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ANNUAL
REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health,

Sanitary Inspector

and Engineer and Surveyor

for the

YEARS 1946-1947.





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Luton Rural District Council.

ANNUAL
REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health,

Sanitary Inspector

and Engineer and Surveyor

for the

YEARS 1946-1947.

To the Luton Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Reports, 1946-1947.

The Chairman & Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Reports on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the years 1946 and 1947.

The District was free from serious epidemics of Infectious Diseases during the two years and during the outbreak of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis during 1947 only 5 cases were diagnosed. Unfortunately there were 3 deaths from the disease.

It will be noted that the population remains very much the same, but that the Birth rate is nearly double the Death rate in both years.

I wish to express to the Clerk to the Council and to the Sanitary Inspector my grateful thanks for the help they have always given me in my work.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Luton.

Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

1. Vital Statistics.

Area of district, 48,590 acres.

Population as estimated by Registrar-General	...	...	...	1946	17,630
				1947	18,110
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	...	...	...	1946	5,289
				1947	5,361
Rateable value as at 1st April	...	...	...	1946	£83,125
				1947	£81,409
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	1946	£332
				1947	£331
Number of new houses erected:					
(a) Council:	...	...	...	1946	4
				1947	39
(b) Private enterprise:	...	...	...	1946	22
				1947	33

Extracts from vital statistics for the years.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the years 1946 and 1947 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

	1946			1947		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Live Births:	340	186	154	364	190	174
Legitimate	313	172	141	347	179	168
Illegitimate	27	14	13	17	11	6
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	19.3			20.1		

	1946			1947		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Still Births:						
Legitimate	6	4	2	10	7	3
Illegitimate	1	1	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	20.2			26.7		

	1946			1947		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Deaths:	178	104	74	202	103	99
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	10.2			11.2		

There was one death from maternal causes in 1946 and one in 1947.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

	1946	1947
Total	7	10
Rate per 1,000 live births	20.6	27.5
Legitimate	6	9
Illegitimate	1	1
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	19.2	25.9
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	37.0	58.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)...	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20	32

2. Population.

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General for the last 7 years are as follows:—

1941	19,940
1942	18,190
1943	17,480
1944	17,590
1945	17,250
1946	17,630
1947	18,110

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rates are as follows:—

1941	5.4
1942	6.7
1943	7.3
1944	8.5
1945	6.8
1946	9.1
1947	8.9

3 & 4. Birth and Death Rates.

Year	Population	Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England & Wales	Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate for England & Wales
1941	19,940	330	16.5	14.2	222	11.1	11.5
1942	18,190	332	17.8	15.8	202	11.1	11.6
1943	17,480	319	18.2	16.5	192	10.9	12.1
1944	17,590	353	20.1	17.6	204	11.6	11.6
1945	17,250	293	16.9	16.1	174	10.1	11.4
1946	17,630	340	19.3	19.1	178	10.2	11.5
1947	18,110	364	20.1	20.5	202	11.2	12.0

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1946.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	LUTON RURAL DISTRICT.	ENGLAND AND WALES.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Births:					
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
Live	19.3	19.1‡	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still	0.40	0.53‡	0.67	0.59	0.54
Deaths:					
All causes	10.2	11.5‡	12.7	11.7	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	—	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.45	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	—	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Rates per 1,000 live births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	20.6	43†	46	37	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	—	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2
Notifications:					
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
Typhoid Fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	—	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.70	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42
Whooping Cough	0.62	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria	—	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas	0.11 *	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.96	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
Pneumonia	0.62	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)					
(a) Notifications:					
Puerperal Fever	—	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62 φ9.68
Puerperal Pyrexia					
(b) Maternal Mortality:					
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	—	0.18	0.13	0.06	1.06
Abortion with Sepsis (No. 140)					
Abortion without Sepsis (No. 141)					
Others	2.9	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06
Total	2.9	1.43	1.43	1.43	1.43

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Total population.

φ Including Puerperal Fever.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1947.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	LUTON RURAL DISTRICT.	ENGLAND AND WALES.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	
Births: * Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population						
Live	20.1	20.5‡	23.3	22.2	22.7	
Still	0.55	0.50‡	0.62	0.54	0.49	
Deaths:						
All causes	11.2	12.0‡	13.0	11.9	12.8	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Scarlet Fever	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Whooping Cough	—	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	
Diphtheria	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	
Influenza	0.28	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	
Measles	0.06	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	
Rates per 1,000 live births						
Deaths under 1 year of age	27	41†	47	36	37	
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	—	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population						
Typhoid Fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	
Paratyphoid Fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	
Scarlet Fever	2.32	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	
Whooping Cough	0.06	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	
Diphtheria	0.06	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	
Erysipelas	0.06	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	
Measles	5.19	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	
Pneumonia	0.12	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)						
Puerperal Fever	}	7.16	8.99	6.27	1.21	
Puerperal Pyrexia					‡6.94	
(b) Maternal Mortality:						
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	}	2.68	0.16	0.10	} Not available	
Abortion with Sepsis (No. 140)						
Abortion without Sepsis (No. 141)	}	0.06	0.85	1.17		
Others						
Total		2.68	1.17			

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Total population.

