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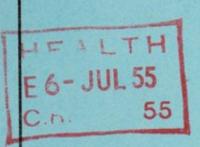
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KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

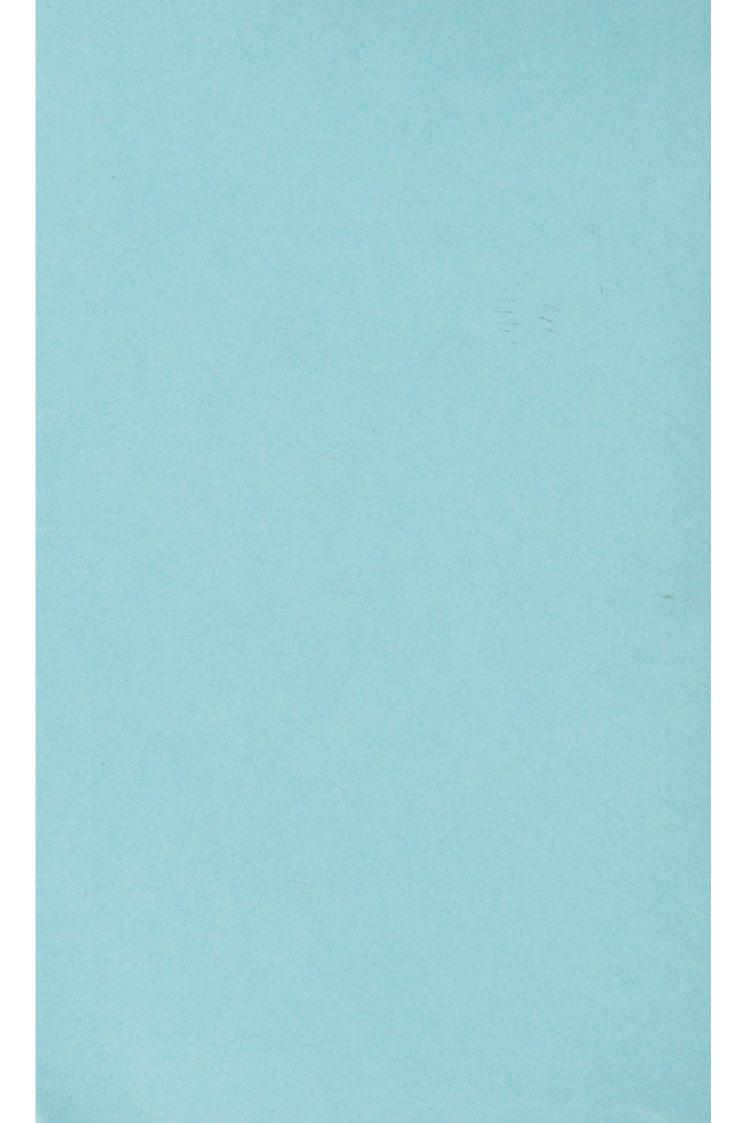
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1954

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 Urban District Council

1954

Chairman of the Council: Councillor C. COOPER, J.P.

Vice Chairman :

Councillor J. O. LOVE

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Councillor R. R. ALLEN

Councillor A. W. HADDON

P. BROADBELT • • A. R. BROADBELT 11 H. CORPS ,, E. H. DEANE .. A. J. DYER ..

W. EMMETT

..

H. HILL G. A. HOLCH, J.P. G. HUGHES .. E. JACKSON, D.C.M. ,, ,, Lt.-Col. B. C. WILKINSON

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 1954

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 submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report for the year 1954.

As will be seen from the report there was very little infectious disease in the district during the year apart from an extensive outbreak of virus infection, the symptoms of which did not suggest influenza or any well-known illness. This outbreak occurred mainly amongst school children and appeared to be spread from child to child by droplet infection; it was followed at a later date by some typical cases of influenza B which affected both adults and children.

It was gratifying that there were no cases of poliomyelitis or food poisoning during the year.

Increasing calls are being made on the home help service. With the help of this service and that of the home nurses it is often possible to care for the elderly and infirm in their own homes and thus save the community much expense, since treatment in hospital beds or 'Part III' accommodation provided by the welfare service is far more costly than domiciliary treatment. Wherever possible these elderly patients are far happier receiving treatment in their own homes and to retain them in their own environment is often a life prolonging measure.

It is perhaps not always realised that a health visitor is a fully qualified state registered nurse who in addition has been trained in midwifery and has also received a course and passed an examination in medico-social work. Mrs. Galbraith, the Knaresborough health visitor, covers a very wide field, her work at the Child Welfare Clinic and also amongst the elderly is well known. But probably the most important part of her work is the guidance and help that she is qualified to give to families in their homes; by her training and knowledge she is able to give information of the various medical and health services that may assist the family, and at times she acts as a liaison officer between the family, the public health service, the hospital and the general practitioner.

