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Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1956



C.W.



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Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1956

To the Luton Rural District Council

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1956

The Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

30th August, 1957.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This statistical Report on the health of the Luton Rural District requires little comment. The year was healthy with no serious epidemics. Only one case of Poliomyelitis was notified and there were no deaths from this disease. Also only three cases of Food Poisoning came to our notice. There was a rise in the number of infant deaths; ten compared with three in 1955. Only two of these deaths, however, were due to acquired disease.

Thirty-one deaths were due to Cancer and, except for circulatory diseases, this was the most common cause of death. There were six deaths from Cancer of the Lung—all males. The birth and death rates remain satisfactory.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk to the Council and the Public Health 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	22,530
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	7,300
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1956	£230,684
Product of Penny Rate	£898
Number of new houses erected:—	
(a) Council	32
(b) Private enterprise	148

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1956 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

Live Births :

Legitimate ...	
Illegitimate	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...	

Total	M.	F.
409	230	179
399	223	176
10	7	3
Crude Rate	18.2	
Adjusted Rate	17.8	

Still Births :

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

Total	M.	F.
17	11	6
1	—	1
42.2		

Deaths :

Death Rate per 1,000 of population ...	
--	--

Total	M.	F.
189	104	85
Crude Rate	8.4	
Adjusted Rate	9.2	

There were no maternal deaths during 1956.

Death of Infants under one year of age:—

Total	10	Rate per 1,000 live births	24.1
Legitimate	8	Rate per 1,000 Legitimate live births ...	19.6
Illegitimate	2	Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate live births...	4.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			31

Note:—Adjusted birth and death rates are obtained by multiplying the "crude" rate by the area comparability factors supplied from the General Register Office. These factors in the Luton Rural District are—births, 0.98; deaths, 1.09.

2. Population.

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

1950	...	...	...	19,290
1951	...	...	...	19,460
1952	...	...	...	19,710
1953	...	...	...	19,770
1954	...	...	...	20,090
1955	...	...	...	20,690
1956	...	...	...	22,530

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

1950	...	...	...	5.9
1951	...	...	...	5.1
1952	...	...	...	6.1
1953	...	...	...	5.7
1954	...	...	...	6.3
1955	...	...	...	8.1
1956	...	...	...	9.8

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
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
1956	22,530	409	18.2	15.7	189	8.4	11.7

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1956.

(England and Wales)

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

								LUTON RURAL DISTRICT	ENGLAND AND WALES
								Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population	
Births :									
Live	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.2	15.7
Still	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.8	0.36
								42.2	23.0 (a)
Deaths :									
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.4	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.13	0.12
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.05
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.52	0.50
Notifications :									
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.02
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.45	0.74
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.29	2.07
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.10
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.46	3.59
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.53	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.04
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.03
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.13	0.24
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.34	1.10
								Rates per 1,000 live births	
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.45	23.8†
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.5
								Rates per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)	
(a) Notifications :									
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.68	16.31
(b) Maternal Mortality :									
Sepsis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Abortion with Toxaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.10
Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
									0.46

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 deaths 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-	
Prematurity	...	...	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Atelectasis	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth injury	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro enteritis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Broncho pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	...	...	8	—	—	—	8	1	1	—	—	10

DEATHS OF RESIDENTS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LUTON DURING THE YEAR 1956

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	2	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	6	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	8	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	14	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	19	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	14	7
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	7
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	10	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
TOTALS						104	85

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1947-1956

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	
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	—	—	—	—
1956	22,530	409	18.2	18	42.2	189	8.4	8	2	10	24.1	—	—	—	—

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>15 to 24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>	<i>Age Un- known</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever			1	1		4	4				10
Whooping Cough	2	3	3	6	3	12					29
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)						1					1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)											
Measles (excluding rubella)	1	5	7	9	6	45	2		1	2	78
Diphtheria											
Dysentery					2	2	1	3	1		9
Meningococcal infection		1									1
Ac. pneumonia						2			10		12
Smallpox											
Ac. encephalitis (Infective)											
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infectious)											
Enteric or Typhoid fever											
Paratyphoid fevers											
Erysipelas											
Food poisoning		1						1	1		3
Puerperal Pyrexia									1	1	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum											
Jaundice									1		1
TOTALS	3	10	11	16	11	66	7	4	15	3	146

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1956

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</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 5 years								
5 — 14 „	1	1						
15 — 24 „		4				1		
25 — 44 „	9	7	1			2		
45 — 64 „	3	2	1					
65 and over		1						
Age unknown								
TOTALS	13	15	2			3		

Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report

1956

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.

Main Water.