§ Including Puerperal Fever.

6. Infant Mortality.

The following tables show deaths of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

1946 *

	Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total
	0—	1—	2—	3—		1—	3—	6—	9—	
Prematurity and debility from birth	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Intestinal obstruction ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	1	2	—	—	4	2	1	—	—	7

1947

	Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total
	0—	1—	2—	3—		1—	3—	6—	9—	
Prematurity and debility from birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Birth injuries	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital heart disease	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Burns	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Accidental asphyxia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Broncho-pneumonia and Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	6	—	—	—	6	1	—	3	—	10

DEATHS OF RESIDENTS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LUTON DURING THE YEARS 1946 AND 1947.

					1946		1947	
<i>Cause of Death.</i>					<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...			—	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...			8	3	1	4
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...		—	—	1	—
8.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	4	4	2	3
10.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...		—	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buc. Cav., etc.	...	...		1	2	1	3
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...			3	4	5	2
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	...	...		5	5	11	8
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	...	...		8	5	8	11
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	33	22	23	25
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	2	3	1	3
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	5	9	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	—	3	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...		—	—	2	2
24.	Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum	...			—	—	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	...	...		—	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...		3	1	1	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	3	1	—	5
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...			—	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...		—	1	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	...	...	2	1	1	2
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	3	—	1	0
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	—	—	3	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	3	3	4	1
36.	All other Causes	...	...	...	17	12	20	17
TOTALS					104	74	103	99

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1941-1947.

Year	LIVE BIRTHS				STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births	
1941	19,940	330	16.5	7	20.8	222	11.1	7	7	14	42	—	—	—	—	—
1942	18,190	332	17.8	9	27.1	202	11.1	8	7	15	46	—	1	1	3.0	—
1943	17,480	319	18.2	12	36.3	192	10.9	7	5	12	38	—	—	—	—	—
1944	17,590	353	20.1	10	27.5	204	11.6	9	8	17	48	—	1	1	2.8	—
1945	17,250	293	16.9	8	26.6	174	10.1	1	4	5	17	—	—	—	—	—
1946	17,630	340	19.3	7	20.2	178	10.2	4	3	7	21	—	1	1	2.9	—
1947	18,110	364	20.1	10	26.7	202	11.2	6	4	10	27	—	1	1	2.7	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases during the two years does not require any particular note except for:—

Poliomyelitis.

Five cases of this disease were diagnosed during the month of July 1947. They were all males, aged 8, 6, 12, 31 and 3, and lived in the following villages respectively:—Heath and Reach, Tilsworth, Streatley, Studham and Sundon Park. There were 3 deaths from the complaint.

A further case, living at Tebworth, developed the disease while on holiday at Clacton-on-Sea. This case is not included in our statistics.

There was some slight evidence that some of these cases acquired the infection from cases at Leighton Buzzard.

Diphtheria.

It is noteworthy that only one case of diphtheria was diagnosed during the two years. This case had been immunised.

Diphtheria Prophalaxis.

	Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the district.		Total number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.	
	Age at date of final injection.		Total	
	Under 5	5 to 14 years		
1946	201	66	267	143
1947	248	34	282	254

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

1946	Under 1 yr.	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	Total
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	5	13	7	1	2	30
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	2	2	6	—	—	—	11
Measles	—	6	6	4	1	—	—	17
Pneumonia	—	2	—	3	—	1	5	11
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS	2	12	14	26	8	3	9	74

Notified Infectious Diseases (Civilian), continued.

1947						<i>Under</i>								<i>Total</i>
						1 yr.	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-		
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	4	10	16	11	1	—	42	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2	16	18	42	11	3	2	94	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	5	
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS						4	20	30	60	23	7	5	149	

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946 AND 1947.

1946			<i>New cases</i>						<i>Deaths</i>					
<i>Age periods</i>			<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
1 year	...	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
5 years	...	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
10 "	...	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
15 "	...	...	2	1	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
20 "	...	...	2	7	...	—	1	...	—	1	...	—	—	...
25 "	...	...	2	2	...	1	—	...	3	—	...	—	—	...
35 "	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	—	—	...
45 "	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...
55 "	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	1	...	—	—	...
65 and upwards	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	2	—	...	—	—	...
TOTALS			10	11	...	5	2	...	7	4	...	—	—	...

1947														
<i>Age periods</i>			<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
1 year	...	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
5 years	...	...	1	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...
10 "	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
15 "	...	...	—	—	...	1	1	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
20 "	...	...	4	1	...	1	1	...	—	1	...	—	—	...
25 "	...	...	4	2	...	—	—	...	—	4	...	—	—	...
35 "	...	...	2	—	...	—	1	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
45 "	...	...	2	—	...	1	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...
55 "	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
65 and upwards	...	...	2	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
TOTALS			15	3	...	5	3	...	1	5	...	1	—	...

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Reports, 1946-1947.

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY. 1946.

24 samples taken from the Main supplies throughout the District have been Bacteriologically examined and the results have been satisfactory.

The Shallow Well supply to the Council houses at Sharpenhoe is of a doubtful character and the tenants of these houses have been advised to boil all water required for drinking. The extension of the Main Water supply to Sharpenhoe is a matter for urgent attention. This well is being kept under constant observation.