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

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. D. PAYNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1955.

General Statistics, 1954

Area (acres) 2,488
Population (mid-summer, 1954, estimated by the
Registrar General) 8,220
Number of Inhabited Houses 2,694
Rateable Value £59,947
Sum represented by a Penny Rate £228 BIRTHS—
Live Births : Males Females Total
$\begin{array}{c c} \text{Legitimate, 70} \\ \text{Illegitimate, 5} \end{array} \end{array} 75 \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Legitimate, 60} \\ \text{Illegitimate,} \end{array} \Biggr\} 60 \qquad 135$
Crude Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the
estimated population) 16.4
*Adjusted Birth Rate 15.3
Still Births : Males Females Total
$\begin{array}{c c} \text{Legitimate, } 1 \\ \text{Illegitimate, } \end{array} \right\} 1 \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Legitimate, } - \\ \text{Illegitimate, } - \end{array} \right\} - 1 \\ \end{array}$
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 7.4 DEATHS—
Number of Deaths-Males 50, Females 55 105
Crude Death Rate 12.8
*Adjusted Death Rate 10.9
Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion 0.0
Deaths of Infants under one year of age : Total
Males Females
Legitimate34Legitimate48Illegitimate14Illegitimate48
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :
All Infants per 1,000 live births 59.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 53.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 200.0
Rate (per 1,000
population)
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 20.2Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases0.0
Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases 0.0 Deaths from Infective and Parasitic Diseases, (excluding
Tuberculosis) 0.0
Deaths from Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 15 1.8
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases. 43 5.2
Deaths from Cancer 17 2.1
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases 12 1.5

*Adjusted by Area Comparability factors (Births 0.93, Deaths 0.85), 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 at the end of June, 1954, was estimated by the Registrar General to be 8,220, an increase of 38 over the estimated population for the previous year.

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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, providing special attraction for the day visitor.

During the summer months, catering forms one of the principal trades in the town. 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.

3. Births.

(a) Live Births :

The number of live births registered in Knaresborough during the year was 38, 16 males and 22 females, but the corrected figure supplied by the Registrar General which takes into account inward and outward transfers was 135, 75 males and 60 females.

The birth rate, when adjusted by the area comparability factor as given by the Registrar General was 15.3 per thousand of the population which was 0.1 more than the rate for England and Wales. (15.2)

There were 5 illegitimate births, all males, representing 3.7 per cent of the live births.

(b) Still Births :

After adjustment for inward and outward transfers, there was 1 still birth, a male, during the year. This gave a rate of 7.4 per thousand live and still births, compared with 23.4 the rate for England and Wales.

4. Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 248, 124 males and 124 females, but the number of deaths of residents corrected for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General was 105, 50 males and 55 females. The crude death rate was 12.8 per thousand, but when adjusted in accordance with the comparability factor the rate was reduced to 10.9 which was 0.4 less than the rate for England and Wales (11.3).

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

5. Infant Mortality.

155

During the year 8 resident infants, 4 males and 4 females, died before reaching their first birthday. The infant mortality rate was 59.3 per thousand live births compared with the rate of 25.5 for England and Wales.

Causes of	Death	in	Knaresborough	Urban	District,	1954
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		1954		
	Causes of Death	Male	Female	
	All Causes	50	55	
I	Tuberculosis, respiratory		2	-
2	Tuberculosis, otherSyphilitic diseaseDiphtheriaWhooping CoughMeningococcal infections		-	-
3	Syphilitic disease		-	-
4	Diphtheria			
5	Whooping Cough			-
6	Meningococcal infections		-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis		-	-
8	Measles		-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases		-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach		-2	-
II	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus		2	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast		-	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus		9	5
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neopla		9	5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia		-	-
16	Diabetes		1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system		10	5 6 1
18	Coronary disease, angina		11	6
19	Hypertension with heart disease		1	
20	Other heart diseases		5	19
21	Other circulatory diseases			
22	Influenza		-	-
23	Pneumonia		4 . 2	
24	Bronchitis		2	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system		-	1 1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		-	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis		-	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate		-	
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion			-
31	Congenital malformations		-	1 5
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		3	5
33	Motor vehicle accidents		-	-
34	All other accidents			1
35			-	1
36	Homicide and operations of war		-	1
		Total	1	05

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. D. J. H. Payne is the bacteriologist in charge of this laboratory, and their is the closest co-operation between the laboratory 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. The control of infectious disease is a matter of team work between the Public Health Department, the Medical Practitioner and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

(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 5 ambulances, 4 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 :-

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(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 at Fysche Hall, Iles Lane, on Monday and Thursday mornings, attendances during the year numbered 1,030. An Ophthalmic Clinic is held on certain Friday mornings.

