased work, technical and administrative, to the Public Health Department—touching as they do on two of the most important aspects of the Council's statutory functions in relation to Public Health.

In conclusion I wish to tender my thanks to the members of the Council for their support and encouragement and to Dr. Payne for his guidance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. JENNINGS,

Sanitary Inspector.

Health Department,  
Knaresborough.  
May, 1954.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Total number of inspections and visits made	...	...	2066
Number of contraventions found	...	...	297
Number of nuisances and contraventions in hand at 31/12/52.	30		
Number of nuisances abated and contraventions remedied during 1953	...	...	284
Number of nuisances and contraventions outstanding at 31/12/53	...	...	43
Number of informal notices served by letter or verbally	297		
Formal Notices served	...	...	26
Formal Notices complied with	...	...	21

### Details of Inspections

#### Public Health Acts

Obstructed drains and sewers	...	...	60
Drainage and sewer inspections	...	...	55
Drains tested :—Smoke test	...	...	5
Water test	...	...	7
Colour test	...	...	25
General nuisances and sanitary defects	...	...	94
Cleanliness of houses	...	...	11
Keeping of Animals	...	...	31
Insect and other infestation (except rodents)	...	...	9
Rivers, streams and ditches—pollution	...	...	20
Smoke observations and boilerhouse inspections	...	...	4
Infectious diseases enquiries	...	...	28
Disinfections	...	...	1
Disinfestations	...	...	10
Water supply	...	...	12
Water samples—Bacteriological	...	...	35
Moveable dwellings	...	...	35
Public Cleansing Service—			
Refuse Collection	...	...	108
Refuse Disposal	...	...	66
Salvage	...	...	46
Timber samples for identification	...	...	1
Noise nuisances	...	...	5
Cesspool drainage and unsewered premises	...	...	16
Re-inspections, Public Health Act	...	...	187
Hotels and places of entertainment—sanitary conveniences	9		
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	316

Factories Act, 1937—	
Part 1	47
Means of escape in case of fire	8
Re Outworkers	4
Shops Act, 1950	20
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951	4
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951—Samples	2
Pet Animals Act, 1951	4
Hairdressers and Barbers	—
Housing Acts—	
Inspections—Housing Act, 1949, Improvement Grants	16
Inspections—Housing Consol Regs.	11
Re-inspections and miscellaneous visits	68
Overcrowding	3
Requisitioned Property	8
Food and Drugs—	
Fried Fish Shops	13
Butchers' Shops	24
Bakehouses	19
Grocery Shops and General Stores	39
Greengrocers, Fishmongers, Poultry Dealers	22
Hotel, Cafe and Canteen Kitchens	68
Food preparing premises	26
Confectionery Shops	11
Ice Cream premises and selling points	24
Hotels	3
Milk and Dairies	29
Unsound Food	22
Miscellaneous food visits	8
Bacteriological examination of food—other than milk and ice cream	6
Bacteriological examinations of Milk	38
Biological examinations of Milk	7
Visits to Laboratory	32
Ice Cream Samples—Bacteriological examination	30
Synthetic Cream—Samples	38
Knackers Yard	5
Food Hawkers, Food Hawkers' premises and delivery Vans	29
Slaughterhouses	2
Market Inspections	21
Washing up water—Samples	5
Meetings and Interviews	56
Court Attendances	1
Miscellaneous visits	102

### Summary of work carried out to abate Nuisances, 1953

Defective eavesgutters and downspouts renewed or repaired	25
Defective roofs repaired	5
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	3
Obstructed or defective drains cleared, repaired or relaid	32
Keeping of animals so as to be a nuisance abated	5
Cleanliness of houses improved	5
Accumulations of refuse removed	9
Defective W.C.'s repaired	11
Miscellaneous internal defects repaired	5
Defective paths or yards relaid	5
Foul dustbins cleansed	1
New dustbins provided in lieu of dilapidated bins	104
External house walls rendered or pointed to abate dampness	3
Water supply improved or repaired	4
Dangerous fences rebuilt and buildings demolished	3
Overflowing cesspools cleansed	3
Defective fireplaces and smoky chimneys repaired	2
Pollution of watercourse abated	1
Watercourses cleaned out	4
Hotels—Sanitary accommodation rebuilt or improved	1
Schools do.	1
Smoke nuisances abated	3
Unsatisfactory private tip improved	1
Nuisance from flooding abated	1
Defective pail closets renewed	2