Private Supplies.

9 samples of water from six private sources have been bacteriologically examined. Two of these were found to be satisfactory. In the other instances the houses have been connected to the Council's main or sources of contamination have been removed and check samples have shown a satisfactory improvement.

The exception in these cases is Doolittle Mill Farm, Totternhoe, where the spring water is of a doubtful character. The owner contemplates the installation of suitable filter beds or a chlorination plant.

As a result of informal action 27 houses, where the water supply was inadequate, were connected to the Council's main supply.

WATER SUPPLY. 1947.

34 samples taken from the Main supplies throughout the District have been Bacteriologically examined and the results have indicated a satisfactory standard of purity.

Samples taken from the Well supply to the Council houses at Sharpenhoe have indicated an improvement in the standard of purity but having regard to the history of this supply and the results of examinations carried out during the past few years the provision of a main supply should be expedited.

The water supply at Kingsway, Miletree and Leedon Hall Farms, all of which are near to the West boundary of the District, is inadequate, and the extension of the main is a matter for urgent attention.

Private Supplies.

30 samples from private supplies have been bacteriologically examined during the year and where the results have indicated impurities the owners have been approached to provide a wholesome supply by (i) connecting to the Council's main or (ii) otherwise by carrying out such works as will remove the pollution at the source or before reaching a tap or pump.

- (i) { Chalk Hill Cottage, Houghton Regis.
Building Site, Houghton Regis. (Tew Bros.)
Council Houses, Bradford Road, Toddington.

- (ii) { Picnic Farm, Kensworth.
 Old School House, Hyde.
 "Mekoda," Houghton Regis.
 Oakwell House, Thorn.
 Dane Street Farm, Hyde.
 Red Cow Cottages, Kensworth.
 "Dunedin," Harlington Road, Toddington.

As a result of informal action 34 houses, which were without an adequate supply, were connected to the Council's main supply. Usually this improvement is associated with general Housing improvements and as the building situation improves it will accelerate.

1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The complaints received concerning the condition of ditches throughout the District stresses the urgent need for adequate Drainage and Sewerage schemes. The Council have given whole-hearted support to their officers' recommendations for improving these sanitary circumstances in the District but the restrictions generally obtaining because of the shortage of labour and building materials is likely to hold up any progressive schemes for an indefinite period.

During 1946 it was not possible to obtain labour from any source for ditch cleaning but during the Summer of 1947 men normally employed on cesspool emptying agreed to carry out the work for which the Council paid them an additional 4d. an hour (dirty work bonus). This scheme proved of considerable value and saving, and all the troublesome ditches in the District were cleaned through twice and many others received treatment.

In addition to the land and house drainage ditches in the District those at:—

P.o.W. Camp, Billington.
 Feoffee Farm, Fancott.
 Spurling Motors, Kensworth.
 Millfield Way, Caddington.
 Little Green Lane, Caddington,

have been cleaned or abandoned subsequent to an approved type of drainage system being installed.

Barton and Sundon Sewerage and Drainage.

The inadequacy of the Sewerage Disposal Works here continues to give rise to complaints and in my opinion, the improvement or renewal of these works to meet the demands of the villages satisfactorily, should be given urgent consideration.

1. (iii) PONDS, WATERCOURSES, DITCHES.

The position relating to the cleansing and maintenance of ponds remains unsatisfactory. Responsibility for the condition of a pond rests with the land owner or a Parish Council. The County Council as the Highway Authority has the right to drain the carriageway into ponds and watercourses but have no jurisdiction over them. Such highways are obviously the chief source of pollution and with a staff employed on highway maintenance it would be much more satisfactory to transfer responsibility to the County than to leave an owner or a Parish Council, who employ no staff and effect very little pollution, with the responsibility.

The position regarding ditches fronting private property is no less tenable. The owner is held responsible for cleansing yet the County Council have the right to drain surface water from the carriageway into these ditches. An exception is made in the case of a ditch more than four feet from the hedge.

The Authority using the ditch should certainly be responsible for cleansing and not the owner who rarely has recourse to use such a watercourse.

2. Rivers and Streams. (See I (ii) and I (iii)).

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. (1946 & 1947).

Conversions of Privy Middens and Pail Closets into Water Closets proceeds at a somewhat retarded pace due to shortage of the special fittings, etc., for this class of work. The policy of the Council with regard to this matter has enabled the labour and material available for the installation of sanitary fittings to be directed to the new houses undergoing construction throughout the district.

Where conversions have been carried out they have been associated with other improvements such as the provision of indoor sinks, laying on of main water, improved or new drainage and general housing repair. It is anticipated that during the year 1948 the programme of such conversions, etc., can be accelerated as an improvement in the building labour and materials situation becomes evident.

3. (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse.

During 1946 the Council discontinued the collection of House Refuse by contract and purchased a vehicle ("S & D" 10 cub. yd.) from the contractor and an additional "Dennis" 10 cub. yd. vehicle, which was delivered in October. The exceptional Winter however, interfered with the House Refuse Collection Service to some extent as many of the roads within the District could not be negotiated easily by this type of vehicle.