In September 1954 a new Dental Clinic was opened in Chain Lane. Knaresborough, Mr. Buzza being the part-time dentist at this clinic. During the four months the clinic was open 230 school children received treatment at this clinic. Mr. Buzza also inspects the dental condition of the children attending the schools in Knaresborough.

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

Cardiac.

Ear, Nose and Throat. Orthopaedic. Orthoptic. Speech Therapy. Sunlight. The Orthoptic Clinic was started in 1953 and is greatly appreciated. This clinic deals with children who are suffering from squint, eye exercises are given to help overcome this condition.

Children from Knaresborough are issued with travel vouchers, when necessary, for attendance at these clinics.

(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. At the end of the year there were 4 children resident in Knaresborough who were educationally sub-normal, of whom 2 were attending special schools for this purpose.

Children who are ineducable are reported to the Mental Deficiency Committee of the West Riding County Council. 7 children were under supervision and were 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 were also attending residential special schools.

(d) Routine School Medical Examinations.

Children attending the schools in Knaresborough are periodically medically examined. There are four routine examinations undertaken during the period the child attends school. In addition, children who are found to be delicate or to have some defect at a previous routine examination are re-inspected when the doctor visits the school, and at any time the parents or teachers may request a special inspection of a school child. 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.

645 routine school medical examinations were carried out during the year. In addition 117 special inspections and 99 reinspections were also carried out.

(e) Examinations of Employees.

School children are medically examined for fitness for parttime employment as errand boys, shop assistants, etc. 10 children, all boys, were medically examined during 1954 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.

137 births, including 1 still birth were notified in respect of Knaresborough residents during the year. Of these, 67 births took place in the maternity block of the Harrogate General Hospital, 29 in Carlton Lodge Maternity Home and 1 in Leeds Maternity Hospital. The remaining 40 births, including 1 still birth, took place in the patients' own homes under the care of the domiciliary midwives.

(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 10 part-time home helps were employed in Knaresborough. The total number of hours worked during the year was 11,560 an increase of 2,296 hours compared with 1953.

Assistance was given to 65 cases, of these, 14 were due to illness in the home, excluding illness of aged persons, and 33 related to illness or infirmity of the aged. In 3 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 15 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 new Dental Clinic which opened in September at Chain Lane, Knaresborough treats mainly school children but is also available for the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years. During the year 3 expectant mothers attended for dental examination, of whom 2 received treatment at this clinic. The days and times these clinics are held are set out in tabular form on page 15.

(j) Mental Health Service.

Group Training was continued during the year, two 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.

(k) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

The distribution of welfare foods was transferred from the Ministry of Food to the local health authority at the end of June 1954.

The welfare foods distributed are National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamins A and D tablets.

The distribution centre in Knaresborough is at the Clinic, Iles Lane, which is open for distribution all day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and on Saturday mornings.

Since this distribution centre opened 4,046 tins of National Dried Milk, 4,484 bottles of Orange Juice, 1,075 bottles of Cod Liver Oil and 210 packets of Vitamin Tablets, have been issued.

4. Registration of Nursing Homes.

Abbey Garth, 28 Abbey Road, Knaresborough, was registered in November as a Nursing Home for the reception of a maximum of 5 medical cases. West Riding County Council Clinics held at Knaresborough.

* 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 18.

1. Scarlet Fever.

4 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. 3 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 1 was isolated at home.

2. Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred in the district during 1954.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

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

152 immunisations were carried out during the year. In addition 234 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.

5 cases of whooping cough were notified in 1954 as compared with 38 cases in 1953.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The number of whooping cough immunisations carried out during 1954 was 3.

5. Measles.

49 cases of measles were notified during 1954 as compared with 105 in 1953. There were no deaths from this disease.

6. Pneumonia.

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

7. Sonne Dysentery.

3 cases of sonne dysentery were notified, 2 being young children in the same family, the other case being in an adult who had no contact with the two children notified. 1 of these children was admitted to hospital, the other two cases were treated at home. All made rapid recoveries.

8. Puerperal Pyrexia.

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year.

9. Food Poisoning.

No case of food poisoning occurred in 1954.

10. Smallpox.

No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

Smallpox Vaccination.

During the year 60 primary vaccinations and 18 revaccinations were carried out for residents of Knaresborough.

11. Erysipelas.

No case of erysipelas was notified during 1954.

12. Tuberculosis.

8 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 5 males and 3 females, and 1 case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, a female, were notified during the year. 11 patients were admitted to sanatoria, 4 patients removed from the area and 1 case recovered. There were 2 deaths from this disease during 1954.

