MALVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1953

M A L V E R N U R B A N D I S T R I C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

FOR THE YEAR 1953

by

H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

and

HUGH L. WHITWHAM, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	HUGH L. WHITWHAM, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	RICHARD CRUDDAS, M.C., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I. JAMES B. FRANKS, C.R.San.I., R.S.I., Meat & Foods.
Chief Clerk	EDGAR C. BARBER
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Public Health Department, The Council House, Malvern.

Telephone: Malvern 1531

The Council House,

Malvern.

May, 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for 1953 there are one or two points to which I should like to draw your attention.

This report contains a large amount of statistical record of work done by the department. This record is a dry and impersonal one common to all Annual Reports.

The population is given as 24,400 and in my experience it is possible with that size of population for every case to be dealt with on an individual basis so that people in difficulties seeking the help of the Health Department find that they are regarded as separate individuals with a personal problem. The clue to this method of carrying out our duties is to be found in a remark by your Sanitary Inspector under the heading National Assistance Act where he states that a small register is kept of old people in difficulties. This register is informal and consists of the names of persons found either by the Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their normal duties, or by the health visitors or doctors or almoners and reported as being in need of supervision and possibly care. Since these people are known to us personally such supervision can be carried out without either the subject or his neighbours being aware of our interest, and so it has been possible during the past two years to persuade all those who needed it to accept institutional care when the time came. For the past two years we have not had to take official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

This Section gives power to the Court to order the removal of senile persons to hospital should they cause unnecessary suffering to themselves or be a nuisance to others. By an amending Act of 1951 it is possible to deal with emergencies on the application of the Medical Officer and the family practitioner before the single magistrate. In either case the person's freedom is impaired by this action and it is regarded by us as a very serious step to take. The criteria which we lay down are as follows:

1) that the person is unable to help himself by reason of physical or mental deterioration

2) that the person is causing a nuisance to other people or to the public at large.

Thus a person may, if he wishes, live in very poor circumstances provided that he does not make unreasonable demands on his neighbours and cause unwarranted nuisance in so doing. The close co-operation between the health visitors and the sanitary inspectors has ensured that cases which might have had to be dealt with in this way have come to our notice sufficiently early for them to be helped to live their own lives as long as possible. Eight cases have been considered by our department in this connection during the past year.

By the end of 1953 we began to see the end of some of the immediate effects of war. The last of the squatters huts has been demolished. Many restrictions on food, building, etcetera, are being removed but at the same time it is not easy to see the future. I therefore do not propose to make any comments in general on housing or future projects.

In your Sanitary Inspector's report he also has mentioned the finding of two cases of tuberculous milk being produced from cows, both of which were dealt with. Routine biological sampling has been undertaken as a result of the scare following an epidemic of milk-borne tuberculosis of glands two years previously. It serves as a useful reminder of the fact that no unpasteurised milk is entirely safe to drink and that routine biological checks of our milk supply, however long and tedious, are essential for the protection of the public.

H. F. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

Area of land and inland water	7,400 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	24,400
Number of Dwelling Houses	6,459
Total Number of Assessments	7,355
Rateable Value at 31.12.53	£186,081
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31.3.54	£738

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated resident population) ...	16.1
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	8.7
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population	0.12
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) ...	8.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)...	26.4

No deaths in 1953 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1953.

