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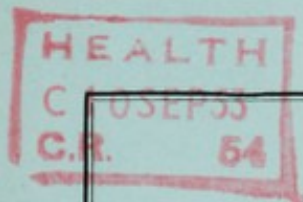
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**NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT**

in the

**Administrative County of Cambridgeshire**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**


of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**Including Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector**

for

**1952**



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## GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: (31.3.53) £67,264.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £280.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book: 6,632.

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 20,120.

Census Population 1951: 20,219.

Birth Rate	..	..	13.9
(Corrected)	..	..	15.3
Death Rate	..	..	12.1
(Corrected)	..	..	10.4
Infant Mortality Rate	..	..	10.8



## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

### CHAIRMAN

Councillor C. W. L. Woollard.

### COUNCILLORS

J. W. Aves.

H. R. Baker.

E. Cooper Bland.

R. Cornwell.

A. C. Hardy.

A. S. Kent.

J. L. Newman.

H. Palmer.

O. Spooner.

A. H. Trinder.

Rev. M. F. Williams.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 dated January 22nd, 1953 and the information requested follows closely that which was required for 1951.

The health of the population has remained satisfactory. There was a small rise in the birth rate and a small decrease in the death rate. The infant mortality rate fell from 22.1 in 1951 to 10.8, the actual number of deaths being 6 and 3 respectively. It will be noted that the majority of infant deaths occur in the first four weeks of life and our endeavours are directed more and more to reducing adverse influences in this period.

The district's experience with regard to infectious disease is discussed later in the report. Generally there were less cases notified than in the previous year and no cases of dysentery or food poisoning were brought to my notice. The outbreak of food poisoning which took place in Addenbrooke's Hospital concerned the district indirectly and is referred to later. One case of paratyphoid fever was notified, the infection is believed to have been acquired in London.

Once again no cases of diphtheria occurred. This satisfactory state of affairs calls for no complacency; it is dependent on a high proportion of the child population being immunised.

There were four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and one attributed to non-pulmonary tuberculosis; last year no deaths were recorded from these causes.

In the field of environmental hygiene the most notable and welcome feature has been the substantial completion of your area water scheme. To anticipate, pumping started in April, 1953. Every village has a piped water supply available. It is, however, a great disappointment to record once again that no further progress has been made in the Soham sewerage scheme. Despite the efforts of your Clerk and myself, both in correspondence and at our interview with officers of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a starting date has not yet been awarded for this very urgent and long awaited scheme.

A further seventy-two houses were built during the year. The need for new housing has not yet declined, nor is it expected to do so since it will be necessary in the near future to consider a policy of slum clearance. Your policy of dealing with unfit houses has undoubtedly made a good start upon this problem but as the Rural Housing Survey indicates there are many properties whose life and usefulness is now spent.

The effect of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 54/52 stressing the need for economy in local authority expenditure and requiring evidence on public health grounds of the need for water and sewerage schemes and improvements in existing council houses, has been greatly felt. The standstill on the Soham sewerage scheme has already been mentioned. Likewise you have been unable to proceed with improvement schemes in many of the pre-war council houses.

The report illustrates the broad nature of the activities of your officers in the field of environmental hygiene. I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support throughout the year. From Mr. Couperthwaite and his colleagues I have received loyal support and valuable assistance and to them my thanks are here recorded.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1953.



## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

<b>Live Births.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129	139	268
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4	11
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136	143	279
Birth rate per thousand estimated population .. ..								..	..	13.9
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.10) .. ..								..	..	15.3
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales) .. ..								..	..	15.3
<b>Stillbirths.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	2
Rate per thousand live and still births .. ..								..	..	7.1
Rate per thousand estimated population .. ..								..	..	0.09
Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) .. ..								..	..	0.35
<b>Deaths.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
								125	119	244
Death rate per thousand estimated population .. ..								..	..	12.1
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.86) .. ..								..	..	10.4
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales) .. ..								..	..	11.3
<b>Infant Mortality.</b> Deaths of infants under one year of age.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (2)	1	3 (2)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (2)	1	3 (2)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets).

Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	10.8
Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	..	..	27.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	7.2	
Legitimate Infant deaths per thousand legitimate live births	..	11.2	
Illegitimate Infant deaths per thousand illegitimate live births	..	Nil	
Maternal Mortality (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	Nil	

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)—Pulmonary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil



# CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

					1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
*BIRTH RATE..	..	..	..	..	18.3	16.0	15.6	15.4	13.4	13.9
*DEATH RATE	..	..	..	..	13.3	11.0	12.9	12.1	12.8	12.1
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	..	..			23.9	8.9	15.6	41.0	22.1	10.8
					(9)	(3)	(5)	(13)	(6)	(3)

\*The above rates are uncorrected so that they are comparable from year to year. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

# TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-	2
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-	2
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	10	18
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	12	26
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	28	62
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	65	117
								—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123	121	244
								—	—	—

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### Medical Officer of Health.

"The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951" provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements the officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

### Sanitary Inspectors.

There have been no changes in the staff during the year.

W. H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.

D. Howells, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.San.I.

F. H. Mason, A.R.San.I.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

### Hospitals.

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital or to the Exning Isolation Hospital.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been no major epidemics during the year. Cases of *Measles* and *Whooping Cough* account for the majority of the notifications received.

### *Paratyphoid.*

One case was notified. Infection is believed to have been contracted in London but the source was not discovered, though many investigations and enquiries were made. There was no spread either in the family or in London.

### *Acute Poliomyelitis.*

Two cases were notified. One case was that of a boy who sickened shortly after returning from a long weekend camp. None of his contacts developed the illness. In both cases a satisfactory recovery was made.

As shown in the adjoining tables the experience of the district with regard to other notifiable infectious diseases was not remarkable and calls for no particular comment.



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1952.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Measles	Paratyphoid	Diphtheria	Total
Under 1 ..	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	4
1 — 2 ..	-	9	-	-	12	-	-	21
3 — 4 ..	4	11	-	-	19	-	-	34
5 — 9 ..	3	42	2	-	54	-	-	101
10 — 14 ..	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
15 — 24 ..	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
25 and over	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	8	64	2	-	94	1	-	169
1951 TOTALS	13	101	-	1	176	-	-	291

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningococcal Infection	Totals
Under 5 ..	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
5 — 14 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 — 44 ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
45 — 64 ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
65 and over	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	3	-	1	-	1	1	-	6
1951 TOTALS	43	18	1	2	-	-	1	65



## Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1942-1952.

Disease	Years											
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total	1952
MEASLES												
Cases ..	2	249	23	134	36	143	57	492	11	176	1,323	94
Deaths ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
WHOOPING COUGH												
Cases ..	47	9	2	82	32	46	52	15	51	101	437	64
Deaths ..	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-

No cases of *dysentery* or *food poisoning* occurred. In the latter instance the district was indirectly concerned with the large outbreak of *Salmonella typhimurium* which took place in Addenbrooke's Hospital. The hospital found it necessary to discharge to their homes patients still infected. By arrangement with the hospital no such case was discharged until the home circumstances had been investigated to ensure that there would be no danger of spread in the community. If there was any possibility of this the hospital retained the patient until he or she could be considered free from infection. This had its reward in that no spread took place in the district from positive cases discharged to their homes. With the co-operation of family doctors and patients, stool examinations were continued after discharge until three consecutive negative specimens were obtained. For anyone remotely connected with food trades or food preparation, six consecutive negatives were obtained. Eight cases still excreting the organism were permitted to return to their homes. In all these instances careful instructions in personal hygiene and disposal of excreta were given to the families and patients concerned. I wish to express my gratitude to them for their help.