Mass Radiography.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not undertake a survey in Knaresborough during 1954.

13. Virus Infection.

In September an epidemic started at Castle Boys' School, Knaresborough, spreading to all the Council schools in the town. Approximately 500 school children were effected out of a total school population of 1,685.

The main symptoms were headache, raised temperature, neusea and abdominal pain. In some cases the nausea was followed by vomiting. About ten per cent of the cases had servere nose bleeding. The illness lasted approximately a week and was very largely confined to children.

Specimens were sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory in London and proved negative for influenza A and B. Age Groups of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases for the year 1954.

No. of Cases Notified Ages—Years	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Coŭgh	Dysentery
Under 1	_	-	1	_	-
1—2	-		7	2	1
3—4	2	-	12	2	1
5—9	2	-	28	1	
10—14		10-3		-	_
15—24	-	1	-		-
25 and over	-	6	1	-	1
Total notified	4	7	49	5	3
No of cases admitted to Hospital	3		2		1
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 case was dealt with under this section during 1954.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Knaresborough Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Eighth Annual Report on the Sanitary and Cleansing Services for 1954.

The year under review has given us important new Housing legislation and considerable national publicity regarding the recommencement of Slum Clearance and the repair and improvement of sound old property. The appropriate section of this report shows that once again very little interest was shown locally in Improvement Grants.

Food Hygiene is still not all that one would desire in many instances and the new Regulations and other measures provided for in the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, placed on the Statute Book during the year, are awaited with interest.

In the field of Sanitation, sewering of the added areas progressed further during the year and the results of this work should become apparent in 1955.

The two other main essentials of a healthy environment, pure water and clean air, both of which cause worry and expense to many local authorites, are fortunately not problems in Knaresborough.

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, 1955.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Total number of inspections and visits made 2	783
	262
Number of nuisances and contraventions in hand at $31/12/53$.	43
Number of nuisances abated and contraventions remedied	
during 1954	279
Number of nuisances and contraventions outstanding at	
31/12/54	26
	262
Formal Notices served	15
	17

Details of Inspections

Public Health Acts

Obstructed drains and sewers				57
Drainage and sewer inspections				41
Drains tested :—Smoke test				2
Water test				-
Colour test				28
General nuisances and sanitary defects				92
Cleanliness of houses				3
Keeping of Animals				11
Insect and other infestation (except ro	dents)			6
Rivers, streams and ditches—pollution				5
Smoke observations and smoke nuisance	s			7
Infectious diseases enquiries				8
Disinfections				4
Disinfestations				4
Water supply				28
Water samples—Bacteriological				20
Moveable dwellings				16
Public Cleansing Service-				
Refuse Collection				87
Refuse Disposal				49
Salvage				39
Heating Appliances and Fireguards Act				7
Noise nuisances				
Cesspool drainage and unsewered premi	ses			104
Re-inspections, Public Health Act				193
Hotels and places of entertainment-san	nitary o	onven	iences	23
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949)			272

Factories Act, 1937—						
Part 1						44
Means of escape in case	of fire					14
Re Outworkers						2
Shops Act, 1950						17
Rag Flock and other Filling	Materi	als Ad	et, 195	1		2
Rag Flock and other Filling			and the second se		les	
Pet Animals Act, 1951						2
Hairdressers and Barbers						14
Housing Acts—						
Housing Survey						690
Inspections—Housing Ac	t, 1949,	Impre	oveme	nt Gran	nts	35
Inspections—Housing Co						9
Re-inspections and mise	cellaneo	us vis	its			46
Overcrowding						5
Requisitioned Property						5
Housing Repairs and R				Certs.	of	
Disrepair						9
Food and Drugs-						
Fried Fish Shops						11
Butchers' Shops						23
Bakehouses						12
Grocery Shops and Gen	eral Sto	ores				34
Greengrocers, Fishmong			ealers			16
Hotel, Cafe and Canteer		-				59
rood preparing premises	5					10
Food preparing premises Confectionery Shops						10 7
Confectionery Shops						
Confectionery Shops Ice Cream premises and						7
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Summary of work carried out to abate Nuisances, 1954

Defective eavesgutters and downspouts renewed	or
repaired	11
Defective roofs repaired	16
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	3
Obstructed or defective drains cleared, repaired or	relaid 39
Cleanliness of houses improved	4
Accumulations of refuse removed	7
Defective W.C.'s repaired	15
Miscellaneous internal defects repaired	10
Defective paths or yards relaid	3
New dustbins provided in lieu of dilapidated bins	119
External house walls rendered or pointed to	abate
dampness	2
Water supply improved or repaired	1
Dangerous walls and buildings demolished or repair	
Overflowing cesspools cleansed	
Defective fireplaces and smoky chimneys repaired	
Watercourses cleaned out	
Hotels-Sanitary accommodation rebuilt or improve	ed 1
Smoke nuisances abated	3
Unsatisfactory private tip abolished	
Nuisance from flooding abated	
Water closets cleansed	
Defective sink and bath waste pipes renewed or re-	
Works to remedy dampness carried out	
Access for removal of house refuse improved	
Unsatisfactory cesspools connected to sewer	
	2
Nuisance caused by defective electrical fitting abat	
Infestation by insects dealt with	
Conversions from pail closet to water closet	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 following are the details of 20 water samples examined during the year :---

