URBAN DISTRICT OF MATLOCK.

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

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.L.Meachim, M.B., Ch.B.

- and the -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

C.R.Lill,C.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.

- for the year -

1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Matlock Urban District Council,

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics affecting the Urban District of Matlock for the year 1952.

In a review of the incidence of infectious diseases one has unfortunately to report one case of acute poliomyelitis, but fortunately, on the other hand, showing evidence pointing to a good recovery.

Measles heads the list, half of which occurred in children five years old, but all of a mild type, and whilst disturbing and distressing in the acute stage, complications are rare.

Whooping cough, for the most part, attacks children of five and under, and whilst a distressing complaint rarely constitutes a menace to health in after years. Unlike measles, whooping cough is not highly infectious, and much can be done to prevent spread by early and complete isolation. No case of scarlet fever was considered sufficiently serious to advise removal to hospital.

Pneumonia, although not the dreaded disease it used to be before treatment by modern methods, is largely avoidable with ordinary care, particularly when suffering from a cold. That colds are aggravated and complications are encouraged is not surprising when we consider the methods of heating homes which, for the most part, still prevail, most people leave a warm sitting room and retire to bed in a icy cold room, whereas a proper system of heating with adequate ventilation could avoid such a hazardous venture.

In spite of no case of diphtheria a still larger percentage of children should be immunised and parents should be constantly reminded of the facilities that exist for this purpose. Whilst much has been accomplished in the fight against infectious diseases modern travel facilities are a potent source of danger, a disease almost unknown in one country, can be introduced from another, for example smallpox, and hence the importance of being vaccinated.

Deaths due to disease of the circulation are by far the largest number and are influenced by the stress and strain of modern conditions, which we hope may lessen and make life somewhat easier.

Finally not to have to record one single fatality whereby a motor vehicle is involved reflects credit on all concerned, and by no means least of all, on those responsible for traffic control - the Police.

I would like to express my thanks to members of the Health Committee and Officials of the Council who have helped loyally and consistently throughout the year.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	38	59	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	130	129	5	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	168	188	5	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M.	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	9	4	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	9	4	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	9	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	32	13	-	-	-

OUTWORK Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list reqd by Section 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	14	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE SHOWING CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS AS COMPARED WITH OTHER CENTRES IN ENGLAND & WALES.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000-50,000	London Administrative County	Matlock U.D.C.
Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population)	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	12.66
Death Rate (Per 1,000 population)	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	10.98
Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 year Per 1,000 live Births)	27.6	31.2	25.8	23.8	21.46
Deaths under 4 weeks (Per 1,000 live Births)	-	-	-	-	12.87

FORM NO.1.

MATLOCK District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases notified during 1952.

	Number of Cases Notified.	Number of Cases Removed to Hospital.
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	11	5
Tuberculosis - Other Forms	3	2
Smallpox:-		
No. vaccinated and re-vaccinated	Nil	
No. vaccinated in infancy	Nil	
No. unvaccinated	Nil	
Scarlet Fever	29	1
Diphtheria	Nil	-
Enteric Fever:-		
Typhoid	Nil	-
Para-typhoid	Nil	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1
Erysipelas	Nil	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	-
Acute Encephalitis		
(a) Infective	Nil	-
(b) Post-infective	Nil	-
Acute Polio-Myelitis		
(a) Paralytic	1	1
(b) Non-paralytic	-	-
Pneumonia	6	Nil
Measles	187	Nil
Whooping Cough	46	Nil

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AMONGST VARYING AGE GROUPS. DURING 1952 MATLOCK DISTRICT.

