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Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR 1955





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To the Luton Rural District Council

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1955

The Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the Luton Rural District for the year 1955 and need to emphasize again that the sanitary circumstances of the area still continue to be unsatisfactory. In spite of constant representations to the Ministry we are quite unable to obtain consent for the sewerage schemes that are so essential.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk to the Council and the Sanitary Inspectors.

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	48,051 acres
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	20,690
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	6,680
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1955	£104,190
Product of Penny Rate	£417
Number of new houses erected :	
(a) Council	72
(b) Private enterprise	400

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1955 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

Live Births :

Legitimate ...

Illegitimate

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...

<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
385	189	196
368	182	186
17	7	10
Crude Rate	18.6	
Adjusted Rate	18.8	

Still Births :

Legitimate ...

Illegitimate

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...

<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
6	3	3
1	—	1
	17.9	

Deaths :

Death Rate per 1,000 of population ...

<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
217	139	78
Crude Rate	10.5	
Adjusted Rate	10.6	

There were no maternal deaths during the year 1955.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Total	3	Rate per 1,000 live births	7.8
Legitimate	3	Rate per 1,000 Legitimate live births	8.2
Illegitimate	—	Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			45

Note:—Adjusted birth and death rates are obtained by multiplying the 'crude' rate by the area comparability factor supplied from the General Register Office. This factor for both births and deaths in the Luton Rural District is 1.01.

2. Population.

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

1949	...	...	...	18,970
1950	...	...	...	19,290
1951	...	...	...	19,460
1952	...	...	...	19,710
1953	...	...	...	19,770
1954	...	...	...	20,090
1955	...	...	...	20,690

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

1949	...	...	...	8.1
1950	...	...	...	5.9
1951	...	...	...	5.1
1952	...	...	...	6.1
1953	...	...	...	5.7
1954	...	...	...	6.3
1955	...	...	...	8.1

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
1949	18,970	333	17.6	16.7	180	9.5	11.7
1950	19,290	324	16.8	15.8	212	10.9	11.6
1951	19,460	304	15.3	15.5	203	10.2	12.5
1952	19,710	308	15.3	15.3	187	9.3	11.3
1953	19,770	309	15.6	15.5	197	9.9	11.4
1954	20,090	325	16.2	15.2	198	9.9	11.3
1955	20,690	385	18.6	15.0	217	10.5	11.7

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1955.

(England and Wales)

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

										LUTON RURAL DISTRICT Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population	ENGLAND AND WALES
Births :											
Live	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.8	15.0
Still	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.34	0.35
										17.9 (a)	23.1 (a)
Deaths :											
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.6	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.09	0.15
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.07
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.24	0.51
Notifications :											
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.53	0.73
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.74	1.78
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.10
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.63	15.61
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.15	0.63
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.08
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.06
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.10	0.28
										Rates per 1,000 live births	
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.8	24.9†
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.8
										Rates per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)	
(a) Notifications :											
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.69	17.79
(b) Maternal Mortality :											
Sepsis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.10
Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Abortion with Toxaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.54
Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	

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

† per 1,000 related births.

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

6. Infant Mortality.

The following table shows death of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

	Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Debility from birth ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Broncho Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	3

DEATHS OF RESIDENTS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LUTON DURING THE YEAR 1955.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>					<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	7	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	9	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	10	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	26	18
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	16	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	21	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	7	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	9	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	3
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—
TOTALS					139	78

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1946-1955

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	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births
												Sepsis	Other	Total	
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	8	2.7
1948	18,600	339	18.2	10	28.7	211	11.3	8	6	14	41	—	—	—	—
1949	18,970	333	17.6	8	23.5	180	9.5	6	2	8	24	1	—	1	2.9
1950	19,290	324	16.5	10	29.9	212	10.7	12	5	17	52	—	—	—	—
1951	19,460	304	15.3	6	19.4	203	10.2	2	1	3	10	—	—	—	—
1952	19,710	308	15.3	3	9.6	187	9.3	4	4	8	25.9	—	2	2	6.4
1953	19,770	309	15.6	7	32.4	197	9.9	2	2	4	12.9	—	—	—	—
1954	20,090	325	16.2	1	3.1	198	9.9	3	5	8	24.6	—	—	—	—
1955	20,690	385	18.6	7	17.9	217	10.5	3	—	3	7.8	—	—	—	—