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Probable No. of bacilli per 100ml. days at 37°	Probable No. of faecal Coli		
Public Supply	19	One Sample Eighteen Samples	····	1 0	1 Spl.—1 18 Spl.—0
Private Supplies	1	One Sample		5	none

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

These latter 3 houses became affected by a serious water shortage during the year when their well dried up. Water was supplied by the owners daily in containers but this was not considered a sufficient supply by the Council and statutory action was taken under the provisions of the Housing Acts—action which was still in progress at the year end.

Complaints were received of insufficient water in Wetherby Road area (beyond Grimbald Bridge) and the Council decided to assist the owners and occupiers by extending the main supply along Wetherby Road to the Sewerage Works gate, thus cutting out a long length of small bore pipe. The work was not commenced in 1954.

Public Cleansing

A. Collection.

The weekly collection of house and trade refuse throughout the Urban District was maintained during 1954, approximately 2,400 tons of refuse being collected from over 3,000 bins.

119 informal notices were served to renew defective dustbins and 119 dustbins were provided during 1954 as a result of notices.

In no instance was it necessary to serve a statutory notice.

During the past 18 months the volume of refuse collected has increased considerably from approximately 154 cubic yards per week in 1947 to 234 cubic yards during the year under review. This is due to a return to normal conditions after 14 years of rationing, to the increase in larger type houses, the provision generally of bins for every house and the large increase in modern type grates in which much less refuse is being burnt by the householder. The gradual eradication of the old Yorkshire ranges has reduced the cinder content of refuse considerably this being largely replaced by fine ash. The weight has not increased in proportion to the increase in bulk. Modern prepacking of many household goods, and the modern preference for tinned foods has had its effect on refuse. All this has resulted in bins been fuller more quickly and has increased the difficulties of disposal. Modern planning has also increased the difficulties of services such as refuse collection, and new houses, whether they be municipal or private, are now provided with long drives and often grass verges to increase the distance walked (four times) to each house. The problem is marked even in comparison with prewar estates such as Jubilee, where refuse collection is particularly easy, and more so in comparison with older areas of the town with several bins within a few yards of each other. As a public health officer I welcome these environmental improvements; as an officer responsible for refuse collection the increased cost of servicing the increased proportion of new houses together with increasing bulk of refuse is an ever present worry.

B. Disposal.

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

During the year, at the request of the owners, Beech Grove Quarry was filled in and what had been a source of nuisance for some years was transformed into a useful area of ground. Bearing in mind the increasing paper content of refuse and the increasing numbers of all-night burning fires which are cleaned out while still hot we were fortunate in only having two tip fires, one at Beech Grove and one at Wetherby Road. The former was easily put out but the latter was more deep-seated and was eventually dealt with by bulldozing away the whole of the tip face.

C. Salvage.

Due to the price obtaining for waste paper very little waste paper salvage was carried out during the year. Salvage of textiles, scrap metals, bottles and jars continued but due to the increased pressure of work on the tip attendant it was not possible to sort all refuse arriving at the tip.

D. The cost of the Public Cleansing Service during the year ended 31st March, 1955, was :--

Refuse Collection Refuse Disposal	 		£ 3065 £ 377
Intrase Disposal	 		£ 3442
Revenue	 	£169	
Salvage Profit	 	£146	
			315
Nett Cost of Service	 		£3127

The cost of emptying each bin is, therefore, approximately 5d. per week or 21/- per year.

Sewers and Drains

During the year a start was made on sewering Mossop's Estate area.

Serious nuisance arose from overflowing cesspools in Crag Top and the Council decided to sewer this area along with part of Wetherby Road, but a start had not been made at the end of the year.

Part of York Road, Wetherby Road (beyond Grimbald Bridge), York Lane and Thistle Hill (beyond the hospital) will then be the only localities in the district not sewered.

26 cesspools were emptied, on payment, by Wetherby R.D.C's Cesspool Emptier. Wetherby Council are very co-operative in offering this sevice which has considerably improved the system of emptying cesspools in the district and reduced the cost to occupiers.