Disease	Under one year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	TOTAL
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	1	3	5	10	5	2	-	-	-	29
Diptheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Enteric Fever:-													
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Para-typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	6
Whooping Cough	2	1	8	8	7	13	5	-	2	-	-	-	46
Measles	2	14	19	19	21	91	19	-	-	1	-	1	187
Cerebro Spinal Fever		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Registrar-General's Estimate of Population Mid 1952	18,400
Population Census 1921	15,716
Population Census 1931	16,596
Population Census 1951	17,770
Area in Acres	16,598
Rateable Value at 31/3/52	£120,964
Product of Penny Rate 1952/53	£485

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births:-	Total	123	110	233
	Legitimate	121	107	228
	Illegitimate	2	3	5
Still Births:-	Total	5	3	8
	Legitimate	4	3	7
	Illegitimate	1	-	1
Deaths all Ages:-		97	105	202
Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age:-				
	Total	1	4	5
	Legitimate	1	4	5
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of Age:-				
	Total	-	3	3
	Legitimate	-	3	3
	Illegitimate	-	-	-

Birth Rate is 12.66 per 1,000 population

Death Rate is 10.98 per 1,000 population

Phthisis Death Rate .05 per 1,000 population

Other Tuberculosis Deaths - NIL

Respiratory Death Rate .76 per 1,000 population

Infantile Death Rate under 1 year 21.46 per 1,000 Births

Death Rate, Legitimate Infants 21.93 per 1,000 legitimate live Births

Death Rate, Illegitimate Infants - NIL

Infantile Death Rate Under Four Weeks 12.87 per 1,000 Births.

TABLE OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY FOR 8 YEARS.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	195-
Birth Rate	16.1	19.12	21.64	18.45	16.50	15.99	14.73	12.66
Death Rate all causes	12.0	14.21	13.55	10.88	12.04	12.48	13.21	10.98
Deaths under 1 year - all causes per 1,000 live births.	29.9	43.34	27.10	20.96	46.66	30.40	25.73	21.46

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES IN MATLOCK AREA.

TUBERCULOSIS	NEW CASES				MORTALITY			
Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	3	3	-	1	-	-	-

Causes of Death (Civilians only)	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1
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	1	1	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach	4	2	6
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	-	4
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	6	6
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	8	22
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	22	34
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	23	11	34
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
20. Other Heart Disease	13	22	35
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	2	4
22. Influenza	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia	1	3	4
24. Bronchitis	5	3	8
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	2	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	3	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	1	3	4
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined diseases	6	9	15
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	3	1	4
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Total Deaths, all causes	97	105	202

Town Hall,
Matlock.

G.L.Meachim,
Medical Officer of Health.

June 1953.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

MATLOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 1952

Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Mrs A.M.Greatorex, J.P.

Vice Chairman.

Councillor O.R.Tinti

Health Committee.

Chairman:	Councillor T.N.Johnson
Vice Chairman:	Councillor Mrs A.M.Greatorex
Councillors:	H.F.Aspey
	F.W.Beddington
	Mrs W.A.Dimmock
	T.W.Spencer
	G.F.Slade
	E.C.P.Stevens
	O.R.Tinti
	J.Turner
	Mrs L.Wright

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:-

G.Leslie Meachim M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector:-

C.Raymond Lill, C.R.San I., M.S.I.A.

Housing Assistant:-

R.G.Childs

Clerk:-

A.S.Duncan

Statistical Summary.

Rateable Value of General Rate at 31/3/52	£120,964
Estimated product of a Penny Rate 1952-53	£485
Area of District	16,598 acres
Population (1951 Census)	17,770
Number of inhabitated houses	5,332
Rainfall	27.52 inches

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information my eighth Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department.

As in previous years the work has been carried out under the usual difficulties existing in these days relating to long needed repairs and improvements in various spheres regulated by the many health enactments in force, owing to the lack of capital and the difficulty in spreading the labour force to cover the different types of building required. Every effort has been made to give efficient service in our endeavours to obtain sufficient work to provide at least weatherproofing, if not improvement, to many houses in great need of improved facilities and conditions. This work seems to become more difficult each year owing to increasing costs and repairs and maintenance rendered uneconomical by the operating of the Rent Restriction Act. It is without doubt necessary that some easing of the burden on property owners will have to be made before many much needed repairs and improvement of amenities will be possible.