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age Un- known	Total
Scarlet Fever		1	3	6	1				11
Whooping Cough	2	8	9	14	2		1		36
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)						1			1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)						3			158
Measles (excluding rubella)	3	34	29	85	4	3			
Diphtheria									
Ac. pneumonia				1			2		3
Dysentery			1	6		1	2		10
Smallpox									
Ac. encephalitis (Infective)									
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infectious)									
Enteric or Typhoid fever									
Paratyphoid fevers									
Erysipelas							1		1
Meningococcal infection									
Food poisoning		1				1			2
Puerperal pyrexia							1		1
Ophthalmia neonatorum									
TOTALS	5	44	42	112	7	6	7		223

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years		1						
5 — 14 „			1	2				
15 — 24 „	2	2						
25 — 44 „	9	5						
45 — 64 „	1	1	1	1	1			
65 and over	1				1			
Age unknown								
TOTALS	13	9	2	3	2			

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

1955

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.

Mains Water Supplies have been bacteriologically examined at frequent intervals, the results being as follows:

Highly Satisfactory	...	...	73	
Satisfactory	...	...	9	
Found to be polluted	...	...	14	
Total	...	...	96	Samples

The failures occurred mostly at Caddington and Slip End where the least sign of inefficiency in chlorination of the water supply results in failure to satisfy the bacteriological test for wholesome water. The Council's Surveyor is kept informed of the position here and subsequent to his reports on the inadequacy and unwholesomeness of the water supply, a scheme for supplying Caddington parish from the Kensworth bore has been prepared and approved of.

Tap contamination at Public Standpipes accounts for the 'Satisfactory' results which under better conditions should have proved to be 'Highly Satisfactory.' The day of the 'P.S.' is not disappearing as quickly as had been hoped and expected and until Public Sewers are available generally, we are likely to have these 'Museum Pieces' with us.

Private Water Supplies.

These supplies which are now rapidly diminishing since the extension of Mains Supplies to Whipsnade, Kensworth Lynch, Chalton and Lower Sundon are kept under observation where necessary and as the need arises where owners fail to provide a wholesome supply when such has been made available.

25 samples have been obtained for bacteriological examination and of these:—

9 were Highly Satisfactory.

1 was Satisfactory.

15 were polluted — In these instances the necessary steps were taken to provide a wholesome water supply.

Observation.

When the improved Water Supply becomes available at Caddington and Slip End, the District generally will be well served with Mains Water there being only a few remote areas in which a small number of houses are located, where such a wholesome water supply is not available.

1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The circumstances under this heading are much less favourable than those under Water Supply. In fact it has been established beyond any doubt that the better the water supply position in a district, the more insanitary becomes the drainage circumstances, where the sewer installation does not follow immediately the provision of Mains Water.

From a Public Health point of view there is very little to record on the credit side here except for the fact that the Heath and Reach sewer installation was completed during the year. However, for every cesspool abandoned here, five have been constructed in parishes where cesspool drainage only is available.

During the year 5,276 cesspools were emptied, comprising 10,690 loads.

A sixth Cesspool Emptying Vehicle was put into service during the year but this further aggravated the serious problem of disposing of the waste which is rapidly approaching a million gallons a month.

The insanitary circumstances obtaining in the parish of Caddington, Streatley, Chalgrave, Tilsworth, and to hardly a lesser degree at Kensworth and Studham deteriorate year by year and further observation or report upon those made in previous Annual Reports can only be of an 'adverse' nature.

Suffice it to report that it is a reprehensible thought that so many of our villages have to tolerate primitive drainage conditions in the second half of the 20th century.

1. (iii) PONDS, DITCHES, WATERCOURSES.

The circumstances in these respects are closely related to those obtaining in the previous paragraphs. It is quite impracticable to maintain ditches in a satisfactory condition in parishes not served by foul water sewers. The parishes of Tilsworth and Chalgrave suffer particularly in this respect and to a lesser degree Billington, Stanbridge, Eggington and Hockliffe.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

While polluted ditches, etc., discharge into the few rivers and streams in the District, it will not be possible to present a satisfactory report. The circumstances will improve when the large and smaller villages are sewered.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The availability of the sewer at Heath and Reach was quickly taken advantage of and all owners of dwelling houses with Pail and Earth Closets were written to regarding the provision of Water Closets. The response has been encouraging and the only disconcerting feature met with so far being the absence of local builders. It is a matter to regret that few villages have any builders left and many Town builders are too busy on new structures to undertake village contracts.

3. (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A slight improvement in the frequency of collection was possible as additional labour became available. All parishes received two collections per month and during the Summer and Autumn periods, the frequency was increased slightly.