In addition to the formal notifications received from medical practitioners under Section 144 of the Public Health Act 1936 there has been a system in force for some years whereby I receive informal notifications from head teachers of cases of infectious disease occurring amongst school children. I therefore obtain some information with regard to the prevalence of non-notifiable diseases such as mumps, german measles and chickenpox for example.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. One case came to my notice from scrutiny of the death returns; it had not previously been notified. Six pulmonary and one non-pulmonary cases transferred to the district had previously been notified in other areas.

On balance at the end of the year there were six more pulmonary and four less non-pulmonary cases on the register.

On May 1st "The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952" came into operation. They revoked and replaced the 1930 Regulations but the requirement about notification itself remains unaltered. Although in the present structure of the health services the major onus for prevention of the disease rests with the local health authorities and chest physicians there are important environmental duties still remaining to local sanitary authorities particularly with regard to housing and examination of milk supplies. Furthermore, it must not be lost sight of that pulmonary tuberculosis is an infectious disease and as such its control is primarily a matter for the medical officer of health of the sanitary authority.



# TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	..	48	42	22	32	70	74
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations		3	3	1	-	4	3
3. Cases restored to Register	.. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—							
(a) Transferred from other Districts	.. .. .	5	1	-	1	5	2
(b) From Death Returns	.. .. .	1	1	-	-	1	1
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	.. .. .	6	2	2	4	8	6
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year	..	51	45	21	29	72	74



AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.  
PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS  
CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.52.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
0 — 15 ..	2	9	4	7	6	16	22
15 — 25 ..	7	3	10	10	17	13	30
25 — 35 ..	9	4	15	4	24	8	32
35 — 45 ..	16	1	9	2	25	3	28
45 — 55 ..	7	2	3	2	10	4	14
55 — 65 ..	6	—	2	2	8	2	10
65 and over ..	4	2	2	2	6	4	10
TOTALS ..	51	21	45	29	96	50	146

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

### Section 47.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

### Section 50.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE AND SAMPLES  
TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.**

Slaughter houses and Butchers' shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Fried fish shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938										95
Miscellaneous food premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Licensed premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	181
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Factories (excluding bakehouses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	168
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Rooms disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Drainage and sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
Sewage Disposal Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	363
Re-inspection of Dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Housing Act, 1949 (re Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Building Byelaws—new drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
other inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	358
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	430
Building Licence investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
										2,425
Number of samples taken:—										
Water	..	..	85							
Milk	..	..	67							
Ice Cream	..	15								



## WATER SUPPLY.

### Regional Water Scheme.

Work on the Regional Water Scheme was continued and at the end of the year the only major works outstanding were the installation of the pumping equipment and mains connections at the three high level water towers.

The reservoir was completed in August and tested with satisfactory result. 3,958 yards of the 10" rising main, 6,362 yards of 8", 1,319 yards of 6", and 26,322 yards of 3" mains were laid (i.e. a total length of about 22 miles of new mains). Work on the main Pumping Station and the Booster Station commenced in April and both buildings were practically completed by the end of the year except for works necessarily held over pending completion of the machinery contract.

### Existing Public Water Supply Arrangements.

The water supply arrangements were as outlined in last year's report and although the position caused anxiety on many occasions, the supplies were maintained.

It will be seen from the table that the quantity of water pumped at Swaffham Prior increased very substantially (i.e. by about 30%) over the amount for the previous year. The excessive wear on the pumping equipment necessitated the replacement of one of the original borehole pumps by a new submersible type of pump.

TABLE SHOWING QUANTITY OF WATER PUMPED  
(in thousands of gallons).

Pumping Station	1949	1950	1951	1952
Swaffham Prior ..	48,153	49,367	44,436	57,672
Soham .. ..	15,919	18,580	21,165	16,482
Saxon Street ..	13,155	13,708	13,611	14,909
Burrough Green ..	6,078	5,832	6,317	7,839
Stetchworth ..	2,030	2,209	2,013	2,141
TOTALS .. ..	85,335	89,696	87,542	99,043

Sampling arrangements continued as indicated in last year's report—samples for bacteriological examination being taken at monthly intervals and samples for detailed chemical analysis, quarterly. The typical results obtained did not substantially differ from those set out in previous reports, but it may be of some interest to compare the average hardness of the various waters.