## 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 following are the details of 33 water samples examined during the year :—

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100ml. after 2 days at 37° C.	Probable No. of faecal Coli
<b>Public Supply</b>	26	One Sample ... 7	4 Spl.—2
		Five Samples ... 2	4 Spl.—1
		Three Samples ... 1	18 Spl.—0
		Seventeen Samples 0	
<b>Private Supplies</b>	7	Two Samples ... 180+	All none
		One Sample ... 5	
		One Sample ... 2	
		Three Samples ... 0	

Approximately 10 of the older houses in the town remain without internal water supplies, but only 3 occupied houses are not on the public supply.

Routine sampling revealed a slight contamination of the public supply during August and after further investigation with the Water Department's Officers the source was traced to the open tank in Brewerton Street and this was cut out of the circulation temporarily and cleaned. Isolated complaints were received of insect life in the supply otherwise the supply was excellent in quality and quantity throughout the year.

## Public Cleansing

### A. Collection.

The weekly collection of house and trade refuse throughout the Urban District was maintained during 1953, approximately 2,300 tons of refuse being collected.

120 informal notices were served to renew defective dustbins and 113 dustbins were provided during 1953 as a result of notices.

In 7 instances it was necessary to serve statutory notices and in all instances the notices were complied with.

The 10 cubic yd. side loading Freighter was replaced by a 16-18 cubic yd. diesel engined fore and aft rear loading Freighter. The former had reached the end of its guarantee period and having considered the advantages to be derived from changing to diesel power, the increase in bulk and weight of refuse to be dealt with and a favourable offer from the makers the Council decided to replace the vehicle.

### B. Disposal.

The disposal point continues to be in the old Grimbald Quarry, Wetherby Road, which should provide tipping space for another 4 years

### C. Salvage.

The following are the amounts of salvage collected and disposed of in 1953 :—

Paper	...	...	48.4 tons
Textiles	...	...	1.8 tons
Scrap Metal	...	...	14.2 tons
Bottles and Jars	...	...	419 doz.

Waste paper continued to be difficult to dispose of early in the year but towards the end of 1953 the position improved.

### D. The cost of the Public Cleansing Service during the year ended 31st March, 1954, was :—

Refuse Collection	...	...	...	2919	3	0
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	409	11	5
			...	£3328	14	5
Revenue	...	...	169	13	6	
Salvage Profit	...	...	184	12	4	
		...	...	354	5	10
Nett Cost of Service	...	...	...	£2974	8	7

The number of bins is estimated to be 2940 and the cost of emptying each bin weekly and disposing of its contents is, therefore, approximately 4.7d. per week or £1 per year.

### 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. Regarding Mossop's Estate, the scheme for sewerage this area was submitted to the appropriate Government Ministry and a Ministry Official visited the town in December to hold an enquiry, as a result of which the Council were requested to re-submit the scheme in an amended form which was subsequently approved.

Further flooding occurred in Halfpenny Lane areas during storms and while certain remedial work was carried out during the year by the Surveyors' Department they also commenced a survey of the sewers in the area with a view to separating more surface water from the foul system in the areas served by the Chain Lane sewer.