Public Conveniences

The town is now well served with public conveniences mostly of modern construction. The accommodation is as follows :—

Washing	g facilities	Gentlemen	Ladies
Castle Yard	Yes	5 Stalls 3 W.Cs.	4 W.Cs.
Conyngham Hall Gates	Yes	6 Stalls 3 W.Cs.	6 W.Cs.
High Street	No 1-	-14' Stall 2 W.Cs.	4 W.Cs.
High Street Raw Gap entrance	-	3 Stalls	-
Waterside	No	6 Stalls 2 W.Cs.	4 W.Cs.
Low Bridge	No 1-	-14' Stall 2 W.Cs.	4 W.Cs.
Fysche Hall Children's	No	3 Stalls 2 W.Cs.	3 W.Cs.

Visitors appear to find some difficulty locating a convenience in the town centre but when the Fisher Street conveniences are erected this difficulty will not arise and they should provide an amenity to the large crowds waiting for buses home during the summer weekends.

The Surveyor's Department are responsible for the Public Conveniences in the district.

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. Most Licensed' premises have now got good internal sanitary conveniences for both sexes, and all the most unsatisfactory conveniences have been abolished in the last few years.

Factories

There are 49 factories on the Register consisting of :--

(a) Factories without power-	_		
Baking	1	Hand knitwear	1
Starshell parachutes	1	Upholstery and cabinet	
		making	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	1	Light engineering	1
Joinery and wheelright		Printing	2
and plumbing	4	Raincoat manufacture	1
Manufactured meat		Shirt manufacture	1
foods	1	Sports clothes	1
Motor vehicle repairs	8	Timber sawing	2
Pumping station (Gas		Skin curing	1
Works)	1	Sausage making	1
Plastic goods	1		
Total		41	

(c) Other Premises :--

Building	operations	 4
 4		

Forty-four inspections were made of the above factories. 9 contraventions were found and 12 remedied during the year.

Total

There are no large factories in the area only 4 having over 20 employees and none having over 50. Many employ only 2 or 3 persons.

Outworkers.

There were 27 names on the August lists of outworkers required by Sec. 110 of the Factories Act, including 4 residing in the Urban District. In two instances there was default in sending lists to the Council.

Knackers Yard

There is one Knackers Yard in the area and 4 visits of inspection were made during the year. The Knackers Yard is licensed for the slaughter of horses as is required by the new legislation that came into force 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. Two visits were made to registered premises during the year, but no samples of filling material were taken.

Pet Shops

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, is administered by the department. Two visits were made under the provisions of the Act. Two premises were licensed as Pet Shops and both were satisfactory, being only engaged in the trade concerned to a small degree.

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. Six 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. Court proceedings were taken by the Council in one instance for failure to keep proper records. The proceedings were successful.

The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952

Under the provisions of this Act and Regulations made thereunder seven visits were made to electrical and second hand dealers after the Act had come fully into force in October. Two appliances that failed to comply with the requirements of the appropriate regulations were detected and the shopkeepers concerned withdrew them from sale after being acquainted with the requirements of the law.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

In 8 instances investigations were made after cases of certain infectious diseases, and disinfection of houses and fomites carried out where necessary. The investigations were all 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. The Council have made Bye-laws relating to cleanliness in hairdressers and barbers shops and 14 visits of inspection were made during the year. In two instances contraventions were found and remedied.

Swimming Baths or Pools

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

Infestation and Disinfestation

Only 4 houses were disinfested during the year—1 for flies, 2 for wasps and 1 for fleas. 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 to the above mentioned cases advice was given in several more cases.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades on the Register.

Shops

17 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.

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.

292 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector during 1954 in connection with rodent infestation, surveys, or treatments. The following table shows the details of rodent infestations of land which came to the Department's notice or were discovered by inspection during the year ended 31st March, 1955, 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 & other	Total
Properties	10	2510	84	551	3155
Properties inspected : As a result of	- gd g				-
Notification by occupier	. 1	26		13	40
Survey or	The Asset	1. 2 ¹⁰	Carrier Le		
Otherwise	8	105	30	214	357
Total	9	131	30	227	397
Infestations found :					
Rats—Major —Minor	$\frac{2}{1}$	1 24	22	18	5 45
Mice—Major —Minor	-	2 9		2 1	4 10
Control measure	s :—				
Informal Notices Sec. (4)					
(a) Treatment (b) Works		36 8	4	21 9	61 17
Formal Notices Treatments carried out by	-	-		-	-
(a) Local	3	36			39
(b) Occupiers	3	30	4	21	39 25

"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.

Keeping of Animals

Improvement is desired in the way pigs and poultry are kept in many gardens, allotments and smallholdings. Often a minimum of time, money and suitable material is expended on housing the stock, and the cleanliness and maintenance of the housing of the animals is neglected. Such buildings soon become shacks and breeding grounds for flies and rodents. The falling off in pig keeping in the last year improved the position somewhat but often the buildings are retained for poultry keeping or other purposes.