SOURCE	HARDNESS (parts per 100,000)					
Swaffham Prior .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Soham .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Saxon Street .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Burrough Green .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Stetchworth .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	35

73 samples were taken during the year and with the exception of two, all were reported to be satisfactory. The two samples referred to failed on bacteriological examination, but the counts were very low and attention to chlorination soon rectified the matter.

All public supplies are chlorinated, the arrangements being as indicated in previous reports, with routine tests for residual chlorine being carried out at all stations.



The following particulars relate to the various parishes supplied from the public water mains and indicate the number of houses and estimated population supplied by connections to the houses or by standpipes.

PARISH	No. of inhabited houses according to rate book	Percentage of houses with mains water available	Supply Direct to Houses		Supplied by Standpipes	
			No. of Houses	Est. Pop.	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.
Ashley .. ..	161	95	43	121	110	324
Bottisham .. ..	275	79	178	593	39	129
Brinkley .. ..	75	63	37	134	10	37
Burrough Green ..	112	64	54	165	18	42
Burwell .. ..	803	84	578	1,846	97	256
Cheveley .. ..	462	91	361	918	58	125
Chippenham .. ..	135	81	33	111	77	272
Dullingham .. ..	192	81	128	423	28	121
Fordham .. ..	543	92	441	1,514	58	157
Isleham .. ..	453	95	294	969	136	424
Kennett .. ..	72	55	40	119	—	—
Kirtling .. ..	140	63	47	164	41	154
Lode .. ..	215	86	104	352	81	251
Soham .. ..	1,554	94	1,437	5,005	17	71
Stetchworth .. ..	182	76	65	234	73	242
Swaffham Bulbeck ..	226	77	142	458	33	118
Swaffham Prior ..	311	84	182	553	78	231
Snailwell and Landwade	95	—	—	—	—	—
Westley .. ..	48	88	40	138	2	9
Wicken .. ..	237	81	191	612	—	—
Woodditton .. ..	341	79	238	754	33	107
TOTALS .. ..	6,632	—	4,633	15,183	989	3,070

Approximately 85% of the houses are connected to mains supplies or are adjacent to a standpipe; approximately 70% being actually connected to the mains.

#### Private Water Supplies.

Of the twelve water samples taken from private supplies, four from two sources were reported to be unfit for drinking purposes. Special investigations were carried out in the cases of the unfit supplies and as a result of action taken the water was made fit.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

It is again a matter for regret to report that there has been no progress on projected sewerage schemes. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government, after representations by the Council and interviewing the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health, stated, that in view of the economic position, no starting date could be given for the urgently required scheme for Soham.

The foul ditches adjoining the built up area at Soham and into which the crude sewage is discharged, again caused serious nuisances and necessitated considerable expenditure on cleansing and maintenance works.

The department undertakes the maintenance and supervision of sewage treatment plants on council housing estates and there were eight such installations in operation at the end of the year.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### Refuse Collection and Salvage.

A foreman and seven men operating a new 13 cubic yard side loading vehicle and an old 12 cubic yard barrier loading vehicle were wholly employed on the collection and disposal of household refuse and salvage.

Collections were made at weekly intervals in parts of Soham and areas adjoining Newmarket and at fortnightly intervals in the remaining parishes.

Disposal was by "controlled" tipping in a pit at Burwell Broads. By attention to proper covering, insect and rodent control, nuisance from common pests was prevented. The approach to this pit is not good and considerable expenditure on maintenance and repair of the access road was essential.