With the exception of a few very remote hamlets, mains water is available throughout the District and except in a few instances informal action has been sufficient to persuade owners of dwelling houses to avail themselves of, or provide for their tenants, a wholesome and adequate water supply. By the end of the year it became reasonably certain that Caddington Parish would be obtaining water from the Kensworth Lynch Pumping Station to replace the existing supply, which from time to time was found to be neither adequate nor wholesome.

Laboratory Reports on samples of Mains Water bacteriologically examined during the year were as follows:—

Highly Satisfactory	...	...	80
Satisfactory	...	...	5
Slightly Polluted	...	...	1
			—
			86
			—

Public Standpipes

It is regrettable that there are still a number of Public Standpipes to be seen in our villages. However, it will soon be possible to remove them in the parishes of Barton and Heath and Reach and as the sewerage position improves in the District, so these outmoded means of water service will decrease.

Private Water Supplies

The continued extension of Mains Water throughout the District has naturally reduced Private Supplies and these are now located in a few remote hamlets such as Chaul End Village, Welhead, Chiltern Green and a few isolated farmsteads and dwellings.

Laboratory Reports on samples of Private Water Supplies bacteriologically examined during the year were as follows:—

Highly Satisfactory	...	...	8
Satisfactory	...	...	4
Polluted	...	...	8
			—
			20
			—

Unsatisfactory supplies are checked and where pollution is confirmed the necessary steps are taken to improve the water supply.

1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Whereas the Water Supply position generally throughout the District is of a sufficiency and standard of which a Rural Authority may justifiably be proud, the Drainage and Sewerage position is disquieting. The completion of the Heath and Reach Scheme in 1955 and the Barton Scheme during the year, has brought some relief but the rapid and sizeable development of Caddington and Warden Hill particularly, and to a lesser extent at Kensworth and Studham, has imposed upon the Cesspool Emptying Service a demand which, to be honest and realistic, such an outmoded method of drainage disposal cannot meet. The shortage of labour and the more serious shortage of sites for disposal of the waste, renders cesspool drainage completely out of date to deal properly with the type and extent of housing development taking place in the District. By the end of the year a glimmer of hope appeared on the horizon with the approval of a Scheme for the sewerage of the village of Caddington. I must make it quite clear, however, that conditions in some of the smaller villages are relatively as insanitary as in the larger areas, but it is sound Public Health Policy to sewer the larger villages first.

During the year 5,621 cesspools were emptied involving 12,566 loads.

1. (iii) PONDS, DITCHES, WATERCOURSES.

There has been a noticeable improvement in the condition of these in the parishes of Heath and Reach and Barton, and this clearly proves the necessity for improved drainage in those villages which have not yet the advantage of a sewerage system. As has been stated in previous reports it is quite impossible to maintain a satisfactory condition in ditches which receive crude drainage from dwelling houses and overflows from cesspools and old septic tanks. Conditions in the parishes of Tilsworth and Chalgrave are particularly bad and to hardly a lesser degree the ditches in Billington, Stanbridge, Eggington and Hockliffe.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The conditions in this respect are of course directly related to the conditions obtaining in Ditches and Watercourses and where improved drainage has been installed in villages, the position is reflected in the local streams.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Very good progress has been maintained at Heath and Reach and there are not many houses remaining which are served by pail and earth closets. There has also been good progress at Barton where the response from property owners has on the whole been satisfactory. I have stated in previous Reports that the absence of local builders delays progress in this connection as much as any factor.

The Council have adopted a Scheme which within the next few years is likely to result in most of the pail closets serving Council Houses being converted into water closets but progress in this connection will of course be related to the availability of good drainage.

3. (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

The continuous development taking place in the District was found to be imposing a severe burden on this service and early in the year it became obvious that the frequency of collection would tend to lessen unless additional labour and another vehicle was obtained. During the month of March a Dennis "Paxit II" Refuse Collector was used for demonstration purposes in the District for about a week and the results so impressed the Council's Public Health Committee that an order for a similar vehicle was placed immediately. The "Paxit" was put into service during September and with additional labour the frequency of collection improved to some extent and during the last 3 months of the year every parish in the District was receiving not less than 3 collections a month.

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 £130.