On 1st April, 1947, the control of the Public Cleansing Service was transferred to the Sanitary Inspector. This was associated with some re-organisation at the Council's Depot and the senior workmen on Refuse Collection and Cesspool Emptying were appointed as Chargemen under the control of the Sanitary Inspector. The purchasing, repair and maintenance of vehicles remained under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor. This rearrangement worked quite satisfactorily during the year and the Officers concerned co-operated fully in order to provide the public with an efficient Cleansing Service.

By the end of 1947 two-fifths of the District was being served every seventeen days and the remainder monthly.

Refuse Disposal.

Towards the end of 1947 the Council commenced tipping by Controlled Methods at Gate House Farm, Caddington, the owner being paid at the rate of 2/- per load. The tips at Lord's Hill and Heath and Reach were also used and tipping is carried out at these places by semi-controlled methods. At the former most of the refuse is burned and at the latter the position is such that early in 1948 a system of controlled tipping will be in operation.

Throughout the entire District house refuse of all descriptions is now collected. Formerly in quite a number of parishes indestructable refuse only had been collected. As a result of this improvement it has been found easier to effect controlled tipping.

Salvage.

The following is a summary of the income received from the sale of materials, etc.:—

	1946.	1947.
Waste Paper ...	£121 10 0	£155 5 5½
Textiles ...	19 17 0	8 5 0
Bones ...	9 0 0	3 8 6
Scrap Iron (Ferrous)	4 10 0	12 6 3
Non-Ferrous Metal...		6 13 9
Bottles, Jars, etc. ...		45 10 6
	£154 17 0	£231 9 5½

3. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, etc., carried out during the years 1946 and 1947.

GENERAL SANITATION.

	1946	1947
Sewerage and Drainage ...	84	103
Sanitary Conveniences ...	31	28
Refuse ...	31	29
Water Supply ...	74	115
Miscellaneous and re-inspections ...	58	73

NUISANCES.

Premises ...	96	108
Filthy or Verminous Premises ...	14	25
Disinfestations ...	13	9
Animals ...	16	11
Accumulations, deposits, etc. ...	22	23
Smoke Nuisance ...	4	10
Miscellaneous and re-inspections ...	159	131

SANITATION OF SPECIAL PREMISES.

Factories and Workshops ...	6	6
Moveable Dwellings ...	25	48
Grocers Shops ...	3	3
Butchers Shops ...	4	7
Knackers Yards ...	16	6
Bake-houses ...	9	3
Schools ...	2	2
Miscellaneous ...	3	7

FOOD.				1946	1947
Food Inspection	...	...	...	21	47
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	5	15
Cafes. Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	7	9
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	53	23
Cowshed and Dairy Inspections	...	...	...	93	75
Sediment Tests	...	...	...	241	147
Churn Rinsings	...	...	...	18	18
Ice Cream	...	...	...	8	17
Milk Samples	...	...	...	5	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	26	18
Cinemas	...	...	...	1	2
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.					
Investigations	...	...	...	43	51
Disinfections	...	...	...	33	57
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	7	15
GENERAL.					
Government Evacuation Scheme	...	...	...	11	4
Petroleum	...	...	...	11	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4	43
HOUSING.					
Overcrowding Investigations	...	...	...	28	35
C.B. Licence Enquiries	...	...	...	9	14
TOTAL				1,294	1,365

3. (iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

In three instances it was found necessary to request shopkeepers to maintain cleaner conditions in and about the shop and store. No action has been taken under the Shops Act regarding the maintenance of adequate temperatures. Most of the shops in the District are small and usually the only persons employed on the premises are members of the occupier's family.

3. (v) CAMPING SITES.

There is one site in the District licenced under section 269 (i) of the Public Health Act 1936.

Moveable Dwellings. 1946, 1947.

8 licences were issued authorising the erection, etc., of such dwellings within the District. There are now 16 such licences operative.

Most of the applicants for these licences were persons not accustomed to living in caravans whether "De Luxe" or "disused buses" but on account of the housing shortage and its associated hardships had resorted to this lower standard of accommodation. It was all the more necessary under these circumstances to ensure that water supply and other sanitary accommodation was adequate. As the demand for houses is gradually being met most of these persons will doubtless return to accommodation of a more permanent character.

Court Proceedings. September 1946.

A successful action was brought against an occupier of a caravan for contravening section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936.

3. (vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

(a) Complaints of excessive soot deposits emanating from the chimney stacks to the boiler room at the Government Training Centre, Sundon Park, were received from residents in that area. Despite the fact that this entire installation was recent (1944-45) black smoke belched forth at frequent intervals. The poor quality of the fuel in use and the frequent power cuts were largely responsible for the Nuisance. An important consideration however, appears to have been overlooked when the Training Centre was planned and designed, viz:—the close proximity of dwelling houses. In this case the Boiler House could hardly have been constructed nearer dwelling houses whereas it should have been sited at a point as remote from houses as practicable. Members of the Council were of opinion that had the Training Centre been under private ownership a more appropriate siting of the Boiler House would have been insisted upon and planners and designers of Government Buildings should show the utmost consideration in their privileged position under such circumstances.