The following table shows the quantity of salvaged materials sold during the financial year and the income obtained therefrom:—

			Tons	cwts.	qrs.	INCOME £ s. d.		
Waste Paper	..	..	104	12	0	772	1	6
Ferrous Metals	..	..	26	19	2	104	11	4
Non Ferrous Metals	..	..		7	0	25	7	6
Rags and Sacking	..	..	4	2	2	93	14	5
Bones	..	..		12	2	3	15	9
Sundries	..	..				5	4	6
TOTALS	..	..	136	13	2	1,004	15	0

This represents a decrease of 43% on the income obtained in 1951, chiefly accounted for by a reduction in the price obtained for waste paper (i.e. from 18/- to 6/6 per cwt.)

### Cesspool Emptying Service.

Two men, operating an 1,100 gallon cesspool emptying vehicle were wholly employed on this service.

During the year 1,241 loads were removed from 680 cesspools. 187 of the cesspools were on private premises and the remainder on Council properties.

The charges for private premises are made in accordance with the following scale:—

1st load 30/-.

2nd load on the same occasion 15/-.

A special charge of £1 is made where the amount removed is 550 gallons or less.

Cesspool contents have been discharged by agreement over agricultural land in various parts of the district, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable dumping places.

## **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

### **Shops Act 1950.**

All shops in the district are regularly visited and 181 inspections were made during the year.

Informal action taken resulted in the installation of washing facilities and hot water supply at three shops.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs and other Vermin.**

For the second successive year it is pleasing to record that no premises were found to be infested with bed bugs. One dwelling house seriously infested with fleas was satisfactorily treated with D.D.T.

### **Camping Sites, etc.**

Eight new licences were granted for individual moveable dwellings and twelve similar licences renewed.

No licences were issued authorising the use of land as camping sites.

The majority of the dwellings are modern type caravans with adequate sanitary and water supply arrangements. Thirty three visits were made during the year, but no action for the prevention of nuisances was found to be necessary.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district.

### **Schools.**

Five visits were made to schools during the year in connection with environmental problems. Although many schools still have pail closets there have recently been a number of conversions to flush lavatories. It is hoped, now that every village has a piped water supply available, that wherever possible, pail closets will be replaced.

### **Offensive Trades.**

There are no premises registered for offensive trades in the district.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

All slaughtermen in the area are licensed and every effort is made to secure the humane slaughter of animals.

All applications are carefully scrutinised and investigated and thirty two Slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year.

### **Factories.**

Of the sixty four factory premises in the district, fifty eight use mechanical power in connection with the processes carried on.

All factory premises are regularly inspected and 115 visits were made during the year. One factory was cleansed as a result of informal action but no statutory action was found to be necessary.

Two certificates were issued under Section 34 of the Act, specifying the means of escape in case of fire, and one certificate under Section 41 of the Act, certifying the purity of the private drinking water.



## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Operator makes a careful survey of all premises including agricultural land in each parish in accordance with a predetermined plan and the number of premises visited was 2,105, (excluding re-inspections made to determine whether the infestation had been abated.) 100 premises were found to be infested with rats or mice, but only 9 of these were serious; 97 premises were treated by the Rodent Operator, and at least 2,000 rats were killed.

The occupiers of infested premises proved co-operative and no statutory action was required. The occupiers of premises treated by the Rodent Operator are charged at the rate of 6/- per hour for his services.

## HOUSING.

### Rural Housing Survey.

A further fourteen dwelling houses were inspected and classified. The numbers of houses in the various categories as at 31.12.52 were as follows:—

CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 5	TOTAL
555	1,359	1,465	222	3,601

From the information obtained from the Survey it is obvious that the housing problem is still a long way from complete solution as at least 222 houses require immediate demolition and probably a further 700 low standard houses will have to be replaced.

### Council Houses.

Seventy two new houses were completed during the year making a total of 1,232 houses owned by the Council.

Improvement schemes carried out during the year included the provision of new bathrooms and hot water systems at two houses, new drainage and water closets at seven houses, and installation of electric lighting at 75 houses.