Moveable Dwellings

At the end of the year there were five licensed sites for moveable dwellings. One licence to station and use a moveable dwelling was also in operation.

16 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 following are the sites licensed and the maximum number of dwellings for which licences have been granted :—

Nidderdale Camping Site, York	Road	28	dwellings
Lorrisholme Camping Site, York	Road	45	,,
Homestead Camping Site, York	Road	30	"
Lido Camping Site, Wetherby	Road	200	"
Dropping Well Farm Camping	g Site	30	,,

Smoke Abatement

During 1954, 4 timed observations were taken of industrial chimneys in the district. In two instances smoke was emitted in such quantity as to constitute nuisances, and the occupiers were notified. There are few industrial chimneys in the district and of these only four serve large industrial type furnaces.

Housing

New Legislation.

During the year the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 became law and in addition to requiring details of Local Authorities Slum Clearance Proposals, it made alterations to existing law relating to unfit houses and provided for increased rents in certain cases. This latter provision is principally a concern of Landlord and Tenant, but the Local Authority have responsibilities with respect to Certificates of Disrepair.

Slum Clearance and Unfit Houses.

The following are details from the return submitted in accordance with Sec. 1, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

(a) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Sec. 9 of the Act and suitable for action under Section 11 or 25, Housing Act, 1936. 103

(b) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all houses in (a). 5 years

(c) Number of houses in (a) to be included in clearance areas and to be demolished in first five years. 32

(d) Number of houses to be demolished as a result of action under Sec. 11, Housing Act, 1936 in first five years. 71

These figures were contained in a comphrensive report submitted to the Council which, in addition to summarising the survey carried out to complete the report, gave a confidential list of properties concerned.

The following details are given in this report as required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations :—

(1) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation. (*) 103

(2) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority. 26

(3) Number of representations or reports made to the Local Authority with a view to

- (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works. None
- (b) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders. 7

(4) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works.

(5) Number of houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices. None

(6) Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made. 5

(7) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings under Sec. 11 (3), Housing Act, 1936 were accepted. None

- (8) Number of houses demolished.
- * Based on survey carried out under Sec. 1, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

None

Demolition Orders were made in respect of Nos. 13, 15, 17 and 19 Church Lane and a Closing Order under the provisions of Sec. 11, Housing Act, 1936 as amended by Sec. 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act,1953 in respect of No. 10 Park Parade.

Housing Act, 1949-Improvement Grants.

Two formal 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 seven formal applications have been received in four years, and in only three cases has it been possible to approve the applications. There was a little more interest shown in the scheme after the coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 but by the end of the year interest seemed to have once again waned. What interest there is in the Grants is that shown by owner-occupiers, and so far as rented property is concerned practically no interest, in the form of applications or enquiries, has been aroused.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954-Certificates of Disrepair.

Under the provisions of the above Act 3 applications for Oertificates of Disrepair were received during the year and in each case Certificates were granted. No applications for revocation of Certificates were received.

Housing Act, 1949, Section 4-Loans for Repair.

During the year the Council indicated their willingness to make loans in approved cases for repairs to render old houses fit. No applications for loans were, however, received during the year.

New Houses.

26 houses were completed by the Council on Meadowside and Manor Estates and 35 dwellings were built or provided by private enterprise. The Council now own 550 houses of which 4 have 5 bedrooms; 21, 4 bedrooms; 380, 3 bedrooms; 105, 2 bedrooms; 40 bungalows and flats and there are also 8 miscellaneous house properties.

At the end of 1954 there were 7 requisitioned houses.

Council House Applications.

The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list in September was 298 consisting of :—

- 72 without houses
 - 71 with houses
 - 107 living out of Knaresborough
 - 48 applicants for Bungalows and Flats

Land Searches

In 171 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	Methyle	ne Blue	Phosphatase Test		
Type of Milk	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
Pasteurised	 _	-		-	
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	6	_	6	-190	
Tuberculin Tested	 27	4	-	_	
Ordinary	 -	2		-	
Total	 33	6	6		

Fourteen samples of milk were submitted for biological examination, nine were found to be negative to T.B. and the other five were negative to B. Abortus.

No. of Registered Disti	ributors				14
No. of Registered Dair	ies				3
No. of Dealers Licence	es—Tuber	culin-	Tested	Milk	7
	-Paste	urised	milk		7
No. of Supplementary					
Licences	-Tuber	rculin-	Tested	Milk	6
	-Paste	urised	milk		7
	-Steril	ised n	nilk		3

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

Meat.

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

18 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.