During the year a Dennis 'Paxit' 18 cub. yard Refuse Collector was given a trial in some of the more urbanised parishes and the results were extremely satisfactory, and such that an order for delivery of a 'Paxit' in 1957 was placed immediately the result of the trial was reported to the Council.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council have 2 Refuse Tips in the District, one at Mile Tree Road, Heath and Reach and the other at Park Road, Toddington. Quantities of refuse are also disposed of at Luton Borough and Dunstable Borough Tips. At the Tips owned by the Council, disposal is carried out by means of a modified form of controlled tipping. Having regard to the shortage of covering material and the contours of the quarries available, it is not practicable to tip in 6 ft. layers.

Much trouble was experienced at the Toddington Tip with firing. The Public have access to the Tip by reason of a Public Footpath through the quarry which is being reclaimed by Refuse Disposal.

Salvage.

The following is a statement of the weight of scrap metal, etc., salvaged during the year. The amount of income derived from its sale was approximately £100.

	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Mixed Metal		13	—	—
Old Tins and Cast Iron ...	13	7	1	—
Rags		13	2	—
	14	13	3	—

Trade Refuse.

A special collection is carried out at business premises where Trade Refuse is produced. For this collection a reasonable charge is made in accordance with the requirements of Section 73 of the Public Health Act 1936.

3. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc., carried out during the year:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewerage and Drainage	341
Ditches	35
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc. ...	112
Water Supply	72
Water Samples	152

NUISANCES

Premises (Defects)	175
Filthy or Verminous Premises	4
Disinfestation (Bugs, Fleas)	—
„ (Other Insects)	8
Animals	7
Smoke and Dust	88
Rodents	16
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and Reinspections	164

SPECIAL PREMISES

Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	85
Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	5
Village Halls, Institutes, etc.	...	...	...	4
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	75
Petroleum	...	...	...	76
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	463

FOOD

General Stores	...	...	...	164
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	15
Fish Shops and Vehicles	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	43
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	61
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	738

MILK AND ICE CREAM

Dairies	...	...	...	16
Milk Retail Vehicles	...	...	...	2
Milk Samples	...	...	...	52
Bottle Rinsings	...	...	...	5
Churn Rinsings	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations	...	...	...	68
Disinfections	...	...	...	6
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	6

CLEANSING SERVICES

...	...	...	252
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HOUSING

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	228
Overcrowding	...	...	...	1
Reinspections	...	...	...	255

MISCELLANEOUS

Establishment	...	...	...	1
---------------	-----	-----	-----	---

3,807

3. (iv) ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

151 Nuisances were abated as a result of informal action. As has been pointed out in previous reports it is becoming increasingly difficult to have Nuisances abated which involve works of repair or other building works, this being due to the fact that many parishes are without established builders and it appears that builders from the towns are reluctant to take their workmen any distance for what are usually known as 'jobbing works.'

3. (v) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year additional caravans have been stationed in the District, particularly in the parishes of Caddington and Totternhoe. It would appear that the use of this type of dwelling is on the increase and it must be borne in mind that such accommodation, however good, falls short to some extent of the type and quality of dwelling house accommodation obtaining in the District. Considerable responsibility is placed upon the Officers of the Public Health Department in maintaining satisfactory conditions on the Sites where caravans, etc., are in use. There were approximately 340 caravans stationed on various parts of the District, 320 of which are used as permanent residences.

The sites are kept under constant observation and generally the sanitary accommodation is satisfactory. The Sites are being improved by the addition of water closet accommodation and suitable flushing facilities for disposal of night soil. It has been found that on the large Sites particularly, there are one or two users who fail to appreciate the need for maintaining a satisfactory standard of hygiene, otherwise the persons using this type of dwelling set a very good standard. Those who contravened the requirements of the Public Health Act 1936 and the conditions attached to the licences, have been dealt with by informal action. The principal Sites used for this purpose are now brought under Planning Control.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Dust Emission at Houghton Regis, Chalton and Sundon.

The position in the District with respect to Atmospheric Pollution is kept under continual observation and for this purpose 2 Deposit Gauges are stationed, one in the Malmsey area of Houghton Regis and during the latter part of the year, the second Gauge was stationed at Chalton.