I would again record my appreciation of the support awarded to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, to the Officials of other Departments, the Medical Officer of Health and members of my department, both inside and out, for the help and consideration which has greatly helped towards the smooth working of the Department during the year.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1952.

Inspections made & nuisance abated.	Inspections	Work Completed
Miscellaneous	352	188
Defective Privies, Pails etc.	6	4
Conversion of Privies to W.Cs	78	17
Conversion of Pails to W.Cs	596	90
Conversion of Privies to Pails	-	-
Defective Water Closets	7	3
Additional Water Closets	11	11
Dust Bins	26	115
No Disconnection of Waste Pipes	11	3
Waste Pipes, Traps, Drains	93	62
Drains obstructed	62	37
Drains reconstructed	122	72
Paving of Courts and Yards	22	9
Roof Repairs	26	13
Rain water piping and eaves	38	35
Defective sinks	57	43
Windows	52	31
Walls	28	19
Dampness	60	25
Water Supply	22	17
Premises Cleaned	9	4
Offensive Accumulations	4	4
Pigsties	9	6
Fireplaces	32	17
Floors	34	22
Plaster	52	29
Doors	30	18
Food storage	27	16
Washing facilities	5	-
Rats and Mice	2350	
	4221	911

Infectious Diseases	-
Housing Inspections	219
Factories, Workshops & Offices	183
Milk and Dairies	66
Meat Inspection	55
Fish and Chips	26
Butchers	34
Cafes etc	34
Bakehouses	42
Licensed Premises	99
Food Shops	105
Ice Cream	65
Market Stalls	53
Slaughterhouses	3
Swimming Pools	11
Offensive Trades	-
Tents, Vans, Moveable Dwellings	60
Controlled Tip & Depot	263
	5539

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	38	59	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	130	129	5	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	168	188	5	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. by H.M. Inspector		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	9	4	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	9	4	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	9	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	32	13	-	-	-

OUTWORK Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list reqd by Section 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	14.	-	-	-	-	-

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR 1952
TO THE DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

	No. on Register	Increase or Decrease	Inspections Made.
Bakehouses	19	-	42
Canal Boats	-	-	-
Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-
Dairies	3	-	26
Factories & Workplaces	168	-	188
Houses Let in Lodgings	-	-	-
Ice Cream Premises	99	+10	65
Market-Stalls	-	-	53
Milk Distributors	7	+ 5	30
Moveable Dwellings (a) Sites	10	-	8
(b) Dwellings	57	+10	60
Offensive Trades	1	-	4
Outworkers	12	- 6	4
Preserved Food Stores	19	-	13
Slaughterhouses	5	-	3
Knackers Yards	-	-	-
Swimming Baths	3	-	11
Shops	335	+ 2	219

SAMPLING.

	No. of Samples taken	Results					
		Meth. Blue Sat.	Meth. Blue Unsat	Phosphatase Sat.	Phosphatase Unsat.	Turbidity Sat.	Turbidity Unsat.
Ice Cream	11	9	2				
Milk (a) Routine	19	15	4	-	-	-	-
		Positive		Negative			
(b) Biological	19	-		19			
		Sat.		Unsat.			
Water (a) Mains	192	179		13			
(b) Other sources	1	-		1			
(c) Swimming Baths	12	12		-			

WATER SUPPLIES.

		Est. Pop. Involved.
No. of Houses in District connected to mains	4928	16,262
No. of Houses in District supplied from standpipes on mains	56	184
No. of Houses in District not supplied from standpipes or mains	348	1,148
No. of connections made during year:-		
(a) existing houses	6	
(b) new houses	59	
(c) other premises	11	

DRAINAGE.