### Factories

There are 58 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	Chocolates and sweets	1		
Brickwork machinery			1	Cotton sewing	...	1	
Boot and shoe repairs			2	Electricity generating		1	
Boat making and repair			1	Laundry	...	...	2
Cabinet making and				Linen & cotton weaving		2	
upholstery	...	...	2	Light engineering	...	1	

(b) **Factories with Power** (continued)

Firewood ... ..	1	Printing ... ..	2
Joinery and wheelright		Raincoat manufacture	1
and plumbing ... ..	4	Shirt manufacture	2
Manufactured meat		Sports clothes ... ..	1
foods ... ..	1	Timber sawing ... ..	2
Motor vehicle repairs	10	Skin curing ... ..	1
Pumping station (Gas		Starshell parachutes	1
Works) ... ..	1	Sausage making ... ..	1
Plastic goods ... ..	1		
Total ... ..	47		

(c) **Other Premises :—**

	Building operations ...	7
Total ... ..	7	

Fifty-five inspections were made of the above factories. 14 contraventions were found and 8 remedied during the year. One matter was referred to the Council by the Factory Inspector and received attention. One matter was referred to the Factory Inspector. The Factory Inspector also notified the Council of three Garages where means of escape should be provided.

There were 21 names on the August lists of outworkers required by Sec. 110 of the Factories Act, including 7 residing in the Urban District.

**Public Conveniences**

The town is now well served with public conveniences mostly of modern construction, and the alteration of the Ladies Water-side toilets and the erection of the proposed conveniences in the new Parking Station in Fisher Street should complete the requirements of the District for the foreseeable future.

**Licensed Premises and Places of Entertainment**

Routine visits were paid to licensed houses and a cinema under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 89, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13. The reconstruction of sanitary conveniences at one hotel was completed during the year.

### **Smoke Abatement**

During 1953. 3 timed observations were taken of industrial chimneys in the district. In all 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 market gardens and hospitals.

### **Moveable Dwellings**

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

35 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.

### **Keeping of Animals**

The state under which animals were kept and the resulting conditions at certain allotments in the town were again reported to the Council and the Council made approaches to the owner regarding the allotments as a result of which the keeping of pigs was discontinued.

### **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.

316 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 from 1st January, 1953 to 31st March, 1954, which is the period covered in the Annual Return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Type of property	L.A. Property	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	Business	Total
Properties	10	2465	84	515	3074
<b>1. Inspections :</b>					
As a result of Notification by occupier ...	1	16	2	5	24
Survey or Otherwise ...	9	46	36	201	292
Total ...	10	62	38	206	316
<b>2. Infestations found :</b>					
Rats-Major ...	1	—	3	—	4
Rats—Minor ...	2	22	9	13	46
Mice ...	—	4	—	12	16

**2. Control measures by Local Authority :—**

Informal Notices					
4)					
(a) Treatment	—	26	12	25	63
(b) Works ...	1	4	5	14	24
Formal Notices	—	—	—	—	—
Treatments carried out by Local Authority ...	3	18	10	15	46

The new poison "Warfarin" has continued to play a major part in rodent control. It has been used with complete success in most cases of infestation by both mice and rats. Again it was found that poor 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**

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

### **Swimming Baths or Pools**

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

### **Infestation and Disinfestation**

8 houses were disinfested during the year— 1 for flies, 1 for bees, 3 for wasps and 3 for cockroaches. 1 new house was also sprayed. No bed bug infestations were reported or found. Quick cheap and effective treatments with a minimum of disturbance to occupiers, are now available for all common domestic pests. In addition advice was given in several more cases and where necessary insects or damaged material sent for specialist examination.

### **Infectious Disease and Disinfection**

In 28 instances investigations were made after cases of certain infectious diseases, and disinfection of houses and fomites carried out where necessary. With the exception of visits made after the outbreak of food poisoning at a local school, the investigations were of a routine nature.

### **Hairdressers and Barbers**

The Council have 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 are registered under the Act.

Bye-laws relating to cleanliness in hairdressers and barbers shops came into force during the year.

### **Dealers in Scrap Metal**

The Council have adopted Sec. 86, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, which requires 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 are authorised officers for the purpose of enforcing the Act in addition to the Council's own officers.

### Knackers Yard

There is one Knackers Yard in the area and 5 visits of inspection were made during the year.

### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials

Two premises in town are registered under the provisions of the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. Four visits were made to registered premises during the year, and two samples of filling material were taken. Both samples satisfied the statutory tests.