(b) The emission of excessive dust from the Houghton Regis Cement Works also gave rise to complaints.

The high level of emission of dust was largely due to power cuts preventing the precipitation plant working at maximum efficiency. Kiln maintenance, etc., which had not received proper attention during the war years also contributed to the condition. The major factor however appeared to be low level emission of dust due to the tipping of waste material on high ground. Immediately the bottom of the quarry was used for this purpose a marked improvement was noticed. A close liaison has been kept with the Chief Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works in this matter and the Council fully appreciate the efforts of the Staff of this Branch of the Ministry of Health in controlling the emission of dust here.

3. (vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no such baths in the area.

3. (viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No. of Council houses found to be infested	...	3
" " disinested	...	3
No. of other houses found to be infested	...	22
" " disinested	...	22

Disinfestation is carried out by one of the following methods (a) Fumigation by Thermatox (b) DDT fumigators (c) Blowlamp followed by spraying with an insecticide containing DDT. The spraying is repeated ten days after first treatment.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The preliminary survey was completed during the year and the figures given below indicate the position in the various parishes.

PARISH	CATEGORY					TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	
	Satisfactory	With Minor Defects	Requiring Repair, Structural Alterations or Improvements	Appropriate for Reconditioning under Housing Rural Workers Acts	Unfit and Beyond Repair at Reasonable Cost	
Kensworth ...	30	82	40	11	31	194
Toddington ...	85	247	167	6	61	566
Eaton Bray ...	47	129	113	3	26	318
Studham ...	45	70	17	4	19	155
Whipsnade ...	8	11	5	—	4	28
Billington ...	15	21	27	4	7	74
Houghton Regis ...	187	252	148	11	51	649
Chalgrave ...	17	34	43	5	10	109
Stanbridge ...	19	33	37	1	12	102
Tilsworth ...	12	27	16	—	14	69
Eggington ...	13	19	20	6	17	75
Hockliffe ...	17	43	36	3	11	110
Heath and Reach ...	37	92	93	3	9	234
Totternhoe ...	53	105	31	—	19	208
Caddington ...	114	209	184	4	59	570
Barton ...	77	121	75	3	27	303
Sundon ...	81	380	22	7	13	503
Streatley ...	173	192	13	15	18	411
Hyde ...	35	40	39	12	9	135
LUTON R.D. ...	1075	2107	1126	98	407	4813
	22.3%	43.8%	23.4%	2%	8.5%	

The detailed survey was subsequently carried on and with few exceptions it was found unnecessary to alter the category under which houses had been placed in the preliminary survey. The Additional Sanitary Inspector engaged on this Survey obtained another appointment and since 1st August, 1947 the position has been vacant.

The following is a note upon some of the salient features which came to light during the preliminary survey and are being confirmed as details are being obtained.

(i) Many owners of dwelling houses appeared to be quite unaware of their rights and benefits offered under the various Rent Acts, e.g. the permitted increase on the standard rent by 8% per annum of the capital expended on structural alterations and improvements.

(ii) Many houses in Categories 3 and 5 have been inherited by successors who have not been left capital to effect reconditioning and improvements. "Legacies" in every respect.

(iii) The Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, no longer available, appear to have been almost entirely disregarded. It is amazing how landlords and agricultural property owners did not avail themselves of the generous grants afforded by these Acts.

(iv) There appear to be as many bad tenants as bad houses and many of these occupy good houses. A large number of Category 5 houses were found to be occupied by good tenants.

(v) Approximately 50% of the Category 5 houses and many Category 3 houses warrant reconditioning and improvement. In many instances rows of an even number of houses, especially the two bedroom type, could be converted into half as many houses thus providing room for bathrooms, internal W.C's., larders, etc., and obviating the need for additional outbuildings which contribute to congestion at the rear and interfere with the free circulation of air and direct access of light.

(vi) A surprisingly large number of country cottages have very small gardens and in many instances the rear wall of the house forms the boundary with property under different ownership.

(vii) With building costs inflated and the value of property somewhat beyond estimation the term "reasonable cost" needs clarifying.

NORMAL HOUSING RETURN.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

	1946	1947
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	563	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	563	
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	71	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	258	
(5) Number of dwelling-houses found to be satisfactory	234	

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	43
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

	1946	1947
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	—	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	6	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	—
(1a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	167	136
(2a) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices	110	129
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—	—
(3) Number of unfit dwelling-houses demolished	3	—
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—	—

4. HOUSING ACT 1936. PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

During 1946 seven cases of overcrowding were abated and in 1947 the number rose to twenty-one. This is entirely due to the satisfactory progress being made by the Council's Housing Schemes. The Council's houses are let strictly in accordance with a "points" scheme and overcrowded families placed at an advantage in view of the fact that the scheme referred to above has been designed in such a way that according to the degree of overcrowding so the applicant is awarded an increasing number of "points."

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Production and Supply.