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	15.5
Death Rate (" " " ")	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related births)	26.8

DEATHS

Cause of Death - All Ages	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	4	4	-
" (Other)	1	1	-
Cancer (all forms)	47	24	23
Diabetes	1	-	1
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	125	47	78
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	-
Respiratory disease (excluding Tuberculosis and Cancer)	20	8	12
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	4	3	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	-
Congenital Malformations	3	2	1
Violence	8	4	4
All other causes	26	12	14

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supplies

There are two main sources of Malvern water. First a deep borehole at Bromsberrow which has been sunk into new red sandstone. It provides an abundant and good water supply showing an average total hardness of 17. It is not contaminated in any way. The second is water collected from the hills around the British Camp, the reservoir lying in a hollow in these hills. This supply is more in the nature of a standby than a main supply and the analysis is typical of hill water, that is, containing few "Solids in Solution" and having a low total hardness. A certain amount of trouble has been experienced this year with the supply of water from the reservoir. This was due to the presence of organic substances derived from plant and animal growth in the reservoir and on the hills. It represents in no way a danger to health but does impair the quality of tea made with it. This overgrowth of algae and vegetation is probably associated with weather changes and there is no way of avoiding it unless a very large sum is spent on plant and equipment.

Regular monthly samples have been taken by your Surveyor and the reports have been uniformly satisfactory. An average report is given below.

Water Supply from Wells.

One sample of water was taken and sent to the Laboratory with the following result:

Satisfactory:	Chemical - Nil	Bacteriological - Nil
Unsatisfactory:	" - 1	" - 1

MALVERN WATER

Physical Characters	3rd March, 1953.	14th December, 1953.
Colour	Very slightly opalescent	Clear
Odour	Very slight	None
Deposit	Slight: Brown	Very slight
	pH 7.0	pH 7.4

Chemical Examination (results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	Trace	Slight Trace
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	12	23
" " " After ignition	10	21
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	2.1	3.5
Hardness - Permanent	4	3
Temporary	4	14
Total	8	17
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.001	0.0022
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0044	0.002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	Nil	0.53
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.053	0.013
Toxic Metals	None detected	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	-	Nil
Phenolic plant extractives	0.02	-
Tar acids	Nil	-

No faecal coli have been found in any waters sampled at source or elsewhere in the piped supply system during the year.

Public Cleansing

This work is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor. The disposal of household refuse is undertaken at the Guarlford Sewage Works by means of tipping. Street sweeping in central area daily, elsewhere once weekly. Cesspool emptying by mechanical means as required.

Swimming Baths and Pools

(a) Public swimming pools or baths	-	Public Pool owned by Local Authority.
(b) Privately owned swimming baths or pools open to public	-	None.
(c) Action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of water	-	Routine sampling.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Services

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics

There are none provided by this Authority.

The following clinics are provided by Voluntary Committees in Malvern on behalf of the County Council:-

Infant Welfare Centres

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	Tuesdays	2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Free Church Hall, Malvern Link.	Wednesdays	2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Methodist Church Hall, Lansdowne Crescent.	Fridays	2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Village Hall, Lower Wyche.	1st Tuesday in the month	2.45 - 4.0 p.m.

The following clinics are provided by the County Council:-

Ante-Natal

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	1st and 3rd Tuesdays	10 a.m.

Eye

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	As required (by appointment only)	

Minor Ailments

"Sydenham Villa" Newtown Road.	Fridays (School children only)	9.0 - 10.0 a.m.
Chase Secondary Modern School.	Wednesdays	9.30 - 10.30 a.m.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified during 1953.

Disease	All Ages	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	or ages N.K.
Scarlet Fever	51	0	2	7	27	13	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	52	6	9	19	18	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	4	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
Measles	501	24	70	106	237	26	31	5	2

	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	45-	65-	or ages N.K.
Ac. Pneumonia	21	1	4	3	4	8	1
Dysentery	6	4	-	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas	12	-	-	3	4	5	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Malaria - This case was infected in the tropics.

Measles - A severe outbreak occurred in the winter and spring of 1952/53 The total number of cases in both years was 539 which represents round about one in eight children of pre-school age and school age. The general level of immunity to this disease must have been very low at the beginning of the outbreak and is now sufficiently high to prevent a further serious outbreak for two or three years.

Scarlet Fever - This continues to be a mild disease. Where conditions allow it is best treated at home.