During the first part of the year, the Deposit Gauge was stationed at Slip End, taken as a village reasonably free from atmospheric pollution. The average deposit of dust per month amounted to 10.74 Tons per Square Mile, whereas at Houghton Regis the average monthly deposit during the year amounted to 33.24 Tons per Square Mile and at Chalton for the latter part of 1955 an average of 21.76 Tons per Square Mile were recorded. The records proved beyond doubt that the emission of dust in the Houghton Regis and Chalton areas is considerable when compared to a village with no industry within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Records kept by Householders on the Malmsey Estate in Houghton Regis appear to confirm the recorded situation and many complaints were received from residents in this area. It would appear from the observations made by the Householders that dust emitted at low level particularly during the removal of stored clinker at the rear of the Cement Works and from the plant where Gypsum is added to the process, accounts for most of the Nuisance. The Alkali and Works Inspector is kept informed of the Deposit Gauge Records and all complaints from residents.

Towards the end of the year the work of overhauling and reconditioning the Dust Precipitation Plant was commenced. This should improve the atmospheric pollution at high level. The Alkali and Works Inspector had also expressed the hope that certain proposals which had been under consideration by the management for dealing with the emission of dust at low level would reach the stage whereby they could be put into operation in the not too distant future.

Other factors contributing to the excessive dusty conditions in the Houghton Regis area, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Cement Works, include dust rising from the disused quarry when lorries tipped waste material, dust emission from the Lime Works situated immediately adjacent to the highway, and dust emitted from lorries which had failed to take the reasonable precaution of providing cover for loads of cement when driving through the High Street. The management is co-operating in dealing with these matters to a satisfactory extent. Other contributory factors were the factory extensions going on within the short distance of the Malmsey area and the unmade roads.

SECTION D — HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	228
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	228
(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 ...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	38
(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	181
(5) Number of dwelling houses found to be satisfactory	9
(6) Number of houses placed in Category 5 (Rural Housing Survey) which were rendered fit for habitation	17

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	51
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (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	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	4
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(1a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	107
(2a) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal Notices	94
(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	11
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	5
(3) Number of unfit dwelling houses demolished	5

(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 | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

SECTION E — INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

304 inspections of food premises including General Stores, Butcher's Shops, Fish and Chip Shops and Vehicles, Bakehouses, Cafes, Restaurants, Snack Bars and Dairies. The standard of hygiene in both the handling and storage of food steadily improves and it is gratifying to note that such improvements are the result of informal approach to owners and managements and of the co-operation of the staffs concerned. Doubtless, with the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, further improvements will be effected.

Milk — Report on Milk Sampling.

			Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ungraded	...	...	1	1	—
Pasteurised	...	...	17	17	—
Accredited	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	21	17	4
Sterilised	...	...	—	—	—
			39	35	4

On rechecking, unsatisfactory samples passed the prescribed tests.

Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.

All animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Area have been inspected. Most of the meat inspection is carried out in the early hours of the morning as it is quite impracticable to maintain meat inspection at the unearthly hours of the evening and sometimes the night during which the slaughtering takes place.

However, the co-operation with the Butchers and the managements of these premises and those in control of the finished products is excellent and all possible steps are taken to see that meat is not delayed in transport to shops, markets, etc.

The following are the particulars and records of animals killed, inspected, and percentages of disease discovered on inspection:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	489	159	38	1264	787	2737
Number Inspected	489	159	38	1264	787	2737
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100	100	100	100	100	100
All diseases except						
Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	97	47	1	42	18	205
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	20	29	3	3.32	2.54	7.56
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	16	18	Nil	Nil	10	44
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.27	11.32	Nil	Nil	1.27	1.57

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following quantities of food were voluntarily surrendered on being found to be unfit for human consumption.

Pears (16 oz. tins)	2
Peas (20 oz. tins)	3
Greengages (15 oz. tins)	2
Tomatoes (14 oz. tins)	1
Gooseberries (16 oz. tin)	1
Vitacup (4 oz)	1
Pork Sausagemeat	5 lbs.
Danish Luncheon Meat — 1 tin	2 lbs.
Corned Beef (12 oz.)	1
Evaporated Milk (16 ozs.)	1
Chilled Beef (Tainted)	40 lbs.
Puffed Wheat	4 pkts.
Corn Flakes	1 pkt.
All Bran	6 pkts.
Raspberries (16 oz.)	6
Cherries (20 oz.)	1
Greengages (15 oz.)	3
Beans (16 oz.)	1
Peas (16 oz.)	1
Evaporated Milk	1
Chilled Beef	20 lbs.
Luncheon Meat (2 tins)	4 lbs.
Hind Quarters of 2 Lambs (N.Z.)	23 lbs.
Bacon	7 lbs.
Cheese	9 lbs.
Beans (8 oz.)	1
Apricot Jam (1 tin)	1½ lbs.
Black Currants (16 oz.)	3