Slaughterhouses.

From July 1st, 1954 rationing of meat became a thing of the past and private slaughterhouses could again be used. After meetings with the butchers who had slaughtered locally before the war it was agreed that the slaughtering needs of the district could be met in the one slaughterhouse already licensed. The licence for the other slaughterhouse which was in need of considerable repair and in the town centre near to houses lapsed. In practice it does appear that one slaughterhouse is quite adequate for the district.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-54.

The number of slaughtermen's Licences in force during the year was 15.

Meat Inspection.

From July 1st to the end of the year 197 visits were made to the slaughterhouse to inspect meat.

The following are details of animals slaughtered and inspected during the six months ended 31st December, 1954 :---

Gattle other	Cows	Calves	Sheep and	Pigs	Total
than cows 276	16	82	Lambs 1012	325	1711
Whole ca	arcases con	demned	and surrendere	d :—	

Calves 2; Cows 1; Pigs 2.

Carcases some part or organ of which condemned and surrendered :---

	Cattle other than cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Tuberculosis	21		_		16	37
Other causes	20	7	2	13	5	47

Details of meat found unfit and surrendered :--

Tuberculosis	 521 lbs.	Pneumonia	23 lbs.
Fever	 90 lbs.	Bruising	91 lbs.
Cirrhosis	 49 lbs.	Tetanus	200 lbs.
Abscesses	 101 lbs.	Swine Erysipelas	140 lbs.
Mastitis	 44 lbs.	Parasitic Infestation	62 lbs.
Oedema	 551 lbs.	Contamination	5 lbs.
Nephritis	 6 lbs.		

By far the major part of the condemned meat was from animals slaughtered as casualties.

Tota1

... 1883 lbs.

Ice Cream.

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

57 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.

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

32 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :---

Grade	1	 	 24	samples
Grade	2	 	 5	samples
Grade	3	 	 2	samples
Grade	4	 	 1	sample

The Grade 4 sample was from a hawker coming into the district from outside and the Local Authority from whence he came investigated the matter thoroughly as one of their samples taken from the same person had given a similar result. 5 out of the 7 Grade 2 and 3 samples results were from samples from one source and from one mix, and with succeeding batches Grade 1 results were again obtained.

Market

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

The food sold in the market is for the most part, greengrocery, fish and biscuits.

It was necessary early in the year to warn a grocery firm who visited the market regarding the exposure for sale of blown goods after which the firm concerned paid no further visits to the Market.

Other Foods.

It will be seen from the details of inspections on page 21 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	34	*Hospital Kitchens	3
School Canteens	3	*Residential Homes	3
School Canteens (Consumption only)	4	Market Food Traders (average)	12
Bakeries	10	Ice Cream Manufacturers	5
Grocer and General	35	*Clubs	4
Confectioners-Retail	25	Food Hawkers	7
" -Manufacturing	1	Food Hawkers premises	2
Butchers	8	Milk Dealers (including	
Pork Butchers and		Producer-Retailer)	14
prepared foods	2	Dairies	3
Food Preparation Rooms —other than at retail		Premises registered re	Ū
shops ,	1	Ice Cream †	53
Fish and Chip Shops	9	Premises registered for	
Fish, Greengrocery and Fruit	8	manufacture of certain foods under Sec. 14,	
	7	Food & Drugs Act, 1938†	17
Greengrocery and Fruit Poultry Dealers	5	Slaughterhouses	1

+—All included in previous classifications
* —No power of inspection

The following contraventions were noticed in food premises during routine visits of inspection and appropriate action taken :

Equipment defective	7
Equipment not clean	3
Food rooms not clean or satisfactorily decorated	25
Protection of food unsatisfactory	9
Walls, floors or ceilings requiring repair	5
Keeping of animals in food rooms in unsatisfactory manner	3
Notices re hand washing not provided	3
Unsatisfactory facilities for hand washing	2
Infestations by mice detected	7
Infestations by rats detected	3
Unsatisfactory food hawkers van	1
Exposure for sale of unsound tinned goods stopped	1
Unregistered food premises detected	2
Smoking while handling food	2

Food Hawking.

Under the provisions of Section 76, West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, 7 food hawkers and 2 food hawkers' premises are registered. The eight food hawkers traded as follows: — Ice Cream, 3; Greengrocery and/or fish, 3; and mobile canteen, 1. Apart from Ice Cream the amount of hawking of food carried on in the district is very little.

Unsound Food (other than fresh meat).

536 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 1954 :---

Milk—Genuine	 	 	 19
Adulterated	 	 	
Other Foods-Genuine		 	 2
Adulterated		 	 -
Drugs—Genuine	 	 	 2
Adulterated		 	
Cautions	 	 	
Prosecutions	 	 	

40