PROPHYLAXIS

Diphtheria Immunisation

	Ages 1 - 5 years	Ages 5 - 14 years	Total for Year
Children who received a full course of primary immunisation	266	31	297
Children who received a re-inforcing injection	18	191	209

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1953.

Age at 31.12.53 i.e.born in year	Under 1 1953	1 1952	2 1951	3 1950	4 1949	5 - 9 1944-48	10 - 14 1939-43	Total under 15
	21	191	215	232	248	1,265	914	3,086

Age at 31.12.53	0 - 4 years.	5 - 9 years.	10 - 14 years	Total under 15
No. of children immunised	907	1,265	914	3,086
Population (estimated)	1,679	1,369	1,179	4,227

Smallpox Vaccination

243 children under the age of one were vaccinated this year, being 71% of the number of children born during the year. If this response to smallpox vaccination can be maintained it must be regarded as most satisfactory compared with the figures given by other Councils.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

I am happy to report that no action has been taken under this Section of the Act during the year.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,

Public Health Department,

The Council House,

Malvern.

May, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Malvern Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the following report dealing with the work undertaken by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1953.

Whilst the housing problem is by no means solved judged by the number of applicants on the waiting list, it is noteworthy to mention the progress made in dealing with bad housing conditions. The last of the families was rehoused from the "Squatters Camp" in Pickersleigh Road and it was found possible to devote our activities to a number of individual unfit dwellings, details of which are given in this report.

The united spirit of the Public Health and Housing Committees in their concerted efforts in these matters facilitates action by Officers of the Council concerned with environmental problems related to the health and welfare of the community of this town.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Inspections of Movable Dwellings	89
" " Shops	298
" " Workshops	189
" " Bakehouses	50
" " Restaurant Kitchens	46
" " Outworkers Premises	12
" " Meat Allocation Centre	47
" " Butchers Shops, P.H. Meat Regs.	70
" " Stables and Piggeries	28
" " Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	124
" " Ice-Cream Premises	83
" " Food Shops	206
" " Fish Friers Premises	4
" " Places of Public Entertainment	16

Inspections of Schools	36
" " Licensed Premises	46
" " Public Conveniences	52
Special Visits Advisory Interviews, etc.	2,346
Visits re. Infectious Disease	98
Rat Infestation	227
Atmospheric Pollution	7
National Assistance Act	13
Housing	763
Squatters Camp	42
Miscellaneous	196
	5,088

COMPLAINTS

The Register shows that 374 complaints were received during the year under review, these having reference to the following matters:-

Blocked and Defective Drainage	59
Defective Closet Accommodation	58
Insanitary Conditions of Dwelling-houses	119
Smells from Public Sewers	8
Smells from Drains	32
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	3
Non-collection of House Refuse	31
Verminous Premises	24
Miscellaneous	40

Where a nuisance or defect was found to exist, steps were taken to remove the cause of the complaint by drawing the attention thereto of persons responsible, by letter or interview.

This informal procedure has in past years generally been found effective without resort to formal action under the provision of Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Repairs to house property are a heavy burden on the landlord by reason of the ever-increasing costs in labour and materials and our efforts, therefore, in calling upon owners to remedy sanitary defects are, as I mentioned in my Report last year, becoming more difficult.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS

Number of Houses and Premises Re-drained	14
Repairs or Amendments to existing Drains	40
Drains or Gullies unstopped or cleansed	58
Length in Yards of Stoneware Drains Laid	910
Length in Yards of Heavy Cast-iron Drains Laid	-