Gooseberries	...	...	...	1 tin
Tomatoes (8 oz.)	...	...	...	2
Irish Stew	...	...	...	16 ozs.
Bananas (4 tins)	...	...	...	16 ozs.
Margarine (35 pkts.) 8 ozs.	...	...	...	17½ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	13 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	12 ozs.
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	2½ lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	16 ozs.
Stewed Steak (1 tin)	...	...	...	16 ozs.
Tomatoes (1 tin)	...	...	...	8 ozs.
Blackcurrants (16 oz. tins)	...	...	...	3
Cherries (20 oz. tins)	...	...	...	2
Raspberries (20 oz. tins)	...	...	...	2
Loganberries (16 oz. tins)	...	...	...	2
Red Plums (20 oz. tins)	...	...	...	3
Marmalade (1 jar)	...	...	...	1 lb.
Gooseberry Jam (1lb. jars)	...	...	...	4
Tomatoes (1 tin Italian)	...	...	...	8 ozs.
Tomatoes (2 tins 14 oz. Italian)	...	...	...	2
Soup (1 tin)	...	...	...	10 ozs.
Pickled Cabbage (1 jar)	...	...	...	10 ozs.
Jam (1 jar)	...	...	...	1 lb.
Condensed Milk (tin)	...	...	...	1
Luncheon Meat (1 tin)	...	...	...	12 ozs.
Pilchards (1 tin)	...	...	...	1 lb.
Corned Beef (1 tin)	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat (1 tin)	...	...	...	7 ozs.
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Sultanas	...	...	...	13 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	6¼ lbs.
Jam (1 jar)	...	...	...	1 lb.
Butter	...	...	...	½ lb.
Dessicated Coconut	...	...	...	4¼ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Cherries (2 oz. tins)	...	...	...	8
Plums (1 tin)	...	...	...	20 ozs.
Apricots (1 tin)	...	...	...	16 ozs.
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	18

Licenced Premises.

Further inspections have been carried out during the year and on the whole the response by the Brewers to our requests for improvements has been satisfactory.

Food Poisoning.

There have fortunately been very few cases reported. In a few instances, coffee cream cake was found to be the common factor but Bacteriological Reports stated that nothing of an injurious nature could be found in the cake.

Sampling of Dried Egg Albumen.

In conjunction with the Medical Research Council's Investigations samples were obtained but no food poisoning organisms were isolated.

Ice Cream.

6 Samples were taken during the year, the results of which were all Provisional Grade I (Good).

3 additional premises were registered for the sale and storage of Ice Cream. In all cases ice cream is sold pre-packed.

Rodent Control.

The half-yearly treatment of sewers was carried out and during the first half of the year infestations occurred in the Toddington sewers only. During the October and November tests, minor infestations were found at Toddington, Houghton Regis and Eaton Bray. Treatments by methods prescribed by the Ministry very quickly removed all traces of rats.

During the year Rodent Control was carried out in all parishes within the Rural District and generally as a result of 'survey' by the Rodent Operative as a result of pursuing this method of control as prescribed by the Ministry, the number of complaints of infestation by rats or mice are very few in number. Liaison with the County Pests Department works quite successfully and reports exchanged between the departments concerned make for efficiency in Rodent Control. The following is a copy of the Annual Report sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and covering the year ending 31st March, 1956.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. REPORT OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

	Type of Property				(5) Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	(3) All Other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	15	6755	423	7193	251
2. Number of properties in- spected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	91	9	100	10
(b) Survey under the Act	15	1192	62	1269	11
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	10	8	18	—
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	—	—	—	—	—
4. Number of properties in- spected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major	11	37	19	67	10
Minor	—	2	9	11	—
(b) Mice—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Block Control Schemes carried out	All Rodent Control carried out by 'Block Control' as far as practicable.				

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR.

Investigations of cases of Infectious Disease and carrying out the necessary disinfections.

Inspections in connection with the Petroleum Regulations 1928-1936.

National Assistance Act 1948 — Section 50. Burial of the Dead.

County Council Byelaws (Good Government).

Investigating the irresponsible disposal of rubbish near the highway and in the countryside. It is regrettable that so many persons appear to have no use for the lovely countryside other than to dump rubbish which they could have properly disposed of by arrangement with any Local Authority had they made the necessary inquiry.

Public Health Department — Staff.

I wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks the excellent work which has been done by my Deputy Mr. R. G. Burch, and by my Office Staff Miss E. Joyce and Mrs. W. Birchmore.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. G. HILL,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