During 1946 and 1947 attention was primarily devoted to methods employed during milk production and Sediment Testing of **Unstrained** Milk received particular attention. The 34 "Fair" Producers and the 11 "Bad" Producers reported in 1945 received practically all the attention possible to devote to this branch of food inspection and by the end of the year 1947 it gave some satisfaction to note a marked improvement in almost every respect. Every opportunity was taken to remind these producers that the simple requirements of Article 23 of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 when properly carried out was bound to result in the production of clean milk. In the past far too much importance has been attached to the use of the "straining" cloth (and oftentimes five or six cloths) and not enough use made of the udder cloths. These lower grade producers who received 168 visits for 388 Sediment Tests invariably resort to excuse themselves for their shortcomings by references to shortage of labour, being busy ploughing up, haymaking, working till late on the harvest, busy potato picking and so on. These same producers never seem to have "a wet day" on which to do their limewashing. I see no hope of the consistent production of clean milk until every producer is "Dairyminded." The producer who excuses himself in so many ways and who is not as a rule "Dairyminded" will not respond to advice and encouragement. Local Authorities would be in a position to deal with these bad producers far more adequately than obtains at the moment if powers vested in the Ministry of Agriculture under Section 1 of the Milk and Dairies Act 1944 were delegated to them. It appears that this particular statute cannot be effected by reason of the difficulty in finding the necessary staff to administer the Act. If Rural District Councils were given the opportunity to use the powers contained in the Act the additional staff necessary would be less than that required by a Government Department and past experience indicates that satisfactory results would be achieved by these Authorities.

The following is a statement relating to Milk and Dairies Licences and Registrations at the end of 1947:—

(i)	"Tuberculin Tested" Milk Producers	...	...	34
(ii)	"Accredited" Milk Producers	...	...	12
(iii)	Ungraded Milk Producers	...	...	118
	Total	...	...	164
(iv)	Retail Purveyors	...	...	22
(v)	Producer/Retailers included in (i) to (iii)	...	...	52

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

(vi)	Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers	...	...	1
(vii)	Pasteurised Milk Dealers Supplementary	...	...	1

Retailers' Premises.

These were visited during the year and generally conditions were found to be clean. However, many of these are not provided with the best means of "thoroughly cleansing" their bottles and churns. A circular was therefore sent to all retailers drawing their attention to an effective method of "thorough cleansing."

Churn Rinsings.

The bacteriological reports upon rinsings taken, generally showed a marked improvement. The storage of empty churns awaiting collection by the producer remains unsatisfactory and not until the empty churns are deposited in the farm dairy by the buyers or distributor will this situation be properly resolved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Meat and Other Foods (excluding Milk).

Corned Beef	...	...	72 lbs.
Pork Luncheon	...	...	42½ „
Sausages	...	...	11½ „
Bacon	...	...	29 „
Fish	...	...	82½ „
Butter	...	...	15 „
Jam	...	...	6 „
Evaporated Milk	...	...	15 tins (13 ozs. each)
Peas	...	...	2½ lbs.

Cafes, Snack Bars, etc.

The Transport cafes and snack bars in the district have received periodic visits and it has been necessary in some instances to draw attention to the need for a more thorough cleansing of cups and saucers and other crockery and utensils. The position here is identical with that obtaining in connection with milk production, the standard of cleanliness depending almost entirely on the "clean mindedness" of the staff. It is evident in connection with these inspections that some of the men using the Transport Cafes make it extremely difficult to maintain a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and it is by no means exceptional to receive complaints of the abusive treatment of premises, crockery, etc., from the managers or persons in charge of these establishments. Conditions would be improved considerably if means were provided for the proper cleansing of the hands of transport workers using these cafes.

Bakehouses.

Twelve visits have been made to bakehouses within the District and with one exception conditions have been found to be satisfactory. Steps have been taken in this connection to effect the necessary improvements.

The underground bakehouse at Caddington is no longer in use.

ICE CREAM.

Nine samples were taken from roundsmen during 1946 and 1947. Three of these turned out to be satisfactory, three were found to be of fair quality and three in Grade 4 (b. coli in three tubes).

It is noteworthy that the best results are forthcoming from either samples that are pre-packed or from the small manufacturing retailer who generally subjects the mix to the process of boiling and retains the commodity under suitable protection from contamination. The bad results are generally obtained from roundsmen. From time to time information has been submitted to the Council of conditions found in connection with ice cream retail barrows, such as dirty cloths, dirty water used for the rinsing of utensils, biscuits exposed to the dust of the street, dirty hands, etc. The Council are of opinion that these street barrows should be serviced with clean cloths, clean water, etc. every three hours and such suggestions have been communicated to the manufacturers. Resolutions have also been submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Rural District Council's Association stressing the need for the pre-packing of this commodity on the manufacturers' premises.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ a full-time Rodent operative and as far as it is practicable Rodent Control is carried out on the principles recommended by the Ministries of Food and Health. In addition to this form of control refuse tips, sewerage disposal works, poultry keepers and pig keepers are regularly visited. During 1946 and 1947 all the sewers within the Rural District were subjected to the examinations, test baiting and poison baiting where necessary, required by the Ministry of Food. Infestation was found to be of a minor character being confined to a small area at The Square, Toddington, and short lengths of sewer at Eaton Bray and Barton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following are amongst the matters of interest on which the Council took some action during 1946 and 1947:—

The Sale of Fish and Chips.