	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Mixed Metal	1	3	1	3
Old Tins and Cast Iron ...	12	1	1	—
Rags	1	1	2	3
	14	6	1	14

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	506
Ditches	22
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc. ...	58
Water Supply	65
Water Samples	160

NUISANCES					
Premises (Defects) ... ..	...	...	...	...	223
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	1
Disinfestation (Bugs, Fleas) ...	...	...	...	...	2
„ (Other Insects) ... ..	...	...	...	...	22
Animals ... ..	...	...	...	...	13
Smoke and Dust ... ..	...	...	...	...	70
Rodents ... ..	...	...	...	...	120
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and Reinspections	...	...	...	...	47
SPECIAL PREMISES					
Factories and Outworkers ... ..	...	...	...	...	24
Knacker's Yards ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
Village Halls, Institutes, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Hotels and Public Houses ... ..	...	...	...	...	100
Petroleum ... ..	...	...	...	...	52
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	...	...	...	...	557
FOOD					
General Stores ... ..	...	...	...	...	189
Butcher's Shops ... ..	...	...	...	...	21
Fish Shops and Vehicles ... ..	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses ... ..	...	...	...	...	34
Cafes, Restaurants, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	73
Meat and Food Inspection ... ..	...	...	...	...	926
MILK AND ICE CREAM					
Dairies ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
Milk Samples ... ..	...	...	...	...	56
Bottle Rinsings ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Churn Rinsings ... ..	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Samples ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
INFECTIOUS DISEASES					
Investigations ... ..	...	...	...	...	61
Disinfections ... ..	...	...	...	...	9
Food Poisoning ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
CLEANSING SERVICES					361
HOUSING					
Houses Inspected ... ..	...	...	...	...	271
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...	7
Reinspections ... ..	...	...	...	...	236
					<hr/> 4,321 <hr/>

3. (iv) ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

176 Nuisances were abated during the year as a result of informal action. These have been found in connection with the several matters referred to in the preceding paragraph but the majority of Nuisances were due to conditions of disrepair in dwelling houses. As I have pointed out in previous Reports, the time which now has to elapse before Nuisances of this type are abated appears to be out of all proportion to the extent of the repairs, etc., involved.

However, this is entirely due to the fact that in many of our villages there is no builder's establishment now in operation and owners find some apathy on the part of builders from other areas to transport their workmen any distance.

3. (v) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Caravans continue to come into the District and are doubtless being resorted to for use by young married couples rather than live with members of their own or other families. We find therefore that by the end of the year we have approximately 470 caravans stationed in the District. A Summary of the use of Sites and caravans is approximately as follows:—

	No. of Caravan Sites	Caravans in permanent use	Caravans in temporary use	Not in use for human habitation
Stationing more than 6 caravans	12	331	48	9
Stationing less than 6 caravans	45	71	6	5
	<hr/> 57 <hr/>	<hr/> 402 <hr/>	<hr/> 54 <hr/>	<hr/> 14 <hr/>

Generally conditions are found to be satisfactory except for a few both large and small Sites to which are made frequent visits and inspections. It does appear that there is a small element frequenting caravans which have failed to adapt themselves to housing conditions or have otherwise failed to meet their rental obligations and subsequently been evicted. This class of persons create a problem on some of the Sites and they have very little regard for decent sanitary circumstances despite the lower standard of living. I think it must be emphasised that this class of accommodation is decidedly sub-standard during the months of winter particularly where children are concerned and with a figure approaching 500 caravans in the District I am of opinion that the Council is carrying enough responsibility with this class of dwelling accommodation. Steps are being taken in conjunction with my Council's Surveyor and Planning Officer to bring all Sites used for this purpose within effectual planning control.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Dust Emission at Houghton Regis, Chalton and Sundon.

The extent of the cement and lime industry in the District creates a problem in connection with Atmospheric Pollution which unfortunately tends to worsen rather than improve. The amount of dust being deposited in the areas referred to above, is recorded by means of Deposit Gauges and as from the 1st September 1956 there were 2 Gauges stationed at Houghton Regis, one in the Malmsey area and one at the rear of the High Street to the North East of the Cement Works. Also the Gauge in the village of Chalton and one at Sundon Village. The average total solids in Tons per Square Mile deposited monthly in these areas is as follows:—

Houghton Regis and Houghton Regis (Malmsey area)	Houghton Regis, High Street and Houghton Hall	Chalton	Sundon
38.18	25.75	20.60	29.86

Highest in any month:
67.14 in October.

According to information received from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research the average monthly deposit from Cities and Urban Areas is 37.5 whereas in Rural Areas the figure is 8.33.