Manholes Provided	48
Manholes Repaired	29
Intercepting Traps Fixed	22
Fresh Air Inlets Provided or Repaired	24
New Gully Traps Fixed	104
Gully Curbs Provided or Repaired	21
New Soil Pipes and Ventilating Shafts Provided	43
Soil Pipes and Ventilating Shafts Repaired	89
Water Tests Applied	162
Smoke Tests Applied	43
Air Tests Applied	-
New W.C. Pedestals Fixed	57
W.C.s Unstopped, Cleansed or Repaired	39
Existing Flushing Cisterns Repaired	18
New Flushing Cisterns Fitted W.C.s	70
Joints between W.C.s and Flush Pipes Repaired	8
New W.C. Apartments Provided	29
New Urinals Provided	5
Lavatory Basins Provided	70
Baths Provided	27
New Impervious Sinks Provided	61
Sinks Repaired or Refixed	9
New Waste Pipes Fixed	159
Waste Pipes Trapped, Repaired or Unstopped	11
Cesspools and Stagnant Ditches Cleansed	2
W.C. Apartments Cleansed	11
Cesspools Abolished	-

MISCELLANEOUS

New Roofs	10
Roofs Repaired	52
Eaves Guttering Repaired, Cleansed or Renewed	47
Rainwater Pipes Provided, Repaired or Unstopped	32
Damp Walls Remedied	59
Walls Repointed or Repaired	38
Ventilation under Floor Provided	22
Yards Paved	4
Paving of Yards Repaired	21
Floors of Rooms Relaid	56
Floors of Rooms Repaired	61
Rooms Cleansed, Distempered or Repapered	159
New Windows Provided	43
Windows Repaired and/or made to open	57
New Sash Cords Provided	53
Window Sills Repaired or provided	4
Doors Provided or Repaired	32
Staircases Repaired	18
Workrooms (including Bakehouses) Cleansed and Repaired	43
Water Service Pipes Repaired	18
Houses Provided with Water Supply from Town's Main	3
Movable Sanitary Dustbins Provided	6
Accumulations of Refuse Removed	3
Accumulations of Manure Removed	6
New Ranges and Stoves Provided	47
Stoves and Ranges Repaired	15
Washing Coppers Repaired	-
Verminous Rooms dealt with	76
Chimneys Rebuilt	17

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses During the Year.

(1) (a) Total of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 391

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 579

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .... 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 10

(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 151

11. 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 143

111. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(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

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .... NIL

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(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

(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 10

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 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 2

(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

IV. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	11
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	30½
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	33
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	34
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	153
	(3)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	NIL

HOUSING ACT, 1949 - Improvement Grants

There are many small dwellings in Malvern suitable for improvement without resort to an ambitious scheme of reconstruction. Provision of indoor sanitation, fixed bath, and the installation of a domestic hot water system, would in most cases be all that is required to bring these houses up to a standard in keeping with present day requirements. The Act provides for financial assistance to private owners for improvement as opposed to repairs to existing houses. In order to qualify for an Improvement Grant the dwelling must be of a type suitable for modernisation and, on completion of a scheme of works, conform with certain conditions prescribed by the Ministry. The house should also be considered to provide satisfactory accommodation for at least a period of thirty years.

A few enquiries were dealt with but no formal application for a grant was received.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - Houses Unfit for Habitation

The following dwelling-houses were demolished in pursuance of a Clearance Order.

Malvern (Warwick Cottages) Clearance Order No. 4, 1935, comprising nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Warwick Cottages, Old Hollow Road and nos. 97, 99 and 101, Cowleigh Road.

The following dwelling-houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

Northumberland House, St. Ann's Road.
Northumberland Cottage, St. Ann's Road.
Totnor Cottage, Poolbrook Road.
The Shanty, Poolbrook Road.
Cross Farm House, Leigh Sinton Road.

A cottage known as The Nutshell, Pickersleigh Road, scheduled as unfit was demolished in the development of a housing site by the Council.

Closing Orders were made in relation to basement rooms at the following premises.

36, Cowleigh Road.
90, Cowleigh Road.

The occupants of dwelling-houses demolished or parts of buildings closed were rehoused by the Council.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of the following properties.

Nos. 10 and 18, Pump Street.
The Cottage, Upper Welland.
Nos. 50, 52, 54, 55, 57 and 59, Newtown Road.
No. 11, Wyche Road.