### Pet Shops

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, is administered by the department. Four visits were made under the provisions of the Act. Two premises and 1 Market Stall were licensed as Pet Shops and were satisfactory. One contravention occurred at the Market Stall.

### Housing

Housing still constitutes the most urgent problem before the Authority. At the end of 1953 there were 286 applicants on the Council Housing Waiting List consisting of :—

- 85 without houses
- 59 with houses
- 99 living out of Knaresborough
- 43 applicants for bungalows and flats

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

15, Park Row—H. A. 1936, Sec. 11—Demolished.

2 and 4, Union Street—H. A. 1936, Sec. 11—Demolished.

House rear of Finkle Street—H.A. 1936, Sec. 11—Demolition order made. Demolished.

1 Powell's Yard	{	H.A. 1936, Sec. 11	{	Houses closed.
15, Kirkgate		as amended by		
		L.G. (Misc. Provs.)		
		Act, 1953, Sec. 10.		

In addition the following unfit houses were demolished :—

1b, Fisher Street	{	In connection with construction of a Municipal Car Park
3, Fisher Street		
5, Fisher Street		
7, Fisher Street		
9, Fisher Street		
11, Fisher Street		

6 and 8 Gracious Street—by owners after informal action.

Government policy so far as housing is concerned, has now begun to turn from new houses towards the older houses and legislation dealing with unfit houses and rents is being debated in Parliament. As described last year many old houses in Knaresborough are unfit by virtue of disrepair or sanitary defects and while some by reason of age, position, type or seriousness of defects cannot be made but others can and should be, as, if the antiquity of the town is to be preserved every effort must be made to retain, repair and improve those houses that lend themselves to such treatment.

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

Two applications under Sec. 20 of the Act were received and one was approved. This Act provides a means of assisting owners to bring good old property up to modern standards, yet only five formal applications have been received in three years.

The new housing legislation mentioned above deals also with Improvement Grants and perhaps the 'improved' conditions of grants will result in further applications particularly in regard to the type of property which is most suitable for improvement.

### **New Houses**

On Meadowside Estate a further 57 houses were completed and 34 dwellings were built or provided by private enterprise. With the completion of the Meadowside Estate the Council now own 546 houses of which 4 have 5 bedrooms; 21, 4 bedrooms; 376, 3 bedrooms; 105, 2 bedrooms; 40 bungalows and flats and there are also 8 miscellaneous house properties.

At the end of 1953 there were 9 requisitioned houses.

### **Land Searches**

In 152 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	
Type of Milk	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised ... ..	1	—	1	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ...	4	—	4	—
Tuberculin Tested ...	20	7	—	—
Ordinary ... ..	4	2	—	—
Total ... ..	29	9	5	—

Five of the unsatisfactory Tuberculin Tested samples were from one dealer and the matter was referred to the County Milk Production Officer.

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

No. of Registered Distributors	...	...	...	13
No. of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	3
No. of Dealers Licences—Tuberculin-Tested Milk	6			
—Pasteurised milk	...	6		
No. of Supplementary Licences	—Tuberculin-Tested Milk	6		
	—Pasteurised milk	...	7	
	—Sterilised milk	...	4	

Only a very small quantity of undesignated milk is now retailed in the district, all in Thistle Hill area.

## Meat

During 1953 the Slaughterhouses in Knaresborough were still compulsorily closed and slaughtering continued at Harrogate.

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

17 premises are registered with the Local Authority under Section 14, Food 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.

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

Three premises are registered to manufacture and sell Ice Cream.

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

48 premises are registered to sell Ice Cream, 22 of these being for prepacked type only.

30 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

Grade 1	.....	...	...	24 samples
Grade 2	...	...	...	6 samples
Grade 3	...	...	...	None
Grade 4	...	...	...	None

When these results are compared with those obtained in the early years of sampling after the war it is obvious that progress in the hygienic production, storage and sale of Ice Cream has been achieved and with the end of rationing concentration should perhaps now be levelled at ensuring Ice Cream has a high food value as in its modern form and with high pressure publicity it is becoming more and more an article of food rather than a child's luxury.