These figures appear to prove beyond any doubt that residents in the village of Houghton Regis are having to tolerate conditions which constitute a Nuisance and despite the dust which may be emitted from building operations and highway surfaces one can readily observe changing colour of the scenery as one approaches the houses situated in the Malmsey area and parts of the High Street. Having regard to the fact that the Dust Precipitation Plant at the Houghton Works was reconditioned towards the end of 1955 and early 1956 and the records of dust deposited showing no appreciable decrease, it is fairly evident that the Nuisance comes from the emission of low level dust. The Alkali Inspector has the position here continually before him and he has given an assurance that the proposed improvement works which should deal effectually with the dust Nuisance are likely to be commenced early in 1957. The position at Chalton and Sundon tends, if anything, to deteriorate from year to year and the Alkali Inspector is kept informed with regard to our records, our observations and complaints from residents. I understand from him that if no appreciable improvement can be made under existing arrangements then a more efficient means of dust arrestment will have to be installed.

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)	271
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	271
(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	23
(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	146
(5) Number of dwelling houses found to be satisfactory	12
(6) Number of houses placed in category 5 (Rural housing Survey) which were rendered fit for habitation	14

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	64
--	----

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	NIL
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	NIL
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	2
(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	64
(2a) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices	57
(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 ...	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	13
(3) Number of unfit dwelling houses demolished	13
(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

HOUSING ACT, 1936 UNFIT HOUSES.

				Number of Houses scheduled for treatment under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.	Estimated number of Houses on which Demolition Orders will be made.
Toddington and Chalton	...	...	...	20	10
Houghton Regis	...	...	...	16	12
Caddington	...	...	...	21	10
Totternhoe	...	...	...	11	6
Eaton Bray	...	...	...	9	8
Kensworth	...	...	...	36	12
Whipsnade	...	...	...	3	—
Studham	...	...	...	21	12
Hockliffe	...	...	...	4	2
Billington	...	...	...	8	—
Heath & Reach	...	...	...	5	4
Stanbridge	...	...	...	4	2
Hyde	...	...	...	4	2
Barton	...	...	...	11	6
Streatley	...	...	...	5	4
Sundon	...	...	...	2	2
Eggington	...	...	...	17	6
Chalgrave	...	...	...	12	12
Tilsworth	...	...	...	6	2
				<hr/> 215	<hr/> 112

It is difficult to estimate the number of houses likely to be demolished, but the figures referred to above are based on past experience. However, before the programme for dealing with unfit houses is completed it is quite possible that the figures in both columns shown above will be increased.

SECTION E. — INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year 332 inspections of food premises including General Stores, Butcher's Shops, Fish and Chip Shops and Vehicles, Bakehouses, Cafes, Restaurants, Snack Bars and Dairies, were carried out. Generally, the response to the higher standard required to satisfy the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 has been satisfactory and the co-operation of Occupiers, Owners and Managements has been most gratifying. There appears generally to be an improving standard of personal hygiene evident in food stores and premises and no doubt this is the result of continuous inspection, campaigning and the National Educational approach which has now persisted for some years.

Milk — Report on Milk Sampling.

			Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ungraded	...	...	—	—	—
Pasteurised	...	...	18	18	—
Accredited	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	31	28	3
Sterilised	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/> 49	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 3

On rechecking, unsatisfactory samples passed the prescribed tests.

The figures referred to above beg no comments except to say that the position is most satisfactory.

Churn Rinsings.

2 Satisfactory — 1 Fairly Satisfactory.

It had been hoped that during the year it would have been possible to have extended work in this field. As a result of the 3 unsatisfactory samples referred to above, it became necessary to carry out a check on the condition of the churns being supplied to the Producer. Of the 3 samples obtained, 2 were found to be satisfactory and the third fairly satisfactory.

Dried Milk.

Samples of dried milk supplied to one of the Schools in the Rural District were bacteriologically examined and no Pathogenic Organisms were found.

Meat Inspections and Slaughterhouses.

All animals slaughtered for human consumption in the District have been inspected. Most of the meat inspection has to be carried out in the early hours of the morning as it is quite impossible with such a small staff to carry out the inspections regularly during the late hours of the evening and sometimes during the night when the slaughtering actually takes place. There is, however, no delay caused to the Managements and Butchers concerned as the meat is inspected in good time.

Generally conditions at Slaughterhouses are satisfactory, although at one of these establishments the standard of cleanliness in the yard and area immediately adjoining the slaughtering premises does not always satisfy the required standards.