The following dwelling-houses were rendered fit as a result of Undertakings to execute works being accepted by the Public Health Committee.

20, St. Ann's Road.
Daresbury Cottage, 80, Albert Road South.

The Closing Order made on part of the latter-mentioned during 1952, was determined.

Reports on the unfitness of the following properties were presented to the Public Health Committee but action was deferred.

Nos. 36 and 71, Newtown Road.
Nos. 1 and 3, Victoria Walk.
77, Belmont Road.

OVERCROWDING IN DWELLING HOUSES

The Housing Allocation Sub-Committee give their earnest consideration to cases of overcrowding when the application list for accommodation is screened prior to the Committee's recommendations being submitted to the Housing Committee. Your Sanitary Inspectors have continued to investigate the conditions under which the families of applicants for Council houses are living and a report is made on all cases, this being circulated to members of the Committee. By this means the Committee members are able to adjudicate the merits of all cases with special consideration to such matters as overcrowding.

During 1953 thirty-four cases of overcrowding were abated by reason of families being re-housed by the Council. This left six known cases of overcrowding at the end of the year.

REQUISITIONED HOUSES

Whilst it is generally recognised that houses held under requisition by the Council have served a very useful purpose in meeting the needs of special cases of housing need, the Committee responsible for the control of these properties are making every endeavour to release the houses when the opportunity becomes favourable and by this means the wishes of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government are being complied with.

Nine houses were de-requisitioned during 1953. Twelve properties, providing accommodation for seventeen families, remained under requisition at the end of the year.

SQUATTERS' CAMP

During August, 1946, some thirty-nine families entered the disused military camp sites referred to as Camp "A", Pickersleigh Avenue and Camp "B", Pickersleigh Road, and occupied the vacant hutments. The question of re-housing these families presented a serious problem for the Council.

The Housing Committee decided very wisely in making a recommendation against structural alterations being carried out to the huts as they were opposed to the idea of these buildings forming a part of their housing policy, even on a short term basis.

It is with some gratification that we are able to record that the last family was re-housed from these sites during the year under review. The hutments were taken down as soon as vacated to prevent further squatting taking place. Supervision of the camps was undertaken by your Sanitary Inspectors.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Continued interest is taken in the welfare of aged and possibly infirm persons living alone, who may at some time be in need of proper care and attention. Your Sanitary Inspectors keep in touch with such cases that come to their knowledge from information gleaned in the course of their duties.

A list is kept as an office record of the names and addresses of persons whose circumstances in life are such that action may be required by your Medical Officer under the provisions of this legislation for the removal of such persons to secure proper care and attention.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Twenty-six licences were granted under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising persons to station and use movable dwellings. Such licences are in force for the period of one year. Renewal is considered on the grounds of the housing needs of the applicant and the suitability of the site.

Applicants are informed that certain provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act must be complied with and liaison is made between this office and the Surveyor's Department in the approval of land proposed to be developed by the siting of movable dwellings.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Supervision of sanitary improvements and drainage work continues to receive the strict attention of your Sanitary Inspectors. Builders usually contact this office prior to work being commenced, when a meeting is arranged to discuss proposals at the property concerned. Inspections are made whilst work is in progress and on completion tests are made before final approval is given.

During the year 14 houses were entirely re-drained and the drainage systems of 40 were partially reconstructed.

The chief sanitary requirements are the sewerage of the outlying part of the district known as Interfields, and the extension of the sewer in Hanley Road, Malvern Wells. Despite the lack of main drainage in these parts of the Urban District there are only a few houses without water-borne sanitation since the majority of the dwellings are drained to a septic tank complete with filter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Investigations following the notification if Infectious Disease to the Medical Officer of Health were carried out in accordance with the usual practice. Following the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital, disinfection of the patient's home and articles of infected

bedding and clothing were supervised by your Sanitary Inspectors. The cost of stoving articles of bedding and clothing in the steam disinfector at the Hospital is charged to the Council by the Regional Hospital Board.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The number of rooms fumigated was 45 and 60 loads of bedding were removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection. 5 loads of bedding were destroyed.