Retailers were requested to wrap fish and chips in clean paper before covering with newspaper. The practice of using old newspapers for wrapping foodstuffs is discouraged wherever possible.

Unightly Refuse Tips.

These are rising in various parts of the district usually as dumping grounds for the waste from town factories. In a district such as this where considerable excavation of chalk, sand and clay have and are still taking place it is desirable that arrangements should be brought about that one industry should serve another otherwise the countryside will be marred by great stacks of metal waste on one hand and unsightly excavations on the other.

Report on Plumbing for Dwelling Houses.

The severe winter of 1946/47 tested to the extreme limit the normal practices of plumbing resorted to in this country. A new design for plumbing and sanitary fittings which would have regard for the severest test is long overdue and a recommendation was made to the Rural District Council's Association on the matter drawing attention to the Lead Industries Development Council's Report on Plumbing for Dwelling houses and pressing the Ministry of Works for Standardization of Designs and Location of Plumbing systems to prevent damage by severe frosts.

Design and Construction of Dwelling Houses.

The extreme wintry conditions also exposed other weaknesses in the construction of dwelling houses particularly roof construction and most of the many complaints received with regard to condensation in the living rooms and bedrooms could be traced to houses with roofs constructed of tiles on battens with no insulation and protection by timber or any other form of roof lining.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL.

Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Annual Report for the Years 1946 and 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Luton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the years ending 31st December 1946 and 1947:—

HOUSING.

(a) Maintenance (Council Houses).

The external condition of the majority of the Council's Houses was found to be in a poor condition and a large number of window frames, doors, etc. had to be replaced, due, to a very large extent, to the lack of repair work carried out during the War years.

In 1946 a start was made on external painting by Direct Labour on the Toddington estates.

At the same time a start was made on the conversion to water closets of the existing earth closets in this Parish and the installation of internal water supply, although due to labour and materials shortages, only 14 conversions were completed by the end of 1946.

The severe weather experienced during the early months of 1947 caused a large amount of damage to the Council's property and numerous ceilings had to be replaced due to snow having entered the roofs, whilst the heavy gales which were experienced in March 1947 caused much damage to the tiled roofs and some chimney stacks.

First aid repairs were carried out, with the aid of local builders, and final reinstatement was undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

Due to the exceptional rise in the level of the subsoil water, caused by the melting snows, shallow wells serving the four existing houses on Bradford Road, Toddington, became polluted with sewage from the cesspools and a temporary service pipe had to be taken to same from the nearby water main.

In the Spring of 1947 a further start was made on the water closet conversion and the 40 houses on Mount Pleasant and Shelton Avenue, Toddington, were put in hand, together with internal water supply to the kitchens and wash-houses.

Further work was carried out by direct labour on the external painting but owing to the large number of houses requiring attention, it was decided to have some house painting carried out by Contract.

In 1947 the open ditch along the frontage of the Millfield Way Estate on Mancroft Road, Caddington, was piped in, the Bedfordshire County Council contributing half cost towards same.

The pair of Farm Workers' Cottages in Dunstable Road, Caddington, had their ground floors flooded during the thaw after the heavy winter's snows and these have since been piped and ditched, in order to obviate this recurrence.

Nos. 17 and 19, Manor Road, Barton, which had become dangerous on account of the serious cracking of the walls, due to movements in their foundations, were demolished and all possible materials salvaged for re-use.

Plans were prepared for the building of a further pair of houses on this site and in this case it was proposed to take the foundations down to 3ft. 8ins. below ground level in order to minimise to the maximum the seasonal effect on the moisture content of the clay soil.

(b) Post War Housing Schemes.

In January of 1946 the first post-war houses were commenced on the new site lately acquired at Bradford Road, Toddington and this was soon followed by Contracts in the parishes of Eaton Bray, Stanbridge, Streatley, Studham and Totternhoe.

In the summer of 1946 works were commenced for the laying of roads, sewers, watermains, etc. on these estates.

Owing to the shortage of labour, the schemes for the Toddington and Eaton Bray Sites were carried out by the use of German P.O.W. Labour, some 20-30 P.O.W's. being employed on each site, together with a small percentage of civilian foremen and tradesmen.

Under these Contracts, the Contractor was paid a "fixed fee" for his organization and administration in the carrying out of the works and all other costs for labour, materials and plant hire were reimbursed in full by the Council.

These two schemes created innumerable administrative and practical difficulties and the Ministry of Health later brought into operation a more straight forward system, still using P.O.W. Labour, and the following Site Works Contracts were more of an orthodox character.

In 1947 houses were commenced on new sites in the Parishes of Tilsworth, Barton, Caddington, Houghton Regis, Sundon, Billington, Hockliffe, Eggington, Whipsnade and Heath and Reach, whilst by December 1947 site works had also been commenced at Houghton Regis and Studham.

By the end of 1947 work was well in hand on the construction of 154 new houses of which number 40 had been completed and occupied.

(c) Private Building.

The repair of privately owned property and the building of new dwelling houses was seriously curtailed during the two years due to the operation of the Civil Building Licensing Order 1939, Regulation 56A which generally prohibited, without a building licence, any building or repair work costing over £10.