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	531	127	142	2477	980	4257
Number Inspected	531	127	142	2477	980	4257
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	1	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	118	23	—	128	36	305
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	22.2	18.1	.70	5.12	3.67	7.16
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	6	—	—	6	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.64	4.72	—	—	.61	.61

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

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

Corned Beef (12ozs.)	...	...	18	tins
Processed Peas (19 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Tomatoes (14 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Pears (14 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Brislings (3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.)	...	...	1	"
Tomatoes (8 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Condensed Milk (1 $\frac{7}{8}$ pts.)	...	...	1	"
Oranges (11 ozs.)	...	...	2	"
Salmon (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.)	...	...	1	"
" (4 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Italian Tomatoes (8 ozs.)	...	...	36	"
" " (14 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Raspberries (20 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Pineapple (15 ozs.)	...	...	3	"
Pears (14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.)	...	...	2	"
Loganberries (3 tins)	...	...	1	lb.
Oranges (11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.)	...	...	1	tin
Carrots (19 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Beans (8 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Grapes (16 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Tomatoes (18 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Beans (16 ozs.)	...	...	2	"
Pineapple (12 ozs.)	...	...	2	"
Pilchards (16 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Brisling (3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Gooseberries (12 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Steak & Kidney (16 ozs.)	...	...	2	"
Steak (8ozs.)	...	...	3	"
Corned Beef (6 lbs.)	...	...	1	"
Cheese	...	...	11	lbs.
Corned Beef (6 lbs.)	...	...	16	tins
Pineapple (20 ozs.)	...	...	3	"
Peas (10 ozs.)	...	...	1	tin
Cream (4 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Jam (24 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Grapefruit (12 ozs.)	...	...	1	"
Pork Sausages	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	3	"
Steak Pies	...	...	4	

Licensed Premises.

Further improvements have been carried out at a number of these premises within the District, particularly where the Licensed Trade is combined with the Food Trade. The sanitary accommodation is being improved where reasonable drainage facilities are available and satisfactory progress is being made with the installation of sinks for hand washing purposes apart from the sink used for general cleansing of equipment, etc. Some of the old country Inns have not been able to meet the demands imposed on them by the new legislation. Apart from the fact that they are not suitable for improvement or adaptation, the trade is so small that the situation hardly warrants any expenditure on these items.

Ice Cream.

Four samples were obtained during the year, all of which were found to be Provisional Grade 1 (Good).

Four additional premises were registered for the sale and storage of Ice Cream. Having regard to the fact that shops in villages usually resort to a general trade, persons whose premises are registered are advised to sell all Ice Cream in a pre-packed state and throughout the District the response to such advice is very good.

Rodent Control.

The half-yearly treatment of sewers was carried out in April and the position generally was found to be satisfactory with the exception of minor infestations at Houghton Regis and Eaton Bray. Having regard to the extent of new buildings being erected in these parishes and the new connections made to the sewers, it was reasonable to assume that this factor was mainly responsible for the infestations. Treatment of sewers was resumed in the Autumn and minor infestations became evident at Toddington, Houghton Regis, Heath and Reach and Eaton Bray. These were dealt with satisfactorily by the Ministry's prescribed methods. The cause of the infestations was in all probability similar to that referred to above.

A Rodent Operative is employed full-time in the District and as a result of continuous survey and treatment throughout the entire District, infestation by rodents is generally of a minor or lesser character.

Liaison with the County Pests Department is working most successfully and the exchange of information and reports between the Departments makes for efficiency in this service.

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

	Type of Property				(5) Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (incl Council Houses) 6659	(3) All Other (including Business Premises) 667	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) 7366	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	40				369
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification ...		57	78	135	14
(b) Survey under the Act	14	1127	51	1192	4
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)		11	4	15	—
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections					
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 11) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major ...		2	—	2	
Minor ...	5	48	59	112	12
(b) Mice—Major ...					
Minor ...	—	18	7	25	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A. ...	5	64	66	135	12

All Rodent Control treatment and operations on Block Control.

Other Pests.

The Rodent Operative has also been employed on the destruction of Wasps Nests and in dealing with other pests where conditions arose which constituted a Nuisance.

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

Infectious Diseases.

Investigation of cases reported by the Medical Officer of Health, and carrying out the necessary disinfections.

Petroleum Regulations 1928-1936.

There are 63 Licence Holders within the District and during the months of May and June the installations are inspected in order to ensure that the Regulations are complied with. All licences are caused to terminate on the 30th June in each year and the inspections are completed before licences are renewed.

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

Two cases have been dealt with under this Act.

County Council Byelaws (Good Government).

Although there appears to be an increased amount of litter left on heaths and commons, particularly on the Dunstable Downs after summer week-ends and holiday times, there has during the year been less evidence of the indiscriminate dumping of waste and refuse on the side of the highways and in roadside ditches. It is hoped that the pressure brought to bear on this matter by the Police and the Local Authorities is having the desired effect.

Public Health Department—Staff.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation of 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 Public Health Inspector.