The number of applicants for Council Houses on the waiting list at the end of the year was 819.

### Temporary Hutments.

The management of the temporary hutments at Bottisham and Snailwell again presented special difficulties due to the unhealthy conditions caused by the flimsy construction of the buildings. The Council's policy of closing the huts when they became vacant resulted in a further two huts being closed during the year, making a total of fourteen since the Council became responsible for management.

### General.

Number of dwelling houses inspected .. .. .	363
Number of re-inspections made .. .. .	61
Number of informal notices served .. .. .	6
Number of houses reconditioned .. .. .	3
Number of new permanent houses completed during the year:—	
By the local authority .. .. .	72
By private enterprise .. .. .	20
Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation and represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	17
Number of Demolition Orders made .. .. .	15*
Number of premises demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ..	8

\*Execution of three of the Demolition Orders was suspended pending vacation of the adjoining occupied premises.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

Two dairies and eight distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Five inspections were made of the registered dairies and the premises were found to be satisfactory.

One dealer's and five supplementary licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and three dealers' and five supplementary licences under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

### Sampling.

Sixty seven samples were taken, thirty six from schools and thirty one from farms or in course of delivery.

With the exception of two, all the samples of school milk were reported to conform to the standard required for pasteurised milk. As a result of action taken in the case of the unsatisfactory samples, subsequent samples taken from the same source proved to be satisfactory.

One sample taken at a farm was found to contain organisms of *Brucella abortus*. Investigation revealed that the affected cow had been removed and a subsequent sample proved satisfactory.

### Meat and other Foods.

Slaughtering arrangements continued as set out in previous reports, all animals, with the exception of a small number of pigs, being slaughtered at the Government Abattoir within the Newmarket Urban District. The Urban District Council's inspector was assisted on numerous occasions in inspection work at the abattoir.

Fifteen slaughterhouse licences were renewed during the year.

109 inspections of slaughterhouses and butchers' shops were made. The following is a list of home killed meat condemned during the year:—

25 lbs. brisket and trimmings	..	severe bruising.
50 lbs. minced steak	..	decomposition.
4 lbs. Pork .. ..	..	sourness and rancidity.
2 lbs. Beef .. ..	..	decomposition.

Regular inspection is made of premises where foodstuffs are stored or exposed for sale and the following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned:—

462 tins of various foodstuffs	..	blown or otherwise unfit.
105½ lbs. lamb's livers	..	extensive bacterial growth.
1¾ lbs. Chocolate .. ..	..	contaminated by mice.

### Premises on which Food is prepared.

Fifty eight premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the following purposes:—

Manufacture or sale of preserved foods	..	33
Sale of Ice Cream .. ..	..	24
Manufacture of Ice Cream	..	1

Regular inspections of all premises have been carried out and 95 visits were made during the year.



### **Byelaws.**

The byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are strictly enforced and regular inspection is made of all premises where food is prepared or sold.

### **Dogs in Food Shops and Restaurants.**

Printed notices have been distributed to all food shops and restaurants and the response of both public and shopkeepers has been very satisfactory.

### **Ice Cream—Sampling.**

Fifteen samples of ice cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory and examined by the Methylene Blue Test.

Nine of the samples were Grade 1, four Grade 2, and two Grade 3.

The two Grade 3 samples were manufactured outside the district and the local sanitary authority were requested to investigate the manufacturing arrangements. The retailers concerned were impressed with the necessity for great care to be used in handling and storing the material.

### **Bakehouses.**

Seventy three visits have been made to the twenty bakehouse premises in the district.

All the bakehouse premises were cleaned and limewashed or painted at regular intervals and have been very satisfactorily maintained.

### **Licensed Premises.**

Fifty routine inspections have been made of the licensed premises in the district.

As a result of informal action two premises were completely reconditioned, new sanitary accommodation was provided at three premises and proper glass washing facilities installed at six premises.