No. of Houses in District connected to sewers	4632	15,470
No. of Houses in District not connected to sewers	641	2,141
No. of connections made during year:-		
(a) existing houses	29	96
(b) new houses	59	
(c) other premises	11	
No. of conversions of other closets to w.cs	108	

HOUSING.

New Houses erected during year by:-

(a) Local Authority	45
(b) Private Enterprise	14
(c) Other local authorities	Nil

No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....963

No. of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....848

No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.... 3

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action (formal or informal) by the Local Authority..516

No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..Nil

No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders....7

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted....2

No. of premises in respect of which Closing Orders were made...Nil

No. of applications for Improvement Grants approved by Ministry..1

No. of dwelling houses "improved" during year.....3

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

During the year although we have had 4.06% incidence of sickness we can again claim that a fair average weekly collection has been maintained during the past 12 months.

The number of receptacles for which we are responsible for collecting is 5766 Dust Bins and 464 Pail Closets.

The whole of the district's house and trade refuse has again been disposed of by controlled tipping at Dimple Farm. The first five years section has now been filled to it's agreed level and we are at present working on the second section, we have been singularly fortunate during the past year in obtaining great amounts of soil for tip covering and this will be extremely useful when the time comes for final covering and completion.

The income from salvage sorted from refuse at the tip during 1952 was £345 8s 3d, with a total income taken during the six years life of the controlled tip of £1,664 8s 8d.

Under the voluntary bin supply scheme 112 bins have been supplied during the year 1952 by the Council of these 55 were paid for outright and 57 will be charged out with the 1953-54 Rate Demands. Since the introduction of this dust bin supply scheme 389 bins have been supplied, of these 179 were paid for outright and 210 have been charged out on the Rate.

We are still awaiting new legislation to clarify the position as to the responsibility for the provision of dust bins.

It is pleasing to report that the Ministry have now revoked the order forbidding the use of galvanized material for dust bins and we are now able to again obtain galvanized dust bins with consequently longer life.

SALVAGE.

During 1951 the importance of waste paper rose to sublime heights but during the year 1952 dropped into the deepest slough of despond, in other words the bottom fell out of the paper position, prices went down rapidly and in addition, to ease the position, we were more or less compelled to accept a monthly quota of tonnage less than our usual despatches, this resulted in the Paper Bonus Scheme being dropped along with an expected fall in the collection. It will be seen from the following table that despite this restriction we have been able to collect and despatch 202 tons of paper during the year.

TABLE OF SALVAGE INCOME.

	Tons Paper	Income Paper	Tons all Salvage	Income all Salvage
1940/41	165	673	263	897
1941/42	178	802	238	935
1942/43	171	1135	250	1339
1943/44	117	771	190	955
1944/45	109	720	128	759
1945/46	93	594	101	629
1946/47	83	529	82	550
1947/48	104	687	114	803
1948/49	166	1187	183	1318
1949/50	196	1354	248	1475
1950/51	203	1504	226	1555
1951/52	234	3828	260	3934
1952/53	202	1741	236	1875
Total	2021	£15,525	2519	£17,019

During the year we were fortunate in obtaining a second hand electric tin baler and I feel very sure that this will be of great assistance during the coming years in both extending our tipping room and providing income to the Department.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD & MILK DISTRIBUTION.

Milk.

The distribution of milk by Licensed Producers has again been well maintained and increasing quantities are being turned over to bottled pasteurised milk.

19 samples have been taken for Methylene Blue Test, 15 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory, 19 samples for Biological and Tubercle Bacilli Test were also taken and it is pleasing to report they were all negative.

Under the Food & Drugs Act 1938 the Food & Drugs Authority took 37 milk samples, in two cases proceedings were taken for added water and the suppliers fined £10 including costs and £100 plus £9 9s costs respectively.

The following were registered with this Authority for the year ending December 1952:-

Distributor or Dairy Premises	5
Dealers Licence, Tuberculin Tested	11
Dealers Licence Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	1
Dealers Licence, Pasteurised	9
Dealers Licence Supplementary Pasteurised	1

OTHER FOODS.