## Market

21 visits were paid to the Market. When necessary the co-operation of the Food and Drugs Authority was sought to take samples of food being sold, for chemical examination.

## Other Foods

It will be seen from the details of inspections on page <sup>19</sup>30 that visits were made to every type of food premises.

The following table gives the types and numbers of food premises and trades in the district :—

Catering .....	36	*Hospital Kitchens .....	3
School Canteens .....	3	*Residential Homes .....	2
School Canteens (Consumption only) ...	4	Market Food Traders (average) .....	12
Bakeries .....	10	Ice Cream Manufacturers	5
Grocers .....	34	*Clubs .....	4
Confectioners-Retail ...	24	Food Hawkers .....	8
„ -Manufacturing	1	Food Hawkers premises	3
Butchers .....	7	Milk Dealers (including Producer-Retailer) ...	16
Pork Butchers and prepared foods .....	2	Dairies .....	3
Food Preparation Rooms —other than at retail shops .....	1	Premises registered re	
Fish and Chip Shops.....	9	Ice Cream † .....	53
Fish, Greengrocery and Fruit .....	7	Premises registered for manufacture of certain foods under Sec. 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938†	17
Greengrocery and Fruit...	5	Slaughterhouses .....	2
Poultry Dealers .....	5		

†—All included in previous classifications

\* —No power of inspection

The following work was carried out at food premises as a result of notices or requests from the Department :—

Equipment repaired or improved .....	11
Equipment cleansed .....	5
Premises cleansed .....	20
Premises reorganised or reconstructed .....	5
Ventilation improved .....	2
Protection of food improved .....	20
Walls, floors or ceilings repaired .....	5
Keeping of animals in food rooms discontinued .....	3
Notices re hand washing provided .....	6
Hand washing facilities improved .....	2
Infestations by mice dealt with .....	12
Other infestations dealt with .....	3
Unregistered food hawkers detected .....	2
Use of unsatisfactory food rooms discontinued .....	2
Exposure for sale of unsound tinned goods stopped .....	1
Food hawkers name displayed after written notices.....	3

The following samples of food and from utensils were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory :—

Synthetic Cream:—

Samples obtained .....	48
Samples containing no pathogens .....	33
Samples from which staph. aureus isolated .....	7
Samples from which B. Coli isolated .....	8
Tinned meats .....	3
Tinned milk (liquid) .....	2
Tinned milk (powder) .....	3
Specimens for Swab Rinse test .....	5

Food hygiene has been the subject of much publicity in recent years and Local Authorities have given increasing attention to the improvement of standards that existed during and after the war. The line of action taken in Knaresborough has been described in previous Annual Reports. The need for improved and more specific legislation too has been mentioned in previous reports and at the end of the year under review Parliament was considering a new Food and Drugs Bill. It was hoped that many of the unhygienic practices at present not covered by general law and loopholes in existing law would be dealt with and a higher standard of hygiene made legally necessary in all food premises, especially those where the more susceptible foods are handled. The first draft of suggested regulations certainly covered these points but were perhaps somewhat too drastic and at the time of writing have been revised. It is hoped that in their final form the Regulations will be reasonable and practical but sufficiently strong to ensure further progress in those fields not covered or inadequately covered by existing law. The present draft appears disappointingly weak compared with the original.

### **Food Hawking**

Under the provisions of Section 76, West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act 1951, 8 food hawkers and 3 food hawkers' premises are registered. The eight food hawkers traded as follows :—Ice Cream, 3; Greengrocery and/or fish, 4; and mobile canteen, 1.

### Unsound Food

652 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 1953 :—

Milk—Genuine	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Adulterated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Foods—Genuine			...	...	...	...	8
Adulterated			...	...	...	...	—
Drugs—Genuine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Adulterated			...	...	...	...	—
Cautions	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	—