Three houses were treated for the eradication of bed bugs. The insecticide used is manufactured by Messrs. Cooper, McDougall & Robertson, Ltd., which has been found to be reliable in the extermination of this pest.

Infestations of cockroaches, fleas, ants, moths, flies and woodworm, have been dealt with at various premises including restaurant kitchens, dwelling houses and a school.

19 wasps nests and 1 hornets nest were also destroyed

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1948

The provisions of the Factories Act, 1937 - 1948, which your Council has to administer, chiefly relate to the following matters:-

(1) Factories where mechanical power is used.

(a) Provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences for both sexes.

(b) The provision of means of escape in case of fire in factories.

(2) Factories where mechanical power is not used.

(a) Cleanliness
(b) Overcrowding
(c) Ventilation
(d) Drainage
(e) Provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences for both sexes.

(3) Provision of means of escape in case of fire in factories, Fire Certificates are issued by the Clerk of the Council.

Your Sanitary Inspectors liaison with the Chief Officer of the Worcester City and County Fire Service who causes a survey to be made of factory premises and subsequently furnishes this department with a report stating, when applicable, structural alterations and/or equipment needed to fulfil the requirements of the Act and compliance with the details set out in the Fire Officers Report qualifies a Certificate to be granted.

(4) Sanitary Regulations for Bakehouses.

(5) Homework.

The following table shows the list of factories on the Register.

Agricultural Engineers	2
Bakehouses	10
Boot Repairing	21
Boots and Saddlery	3

Builders etc.	30
Cabinet making	4
Concrete Slabs	3
Dairies	5
Dressmakers, Millinery etc.	8
Furniture Manufacturing	1
General Engineers	1
Glass Syringes	1
Hemp Drying and Processing	1
Laundry	1
Marine Dealer	1
Motor Repairs	23
Organ Maker	1
Photographic	2
Picture Framer	1
Printers	3
Sausage Making	17
Saw Mills	1
Spectacle Makers	1
Stone Crushing	3
Stone Masons	3
Tailoring	3
Tarmac Manufacturing	1
Tinsmiths	4
Upholsterers	5
Vehicle Painting	2
Watch Repairers	7
Welding	6
Wines and Mineral Waters	3
Wireless T.V. and Electric Repairs	9

The number of inspections made of factories are as follows, the table being in accordance with the requirements of the Home Office:-

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories (Mechanical Power)	67	NIL	NIL
Factories (Non-mechanical Power)	122	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	189	NIL	NIL

Defects found in Factories are as follows:-

Particulars	Number of defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.				
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	NIL	NIL
Want of Ventilation	-	-	NIL	NIL
Overcrowding	-	-	NIL	NIL
Other Nuisances	-	-	NIL	NIL
Sanitary Accommodation:				
Insufficient	-	-	NIL	NIL
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	NIL	NIL
Not separate for sexes	-	-	NIL	NIL
Offences under Factories Act	-	-	NIL	NIL

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The requirements of this Act administered by the officers of your Council relate to the health and comfort of Shop Workers.

The Worcestershire County Council delegated powers to your Council under Section 73(2) and Section 37 of the Shops Act, 1950, which relate to satisfactory arrangements in shops for lighting, washing facilities, and facilities for meals (where employees take meals in the shop) and for the provision of seats for female workers.