Ice-Cream.

Manufacturers of Ice-Cream	1
Sale of Ice-Cream	98
No. of visits to the above	65

11 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year for analys under the Methylene Blue Test and were provisionally graded as u

Grade I.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.
8	1	2	Nil

I am pleased to report that there is an increasing number of samples passing for the Grade I test, 8 out of 11 samples this year being very satisfactory.

Miscellaneous Samples.

18 other samples of various foods have been taken by the Food & Drugs Authority including two informal samples of Boracic ointment containing excess Boric Acid and the vendors were cautione The remaining samples were classed as satisfactory.

The Food & Drugs Authority results are supplied through the courtesy of the County Analyst, R.W.Sutton Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Bakehouses.

42 inspections have been made at the 19 Bakehouses in the District and it is pleasing to report that a reasonable standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Fish & Chip Fryers.

26 inspections have been made on 9 premises and with two exceptions were maintained up to a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. One at the moment is under a period of probation and one unsatisfactory business has been closed and the building demolished.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Progress in the improvement of sanitary facilities, hygienic conditions with glass washing provision and better living conditions for Landlords is now being accelerated and I am pleased to report that during the year 6 premises have been so improved and in addition we have improvements in hand or in course of planning at 11 further licensed properties. There are 46 licensed premises in the District excluding Clubs and Off-Beer Licenses.

I do express to the representatives of the various companies concerned my appreciation of the cooperation extended to me during my enquiries and requests in these matters and for the ready way in which improvements are agreed to, although, through no fault of the companies but rather through licensing and labour difficulties, it is often some time before these improvements are carried out. It is pleasing to report, therefore, that despite these frustrations we have been able to get 22 premises improved since the end of the war and, as reported above, 11 further premises are well in hand for improving.

HOUSING.

963 housing inspections have been made in response to complaints. in the course of routine inspections and as a check on applications for Council houses.

Regular work on housing inspections still reveals the urgent need for housing improvements, including the provision of new dwellings and the maintenance and improvement of old ones, as one of the greatest tasks the country has had to face and I feel compelled to point out, as I have done on previous occasions, that this town, like the majority of towns, is feeling the effect of lack of decent homes; a lack causing more unhappiness and deterioration in family life than any other social factor. This means then pressing on with more housing schemes with all speed and publicising all the means and privileges existing to enable owners to improve their properties under the Grants and Loans now available through the Housing and other Acts.

One application for an Improvement Grant has been approved by the Ministry and three dwelling houses have been "improved" during the year. Two Undertakings in respect of dwelling houses have been accepted.

SWIMMING POOLS.

12 samples of water have been taken from the public and privately owned swimming pools, examination has proved that results showed that the chlorination process is satisfactory and all the samples passed the test.

I am pleased to report that the chlorination plant was installed at the private pool during the season and sampling results were successful.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47.

I am pleased to report that again it was not necessary to enforce the above Act owing to the person concerned agreeing to be taken care of by the Welfare Authorities.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

We have had little need for disinfecting of verminous premises during 1952, one empty house was thoroughly sprayed and disinfected with Gammexane Smoke Generators for bugs and fleas, and help by spraying D.D.T. powder has been given to two requisitioned houses. No Statutory action has been necessary.

MEAT.

The following schedule shows the meat inspected at Bakewell Slaughterhouse during 1952, where 55 visits were made for this purpose.

In addition to meat the following amounts were surrendered informally by traders as unfit for human consumption:-

Beef: 94 lbs Pork: 30 lbs Tinned Meat: 23 lbs

Ham: 108 lbs Bacon: 6 lbs

The transport and handling of meat has been reasonably maintained during the year with only occasional reminders to the contractor as to the need for constant careful handling of this commodity.