I was appointed Licensing Officer on behalf of the Ministry of Works and during 1946 and 1947 I issued some 765 licences to the value of approximately £136,680.

This sum included licences for the erection of 58 dwellings for private persons.

A large number of plans and applications to build dwellings were received and by the end of 1947 there was a waiting list of just over 100 persons wishing to build houses.

WATER SUPPLY.

Work on the laying of a nine inch diameter water main from the Kensworth Lynch pumping station site to the junction with the Whipsnade Road was commenced early in 1946 and considerable difficulty was experienced on this job due to labour shortages and difficulties.

Irish labour had to be imported into the District, which, with the cost of travelling time, etc., considerably increased the cost of the work.

The Council purchased a trench cutting machine during 1946 and a new three inch main was laid along Park Road, Toddington, a distance of some 2,700 yards to feed a number of farms on which the water supply had failed.

Difficulties arose at Eaton Bray owing to lack of pressure in the mains, which appeared to be due to the fact that water was purchased in bulk from the Dunstable Gas and Water Company, and taken from the end of a long length of three inch diameter water main and also pumping difficulties which were experienced by the supplying Company.

Arrangements were, therefore, put in hand to supply the majority of the parish by a bulk supply taken from the nearby high pressure mains of the Bucks Water Board in Edlesborough (Bucks) and this proved to remedy the difficulties of supply which had arisen.

In 1947, extensions of the water mains were carried out from Stanbridge to Stanbridgeford at Little Hill, Billington and the Council also gave guarantees under Section 36 of the Water Act of 1945 to the Dunstable Gas and Water Company who extended a main to serve Chalk Hill and Sewell in the parish of Houghton Regis being part of their Statutory area of supply.

Numerous breakdowns, some of a minor character, occurred at the Council's water pumping stations, due, generally, to the long hours of pumping being carried out to meet the increased water demand.

No standby plant being available, water was delivered by tanks for periods lasting from 3 to 7 days.

By the end of 1947 the length of water mains operated by the Council had increased from 20 miles in 1943 to just over 40 miles—this doubling of the length of mains proportionally increasing the amount of maintenance necessary.

This increase in work reduced the amount of time your Waterworks Attendant was able to give to laying water services and in 1947 this work was let out to a Local Contractor.

In 1946, 109 services were laid to properties from the mains of which 16 were metered supplies, whilst in 1947, 151 services were laid of which 35 were metered.

By December 1947 the Council had some 316 metered supplies in operation, the majority of which being, of course, to farms and small business premises.

At that time the average daily water consumption was 130,000 gallons, of which 80,000 were taken in bulk from adjoining authorities and 50,000 were supplied from the Council's own pumping stations.

In 1946 the Council received a Report from their Consulting Engineer, A. H. S. Waters, Esq., on the future water schemes for the whole of the Rural District, the estimated cost of which was £110,300.

This report was referred to the Bedfordshire County Council for their observations and later submitted to the Minister of Health for approval and also decision as to grants which would become available under the Rural Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1944.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY SERVICES.

During 1946 we had three cesspool lorries in operation and a total of 2,563 cesspools were emptied, comprising some 5,476 loads. Serious difficulties were experienced due to mechanical breakdowns and the long delay in obtaining replacement parts for the vehicles. In March, 1946, I presented a report to the Council recommending terminating the existing arrangements whereby all refuse was being collected by two Contractors and for the Council to obtain vehicles and carry out the work by Direct Labour. The Council accepted the recommendation and the Contractors were given six months' notice of the termination of their Contracts.

The main Contractor thereupon stated that they were not prepared to carry out the work for a further six months and after two months the Council took over their one vehicle and commenced re-organising the collection system.

A new refuse collecting vehicle was ordered, but delivery was not made until the first week in December, 1946—this was immediately put into commission and we had not felt the advantage of same before the heavy snows of 1947 seriously upset transport with the resultant effect on the collection rota.

In April 1947 the Cesspool emptying and refuse collection services were transferred to the responsibility of the Sanitary Inspector, whilst I became responsible for the purchase and maintenance of all vehicle and plant.

A full-time mechanic was engaged for this work and a small repair workshop set up at the Houghton Regis Depot and by the end of 1947 the advantage of this action was well apparent by the small number of days during which vehicles were off the road due to mechanical trouble.

Additional garage accommodation was provided at the Depot and by the end of the year the following plant was based on these premises:—

- 2 Refuse Collecting Vehicles,
- 5 Cesspool Emptying Vehicles,
- 2 Open Truck Lorries and
- 2 Vans.

These, together with other plant, are maintained by the mechanic and complete overhauls, including re-bores, have been carried out.

No new lengths of sewers were laid during the two years except where required in connection with housing schemes.

During 1947 a start was made on the cleansing of the numerous lengths of ditches and open sewers in the District, the condition of which had become alarming in places due to the recent watermain extensions and the increased use of water generally.

In 1946 a scheme for Main Drainage throughout the whole of the Rural District was prepared at an estimated cost of £339,220, this scheme was accepted by the Council and submitted to the Minister of Health for approval and for decision as to grants under the Rural Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1944.

I beg to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

J. A. MURCH

(Engineer and Surveyor to the Council).