The following is a summary of improvements and repairs supervised by your Sanitary Inspectors carried out at Shop premises:

Additional Sanitary Accommodation	2
Flushing cisterns repaired	2
Lavatory basins fixed	2
Premises cleansed and repaired	5

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY Action taken with regard to the Administration of:-

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.
The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.
The Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

Number of Dealers Licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the Local Authority during the year in respect of:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk:	(1) Bottling	4	(2) Distribution	5
Accredited Milk:	(1) Bottling	-	(2) Distribution	-

Number of Licences issued in respect of Heat Treated Milk:

(1) Pasteurising Plants	NIL	(2) Distributors	6
(1) Sterilised Milk Plants	NIL	(2) Distributors	NIL

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk with reasons for the refusal or revocation.....NIL

The distribution of milk within the district is generally satisfactory.

20 dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) are registered as distributors.

124 visits were made to dairy premises for the purpose of inspection of the dairies or to collect samples of milk on arrival from the place of production.

Samples of raw milk are taken to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, for biological and bacteriological examination, details are given in the following table:

Class	Total number of samples taken for examination	Satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
Designated "Tuberculin Tested"	-	-	-
"Accredited"	-	-	-
"Pasteurised"	5	5	-
"T.T. Pasteurised"	-	-	-
Ordinary	1[illegible]	11[illegible]	2
Sterilised	-	-	-

Biological Tests

Biological tests were made in respect of the 115 samples referred to in this table. In two instances reports from the Laboratory stated that guinea pigs inoculated showed evidence of infection with M. tuberculosis. This information was communicated to the Medical Officer in whose district the Dairy Farm was situated, and following investigations at the farm by the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries two cows in the herd were found to be excreting bacilli in the milk.

Five samples showed positive Ring test for Brucellosis. Biological examination, however, in respect of these samples indicated negative results.

ICE-CREAM

During the year 1953 five applications were received for registration for the sale of ice-cream, making a total of 72. A review of registered premises revealed that the number could be reduced to 64.

Eight samples of ice-cream were submitted for analysis, all proved to be satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Worcester City Abattoir continues to be used as a central slaughter-house and carcase meat is conveyed to Malvern for allocation by the Malvern Butchers Retail Buying Committee.

The use of the slaughterhouse at Cross Farm, Leigh Sinton Road, as a distribution centre was discontinued and the slaughterhouse was subsequently demolished.

Premises situated in Quest Hills Road were leased to the Butchers Retail Buying Committee and adapted for use as a distribution centre to meet the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and in accordance with a Specification of Works supplied from this office.

These new arrangements had the effect of providing more hygienic and suitable conditions in the handling and transport of carcase meat brought from the Abattoir at Worcester.

BUTCHERS SHOPS

There are [illegible] butchers shops in the district to which frequent visits are made by your Inspectors. The shops continue to be well maintained.

BYELAWS - FOOD HANDLING

Inspections are made at Catering Establishments and Food Shops for the purpose of securing observance of the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which have been in operation since July, 1950.

During the year under review the Public Health Committee considered the merits or otherwise of organising a Clean Food Campaign. It was finally decided not to proceed on these lines; members of the staff of the Health Department are continuously in touch with personnel engaged in the preparation and handling of food commodities in shops, restaurants and bakehouses, etc., and by exercising tact and patience by informative conversation with persons employed in these establishments progress in improved standards has been made.

The Victoria Restaurant, opened during the war period as a British Restaurant, was closed down in September. It was always well conducted, meals being prepared and cooked in full view of the customers. There is much to be said in favour of such an arrangement as opposed to the kitchen of a catering establishment being in the back regions and out of sight.

It is opportune to mention, if only to record with approbation, the efforts made by the Licensing Magistrates to enforce improvements in the provision of better sanitary accommodation at Licensed Premises. This request usually involves structural alterations and the need for plans of proposed work to be deposited for approval under the provisions of your Council's Building Byelaws. Fortunately the Sanitary Inspectors enjoy good relationship with the appropriate member of the Surveyor's Department on these matters which has often resulted in a meeting between representatives of the owners of the property concerned, when one of your Sanitary Inspectors accompanies the Building Inspector in order to find ways and means of effecting adaptations to meet the demands of the Magistrates. On such occasions your officers have, in the majority of cases, influenced the owners to provide even a higher standard of amenities.