MEAT INSPECTION UNDER THE CENTRAL SCHEME.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number Killed (if known)	332	268	182	1895	258
Number Inspected	332	268	182	1895	258
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	2	2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	95	75	-	62	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	28.61%	29.97%	1.10%	3.21%	3.48%
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcases condemned	4	6	-	-	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	75	101	-	-	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	22.58%	37.68	-	-	8.52%

TENTS, VANS & MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No Statutory action has been necessary. We have 57 vans or moveable dwellings situated on some 10 sites in various parts of the District, all maintained in a reasonable condition.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(1) No. of portable dustbins emptied by Council	5766	(4) Water Closets	4641
(2) Premises visited for waste paper	175	(5) Pail & Earth Closets	823
(3) Pail closets emptied by Council	464	(6) Cesspools in Area	39

Conversions.

Number of pails and privies converted to W.Cs - 108

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The following is the Annual Report on Rodent Control submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	Local Authy	Type of Property: Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business Premises).	Total
I. Total No. of properties in Local Authority's District	22	5163	115	815	6115
II. No. of properties inspected by the Local Authy during 1952 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise (a)	6	14	1	14	35
(b)	16	488	37	497	1038
III. No. of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats — Major		-	3	-	3
Minor	11	21	4	31	67
IV. No. of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	2	8	-	8	18
V. No. of infested properties (under III & IV) treated by the Local Authority	11	28	7	36	82

Number of "block" control schemes carried out - 36

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
C.R.Lill,
Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,
Matlock.

May 1953.

Urban District Council of Norton-Radstock.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

SECTION A.

(1) Area (in acres)	3,360.
(2) Population (estimated)... ...	12,020.
(3) Number of inhabited houses ...	3,656.
(4) Rateable Value (at 31/12/52)...	£46,359.
(5) Sum represented by a penny rate	£190.

(6) Chief Industries:-

Coal Mining
Agriculture
Paper Bag making
Printing
Glove making
Wagon Repair Works
Timber Constructional Works
Boot and Shoe making.

Unemployment.

The figures, of those unemployed, at the Midsomer Norton Labour Exchange, per month, were approximately the following:-

Men 30; Women 3.

It should be noted that the Midsomer Norton Exchange now serves the whole area.

Prescribed Particulars in the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

(1) Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	45	34	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	11	11	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Excluding outworkers' premises)	16	51	-	-
TOTAL	72	96	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	0	0	0	0
Ineffective draining of floors	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences:-				
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	0	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0
	3	3	0	2.

Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted - NIL.

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork - Section 110.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110(1)(c)
Wearing apparel manufacture	133

There was one case of default in sending lists to the Council.

Vital Statistics. (Figures in parenthesis are comparative figures for England and Wales).

Births.

	Boys	Girls	Total.
Live Births:-			
Legitimate	101	88	189
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	102	89	191
Still Births:-			
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	2	5

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 15.9 (15.3).

Deaths.

Male	Female	Total.
67	61	128

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	10.6 (11.3)
Death rate from puerperal causes	0.0
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births	36.6 (27.6)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births ...	37.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births ...	0.0

Deaths (Contd).

Deaths in infants under 1 year of age:-

	Male	Female
Under 1 week	3	1
1 - 4 weeks	0	0
1 - 6 months	0	0
6 - 12 months	3	0

Causes of deaths in infants under 1 year of age:-

Prematurity	2
Congenital Malformation	1
Birth Injury	1
Broncho Pneumonia	1
Tuberculosis	1
Intussusception	1

Causes of Deaths were:-

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilis	1	0
Cancer	8	10
Diabetes Mellitus	0	3
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	6	8
Coronary Heart Disease	10	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	4
Other Diseases of the Heart	6	16
Other Circulatory Disease	6	3
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	6	1
Bronchitis	2	1
Silicosis	2	0
Gastric or Duodenal Ulceration	2	0
Nephritis	3	1
Prostatic Disease	2	0
Congenital Malformation	1	0
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	5	5
Accident	1	0
Suicide	2	0
	67	61

TOTAL - 128

SECTION B.

General provision of Health Services for the Area:-

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

(a) Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.
(b) Surveyor and Water Engineer.
(c) Temporary Medical Officer of Health (Part-time).

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Provided by the County Laboratory, Taunton and by the newly opened laboratory at Bath. The latter laboratory is at a more convenient distance to serve this area.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Under the control of the Health Department of the County Council, Taunton. The service is good. The local staff are very cooperative and helpful.

A car service is also provided for those patients requiring /transport

transport to hospital and who are unfit to use public services. Some of the vehicles are not as comfortable as could be wished. Some people are reluctant to accept the fact that the use of this service depends on medical need alone.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurses continue their valuable work.

The Home Help service satisfies an essential need.

It is still, on occasions, difficult to arrange for married women to have adequate rest.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

(i) Tuberculosis

The County Clinic at Radstock carries on its important work. It is not considered, however, that this disease is being adequately tackled on a national basis.

Further visits from the Mass Radiography Unit would be welcomed.

(ii) Venereal Disease

The nearest clinics are at Bath and Bristol.

The arrangements meet present needs.

(iii) Infant and Child Welfare Services

Good work continues in unsuitable premises.

(iv) Maternity Services

The service provided, by the Nurses at home, and by Paulton Hospital Maternity Unit, is good.

(v) Dental Treatment

No dental service for young children and expectant mothers is yet available in this immediate area. This should be provided by the County Health Authority.

The dental charges introduced during the year in the National Health Service, and especially the method of their application, are deplored.

(vi) Mental Treatment

The service for mental patients is run by the County Health Authorities.

(vii) No action has been taken under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

(e) Hospital Cases.

When necessary, Claverton Down Hospital admits cases of infectious disease from this area.

It is considered that the Emergency Bed Bureau is working satisfactorily for the admission of urgent cases.

The staff of the Hospital Management Committee do what is possible, but it is desirable that the admission of chronic sick should be hastened.

In a few specialities the waiting period for out-patient appointments is excessive, though for the rest this state of affairs fortunately no longer applies.

(f) General Health Services.

The continued division of patients into paying and non-paying classes is disliked. It is considered that the National Health Service should be free at the time of use.

3. The Elderly.

Little progress seems to have been made this year in welfare services for old people.

SECTION C.

Sanitary circumstances of this District:-

(1) Water.

Sources of supply:-

(i) The Bottlehead Springs at Downhead.
(ii) Downside and Gurney Slade Springs.
(iii) Chilcompton Springs.

The supply has been satisfactory in quality, and, as a general rule, in quantity also.

It is proposed, at a future date, to augment the supply from the Chew Stoke Reservoir (Bristol Waterworks Company).

Tests of Raw water during the year have all been satisfactory.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

No form of contamination is known and all supplies are chlorinated.

With very few exceptions, all houses are directly supplied from the mains.

(2) Swimming Bath.

The water is by Council supply and is chlorinated.

Eight samples of water were taken and all were satisfactory.

(3) Sanitation.

Two modern sewage disposal plants serve the District.

During the year extensions were made to the housing estates at Northfield, Westfield and Haydon.

Future Proposals.

It is proposed to sewer the Thicketmead area, Midsomer Norton to replace septic tanks at an approximate cost of £20,000.

There are eighteen pail closets in the District and 3,500 water closets. There were no conversions carried out during the year.

Many of the older terrace-type houses have shared lavatories. Of these houses, a considerable proportion are classed as unfit.

(4) Camping Sites.

Licences have been issued for the use of three sites for temporary occupation. It is estimated that there are two permanent and six seasonal people camping.

/Housing

Housing.