UNSOUND FOOD

The following articles of diseased or unsound food have been condemned and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption:

Meat

Beef	288 lbs.
Pork Pies	45 lbs.
Kidneys	1
Sausages	83 lbs.
Ham	14½ lbs.
Bacon	19¾ lbs.
Faggots	6

Tinned Meat

132 tins	358 lbs.

Tinned Ham

15 tins	190 lbs.

Food Other than Meat

Butter	2 lbs.
Prawns	14 lbs.
Rice .... 2 cwts. 3 Qrtrs.	16 lbs.

Tinned Food other than Meat

Fruit	368 tins
Jam	8 tins
Fish	119 tins
Milk	90 tins
Vegetables	76 tins
Soup	29 tins

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

This Act came into operation on the 1st November, 1951 and is designed to lay down certain standards of cleanliness in the manufacture, use and storage of rag flock and other filling materials. The Act provides for the registration of upholsterers and certain other businesses, such as toy makers and the licensing of manufacturers of rag flock etc.

Two premises are registered under the provisions laid down by this Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

227 treatments for the destruction of rodents were carried out during the year under review.

Special attention is paid to periodical inspection and treatment at the Council's refuse tips and Sewage Disposal Works at Guarlford, West Malvern and Malvern Wells.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING

Building Licences authorising work estimated to cost £10,144.5s.0d. were granted during the year. The total number of licences granted since August, 1945, being 2,557.

The work entailed by these extraneous duties has been somewhat onerous, despite the fact that in many ways the Controls have, on occasion, been helpful in being a means to essential work receiving some degree of priority.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal proceedings were taken under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to unsound food. The facts of the case are as follows:-

In consequence of information received at this office one of your Sanitary Inspectors visited a certain grocers shop and there examined the stock of packed lentils. There were ten 1 lb. packets of this commodity in stock. The wrapping material being cellophane and therefore transparent, the contents of the packets were clearly visible and in addition to the lentils it was obvious that they contained certain extraneous matter which had every appearance of being mouse dung.

The shopkeeper willingly surrendered the ten packets. One of the packets was taken to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, and Dr. Henderson, the Director of the Laboratory, was able to confirm the opinion expressed, that the excretenous matter was mouse droppings.

When the packets were inspected at the shop premises they were found to be efficiently sealed and the wrappings had not been damaged or broken in any way, so that the contamination must have occurred before the lentils were sealed in the packets. The name of the packers was printed on the cellophane together with the words "Pure Food Products" in bold type.

This evidence was presented by the Clerk of your Council at the Magistrates Court and he submitted that the contents of the packets were unfit for human consumption and that an offence had therefore been committed under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. It was considered, however, that the offence was committed by the packers of this article of food and not the shopkeeper.

Section 83, sub-section 3, of the Act provides that in such circumstances proceedings can be taken against the person to whose act or default the offence was due.

It was on this account that the Packers were prosecuted.

The defendants pleaded guilty to the offence, though their legal representative endeavoured to explain circumstances which might have led to the contamination arising during the course of transit from the country of origin.

The case for the Council was proved and the defendants were fined the sum of Twenty Pounds and costs of the case.

STAFF

Miss M. Hodgetts resigned her appointment as Typist/Clerk to join the Women's Royal Naval Service. Mrs. D. B. Daniels was appointed to fill this vacancy in April.

CONCLUSION

My thanks are again due to Dr. Green for his co-operation in all matters and to the Clerk of the Council for his help and guidance on legal problems.

I should like to record my thanks to the Additional Sanitary Inspectors and members of the Clerical Staff for their continued loyalty and devotion to their respective duties.

It is also appropriate to mention once more that the support given by the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the Housing Committee is very much appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH L. WHITWHAM