	Houses Erected during year.		Houses in Course of Erection.		Conversion to Flats or Dwellings.		Temporary i.e. Army Huts etc.
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	49	-	24	-	-	-	-
Private Enterprise	7	-	9	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	56	-	33	-	-	-	-

The total number of houses in the District is estimated to be 3,694, of which 737 are owned by the local authority.

Number of Post-war Houses erected to 31st December, 1952.		Programme for 1953.	
By Local Authority	By P. Enterprise	By Local Authority	By P. Enterprise
295	50	86	42

(a) Number of unfit houses in the District, but on which no formal action has been taken ... ... 366 (substandard)
(b) Number of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit 40
(c) Number of houses occupied under (a) 366
(b) 19
(d) Number of houses found overcrowded 113

Houses Required.

(i) To replace those unfit under (a) 366
(b) 19
(ii) To abate overcrowding 8
(iii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions, e.g. two families living in same house, but not included in (i) or (ii) 160

Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year 480

The three hundred and sixty-six substandard houses are as agreed under the Development plan. They are habitable, but it is not considered that they can be modernised at reasonable cost. It is expected they will be dealt with during the next twenty years.

Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949.

No grants were made under the Housing Act, 1949, no applications being received.

SECTION D.

Food.

I. Milk.

(a) Number of Registered Distributors 12
(Not including supplementary licences).
(b) Number of Registered Dairy Premises 12
(c) Number of supplementary licences issued to Distributors whose dairies are outside the area. 3

/Sampling.

I. Milk. (contd).

Sampling.

	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	6	5	1
Pasteurized	66	66	0

It is hoped that the number of Tuberculin Tested herds will increase.

II. Ice-cream.

Two premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and thirty-eight for retail only.

No samples were taken this year. Since the County Council now have a laboratory at Bath, it will be possible to have samples analysed. Previously this could not be done on account of distance.

III. Meat.

There are four slaughter-houses in the District for emergency and pig slaughtering.

They are:-

at Midsomer Norton 2
at Westfield 1
at Radstock 1

There are no slaughter-houses here for the slaughtering of horses for human consumption.

Eighty-eight animals were slaughtered during the year.

The following weights of meat were condemned from shops:-

For Tuberculosis ... ... 0 cwts - 62 lbs.
For other causes ... ... 2 cwts - 0 lbs.

IV. Premises where Food is Handled or Prepared

The number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 31

No action has been taken under this Act.

Occasional attacks from food poisoning are reported from individual homes, probably due to isolated cases of carelessness, but no serious outbreak has occurred.

V. Knackers Yards.

There are none in this District.

VI. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Laboratories carry out any examination requested.

None has been made this year.

VII. Nutrition.

The level of the health and physique of the children generally is considered satisfactory.

SECTION E.

Notifiable Diseases.

The following cases of infectious diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) were notified during the year:-

Notifiable Diseases. (contd).

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths.
Measles	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	8	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	0
Meningitis (Meningococcal)	1	1	0
Whooping Cough	47	0	0
Pneumonia (Influenzal)	1	1	1
Erysipelas	6	0	0
Food Poisoning	2	0	0
Glandular Fever	1	0	0

Vaccination.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1907.

It cannot be considered that the perilously poor vaccination state has improved during the year although the figures show a slight increase.

Numbers vaccinated during the year:-

Age groups	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 or over.	Totals
Primary Vacc'n.	14	6	3	3	12	38
Re-vaccination.	0	0	0	1	19	29

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified during the year.

Immunization.

Age groups	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	Total
Numbers	86	52	7	145

17 Reinforcing innoculations were given during the year.

The approximate number of children in this District is:-

0 - 4 years ... 960
5 - 14 years ... 1,700

Scabies.

The few cases that occur are treated by the family doctors.

Tuberculosis.

	Total cases Notified	Total deaths
Respiratory	8	1
Non-respiratory	2	1

It is considered that, on a national basis, there is room for a far more energetic attack on this disease.

My thanks are due to my colleagues for their great and essential help in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A.H. BULLEID, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH