

[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket R.D.C.

Contributors

Newmarket (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1954

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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

for

1954

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £70,871.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £267.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book: 6,864.

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 20,180.

Census Population 1951: 20,220.

Birth Rate	..	..	15·6
(Corrected)	..	..	17·1
Death Rate	..	..	11·5
(Corrected)	..	..	9·8
Infant Mortality Rate	..	..	44·6

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor C. W. L. Woollard.

COUNCILLORS

J. W. Aves.

H. R. Baker.

A. C. Hardy.

A. S. Kent.

F. Murfitt.

J. L. Newman.

H. Palmer.

C. C. Petch.

H. J. Sadler.

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 28/54 dated 15th December, 1954, and the information requested follows closely that which has been required in the past three years.

The population of the district has altered but little during recent years. In 1953 the County of Cambridge (Parish of Reach) Confirmation Order was made under Sections 141 and 142 of the Local Government Act, 1933. On April 1st, 1954, the Order came into force. Comparison of this year's vital statistics with those of last year gives the impression of regression; the *birth rate* is down from 18.3 to 17.1 births per 1,000 population; the *death rate* up from 8.6 to 9.8 deaths per 1,000 population; the *infant mortality rate* has risen from 14.9 deaths under one year per 1,000 live births to 44.6. Such fluctuations as these must be expected and are not untoward; they tend to be exaggerated when translated into ratios. I indicated last year that we had had a remarkable year and that such good figures might not be maintained. What is more important is the trend over a number of years and in due course this will be examined. With regard to the infant deaths, ten out of the fourteen which occurred were in the first four weeks of life. It is in this period that the great majority of infant deaths now take place and their causes are often congenital in origin or due to prematurity.

Infectious disease did not trouble the district unduly and though a greater incidence of *measles* and *whooping cough* occurred it was not more than can be reasonably expected from time to time. An outbreak of *food poisoning* due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* in the village of Isleham is fully described in the text of this report.

The creation of a separate public health department on April 1st reflects the ever expanding services of the Council. The district now has the benefit of the services of two full time inspectors. At the same time, as this report reveals, the department has had added to it further important duties.

The return in the summer to private enterprise of slaughtering of animals for human consumption also meant a resumption by local sanitary authorities of their duties with regard to the licencing of slaughterhouses and meat inspection; two most important public health duties in the larger field of food hygiene. In making provision in the area for adequate slaughtering facilities meetings were held with both farmers and butchers. Ultimately 5 slaughterhouses were licensed as opposed to 26 in existence prior to 1939. Each owner of a slaughterhouse who was interested in reopening was told exactly what present requirements were from a public health point of view and it was left to him to decide whether the cost of improvement was justified having regard to the Ministry of Food's ultimate (but not yet disclosed) policy of 'moderate concentration' of slaughtering facilities. The Ministry has laid down that no licence can be issued for a period longer than up to 1959.

The sanitary inspectors have maintained 100 per cent meat inspection from the commencement of private slaughtering on July 5th. In the report a summary of the work done in this connection is given.

As envisaged in last year's report legislation has now come to pass requiring a survey of the property in the district with a view to slum clearance measures. Two proposed clearance areas have been submitted to the Ministry for confirmation. During the year 66 unfit individual houses have been demolished. In the report reference is made to the care of old people and particular stress is laid upon the necessity of providing units of accommodation for them suitable both for their needs and for arranging for their care.

Throughout the year I have received every encouragement and support from the Chairman and members of the public health committee; to them I express my thanks. Mr. Couperthwaite, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, continued most loyally and efficiently to discharge his many duties up to April 1st when he became the Council's full time Surveyor and his deputy, Mr. Howells, became Chief Sanitary Inspector; the joint offices, as already mentioned, thus becoming separate departments. I here record my thanks to Mr. Couperthwaite, Mr. Howells and Mr. Mason, for their assistance and untiring efforts during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

July, 1955.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

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

Live Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	152	146	298
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	7	16
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	161	153	314
Birth rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	15.6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.10)								..	..	17.1
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	15.2
Stillbirths.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
Rate per thousand live and still births								..	..	12.60
Rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	0.20
Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	0.36
Deaths.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
								124	109	233
Death rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	11.5
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.85)								..	..	9.8
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	11.3
Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 (6)	4 (3)	13 (9)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	—	1 (1)
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 (7)	4 (3)	14 (10)

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

Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	44.6
Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	25.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	31.8	
Legitimate Infant deaths per thousand legitimate live births	..	43.6	
Illegitimate Infant deaths	..	1	
Maternal Deaths (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	Nil	

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	39
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)—Respiratory..	..	..	Nil
Non-Respiratory—1 Female	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles ..	..	..	1
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	8
Deaths from influenza	..	..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

					1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
*BIRTH RATE	..	..	..	..	15.6	15.4	13.4	13.9	16.6	15.6
*DEATH RATE	..	..	..	..	12.9	12.1	12.8	12.1	9.9	11.5
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	..	..			15.6	41.0	22.1	10.8	14.9	44.6
					(5)	(13)	(6)	(3)	(5)	(14)

*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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4	14
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	7	15
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	8	23
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	28	59
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	51	106
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	109	233

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.

Owing to the increasing burden of surveying duties falling upon the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor due to the expansion of the Council's services it was decided in the first trimester of the year to create separate departments with effect from April 1st. Mr. Couperthwaite became the Council's full time Surveyor and Mr. Howells took over the duties of full time Chief Sanitary Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason, also full time. The division of these offices has proved satisfactory and it is gratifying to note that it has in no way interfered with the close liaison necessary between the departments.

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, 1954.

Once again no major epidemics have occurred in the district but there has been an increase in the number of cases of *measles* and *whooping cough* notified. No cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or dysentery occurred. Only two cases of *scarlet fever* were notified.

With regard to *food poisoning* however, the district was not so fortunate. In the village of Isleham (population 1,342) an outbreak of food poisoning occurred due to *Salmonella typhi-murium*; how the infection was introduced into the community was never determined. The outbreak began in six unrelated and unconnected families between August 20th and 28th. Scrupulous investigations revealed not one factor in common except the water supply (97% of the houses in the village have a water supply from the Council's mains) which was found to be satisfactory and is the subject of routine sampling. The milk supply was not a common one, nor was there any indication of a common food source.

In all nine cases were notified from eleven families and eleven contacts or family contacts were found to be symptomless excretors. The village is served by one general practitioner and to him my thanks are recorded for his valuable assistance. It is believed that not all the people affected sought medical attention and that their reluctance may have been connected with a desire to avoid the very simple investigation which is necessary for the protection of the public health in outbreaks like this. The only means of tracing out these bowel infections in the community is by the examination of stool specimens. When it is realised that outbreaks of food poisoning can be particularly serious in the old and very young, indeed sometimes causing fatalities, it is regrettable that public conscience is apathetic toward measures directed at their own safety.

Eventually with difficulty, it was possible to say that most of the eleven families were clear from infection. It is of interest to record that one child continued to excrete the organism for nearly five months.

Infective Hepatitis (infectious jaundice) is notifiable in East Anglia. Sporadic cases and small outbreaks occur from time to time in the country though during the 1939/45 war outbreaks of some magnitude occurred. No cases were notified during 1954.

In addition to formal notifications received from general 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.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1954.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic Non-Paralytic	Measles	Totals
Under 1 ..	-	6	-	3	9
1 — 2 ..	-	11	-	13	24
3 — 4 ..	-	17	-	16	33
5 — 9 ..	2	49	-	59	110
10 — 14 ..	-	3	-	2	5
15 — 24 ..	-	-	-	1	1
25 and over	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	2	86	-	94	182
1953 TOTALS	8	16	-	48	72

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	3	-	5	-	1	9
5 — 14 ..	-	-	3	-	-	3
15 — 44 ..	-	1	2	1	-	4
45 — 64 ..	2	1	-	-	-	3
65 and over	2	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS ..	7	2	10	1	1	21
1953 TOTALS	10	-	1	-	-	11

Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1944-1954.

[illegible]

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Seven cases of respiratory tuberculosis and four cases of non-respiratory 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. Two respiratory cases transferred to the district had previously been notified in other areas.

On balance at the end of the year there were three less respiratory and two less non-respiratory cases on the register.

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.

CARE OF THE AGED.

On March 23rd the County Council convened a meeting of all those interested in the care of the aged, excepting the chronic sick. Representatives of voluntary agencies, local authorities, and central government departments attended. The complexity of the organisations available, both statutory and voluntary, all having some connection with the care of old people led to a discussion upon the question of recognising one organisation as being the 'clearing house' or 'information bureau' upon all matters relating to the welfare of old people.

The conference adopted the following resolution which has received the approval of the County Council: "That this conference asks the County Council to establish a Central Clearing House for the two-way flow of information concerning the welfare of old people as indicated in the document prepared by the medical officer of health to the rural district councils and envisaged in Ministry of Health circular 11/50." It is hoped that the effect of this policy will be to make more efficient use for the aged of the many services available for their assistance.

Following upon this large conference a smaller conference consisting of representatives of the four housing authorities in the County together with representatives of the County Council, met to discuss ways of providing suitable housing accommodation for old people in which the County Council could be of financial assistance under the provisions of Section 126 of the Local Government Act, 1948.

In view of the increasing number of the population having accession to the older age groups it is a matter of major importance how best these older age groups, with their particular problems, are cared for, having due regard, firstly to their needs and wishes, and secondly to the economic aspect. There is ample evidence that wherever possible it is the wish of old people to live an independent life in their own homes; economically this is also the most attractive course. The care of old people in Homes is extremely costly. Every endeavour, therefore, needs to be made by local authorities generally to make suitable forms of housing provision supported by adequate domiciliary services so that old people may be cared for satisfactorily in their own homes.

It is hoped furthermore, that it will not be long before the hospital authorities in the area provide a full geriatric service, including domiciliary consultation, domiciliary services and/or 'day ward' facilities where necessary. With such a service coupled with local authority domiciliary services and the activities of voluntary organisations, together with the provision of suitable forms of housing accommodation, it should be possible to provide adequately and economically for the problems inherent in an ageing population.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	48	41	16	23	64	64
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	6	1	1	3	7	4
3. Cases restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	-	2	-	-	-	2
(b) From Death Returns	-	1	-	-	-	1
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	7	6	4	2	11	8
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year	47	39	13	24	60	63

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.
RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS
CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.54.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0 — 15 ..	1	5	4	6	5	11	16
15 — 25 ..	4	2	7	8	11	10	21
25 — 35 ..	10	3	16	4	26	7	33
35 — 45 ..	17	-	8	3	25	3	28
45 — 55 ..	7	1	1	1	8	2	10
55 — 65 ..	6	1	1	1	7	2	9
65 and over ..	2	1	2	1	4	2	6
TOTALS ..	47	13	39	24	86	37	123

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1954:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops	..	..	..	..	..	592
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	39
Fried Fish Shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	..	..	..	..	..	152
Miscellaneous food premises	..	..	..	..	..	78
School Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	8
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	53
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	150
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	6
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	68
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	7
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	98
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	115
Rooms Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	3
Drainage and Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	157
Sewage Disposal Works	..	..	..	..	..	5
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	6
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	19
Dwellinghouses	..	..	..	..	..	647
Re-inspection of Dwellinghouses	..	..	..	..	..	56
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	64
Housing Act, 1949 (re Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	..	122
Nuisances (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	93
Building Byelaws—New drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	83
Other inspections	..	..	..	..	..	111
Petroleum Acts and Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	17
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	253
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	1
TOTAL						3,003

Number of samples taken:—

Water	..	..	..	..	..	49
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	50
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	11

HOUSING.

Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936).

Two proposed Clearance Areas at Bottisham, consisting of twenty-five houses, were submitted to the Ministry for confirmation. By the end of the year six of the dwellings had been vacated and the owners had undertaken not to relet them.

Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.		<i>No. of Houses</i>
(1)	HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(a)	Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	66
(b)	Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	1
(c)	Parts of buildings closed	Nil
(2)	HOUSING ACT, 1949.	
(a)	Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	Nil
(b)	Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	Nil
(3)	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISC. PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.	
	Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	19

REPAIRS.		<i>No. of Houses</i>
(4)	INFORMAL ACTION.	
	Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during 1954 as a result of informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts	20
	ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.	
(5)	PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a)	by owners	1
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(6)	HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
	Houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—	
(a)	by owners	Nil
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

GENERAL.

Number of dwellinghouses inspected	647
Number of re-inspections made	56
Number of houses improved with the aid of a grant under the Housing Act, 1949	20
Grants paid on above	£5,255
Number of houses demolished during the post war period:—	
(a) By Statutory action	94
(b) By owners, voluntarily	16
Number of houses closed for human habitation during the post war period (excluding Council hutments)	19
Number of new permanent houses completed during the year—	
(a) By the Local Authority	110
(b) By private enterprise	58

Rural Housing Survey.

It has not been possible to continue a detailed survey of the dwellinghouses in the area but unfit houses (Category 5) have been dealt with as and when they became vacant; in this connection the close liaison between the House Letting Committee and the Public Health Department has proved very satisfactory. The low controlled rents continue to hamper progress on cottage improvements and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, has had a very poor response because the rents are controlled by the low rural rateable values. No applications have been received for certificates of disrepair.

At the end of the year, the following houses had been placed in the provisional categories stated:—

CATEGORY	HOUSES
1	247
2	1,194
3	1,353
5	291
TOTAL SURVEYED	3,085

All Council houses have been excluded from the above statement but one can assume that these dwellings will fall within categories 1 and 2.

Council Houses.

The Council now own 1,474 houses, 737 of which have been built since the end of the war.

Thirty-five temporary hutments at Bottisham and Snailwell continued to be occupied, nine of the dwellings having been closed for human habitation during the year. It is the Council's policy to close these hutments when the opportunity presents itself.

There were 671 outstanding applications for Council houses on the books at the end of the year.

Housing Improvements—Housing Act, 1949.

The above Act provides for the payment of grants of up to 50% of the cost of structural improvements consisting of drainage, sanitary fittings, hot and cold water supplies, improved lighting and ventilation, damp-proofing, etc. After some relaxation on the improvement standard to be adopted, the provisions have become increasingly interesting to property owners and 122 visits were made during the year to assist and advise owners on improvement schemes which would rank for grant. Twenty-six houses have been modernised under this scheme since the Act came into force and enquiries continue to flow into this department in ever increasing numbers; it is anticipated that the results will be most gratifying.

Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269.

There are no licensed camping sites in the area.

Licences to station individual caravans granted or renewed	11
Applications refused	Nil

All applications are carefully scrutinised to ensure compliance with the above Act, and no nuisances were reported during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Almost the whole of the rural area is now supplied with water from the new pumping station at Chippenham and the Swaffham Prior Pumping Station which was constructed in 1938. The area adjacent to Newmarket town is supplied by the Newmarket Waterworks Company, the parish of Kennett is supplied by the Mildenhall R.D.C. and a few cottages on the extreme boundary are supplied by the Cambridge Town Waterworks.

Water is supplied to the Chesterton R.D.C. at Six Mile Bottom and Stow-cum-Quy.

It is interesting to note that the quantity of water supplied from the Council's pumping stations has increased from approximately 90,000,000 gallons in 1950, to 124,000,000 gallons in 1954, an increase of about 38% in five years.

Total Hardness.

Supply	Parts per 100,000
Swaffham Prior Pumping Station	6
Chippenham Pumping Station ..	23
Newmarket Waterworks	26
Mildenhall R.D.C.	29

Sufficiency of Supply.

All parishes now have a piped water supply available and no difficulty has been experienced in meeting the demand.

Houses to which a Piped Water Supply is available.

Parish	Population (1951 Census)	No. of Dwellings (on Rate Books)	No. of dwellings taking a supply (Rate books)
Ashley	462	155	139
Bottisham	1,363	281	262
Brinkley	169	74	65
Burrough Green	283	119	101
Burwell	2,304†	824	824 766
Cheveley	1,348	472	234*
Chippenham	437	132	102
Dullingham	523	202	166
Fordham	1,705	598	533
Isleham	1,342	474	457
Kennett	203	81	51
Kirtling	393	137	106
Lode	595	218	295 195
Reach	312†	104	91
Snailwell	325	106	65
Soham	4,865	1,652	1,501
Stetchworth	475	200	168
Swaffham Bulbeck	611	225	247 192
Swaffham Prior	668†	223	188
Westley Waterless	193	52	46
Wicken	665	199	180
Woodditton	979	336	195*
	20,220	6,864	6,016 5803

†These figures have been adjusted by estimation, the parish of Reach having been introduced since the 1951 census was made.

*These figures do not include houses which are supplied by the Newmarket Waterworks Company.

Chlorination.

All supplies are chlorinated by automatic plant at the source.

Sampling.

All public supplies are sampled monthly for bacteriological examination and at quarterly intervals for full chemical analysis.

The following samples were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or Public Analyst for routine examination:—

Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Public Mains ..	39	2	} 44
Private Bore ..	1	2	

The unsatisfactory samples from the public supplies were due to minor contamination of taps and repeat samples proved satisfactory. The private bore, which was a new source, proved satisfactory after continuous pumping. A sample was taken from the mains in response to a complaint regarding a deposit of iron compounds and flushing was carried out by the water engineer. Two samples of river water which had previously been used for drinking purposes were found to be grossly contaminated.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Slaughterhouses.

Prior to the derationing of meat on the 5th July, 1954, seventeen slaughterhouses were licensed in the area for the occasional slaughtering of pigs not intended for sale. All other animals were slaughtered at the Government Abattoir within the Urban District of Newmarket and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector in that district, assistance being given by this department whenever it was found necessary.

When the Government announced that the end of meat rationing was in sight, the existing slaughterhouses were surveyed, the owners interviewed and several meetings were held with trade representatives in an effort to shape a policy which was satisfactory to all concerned, particular attention being paid to the provision of satisfactory premises with conditions conducive to a good standard of meat inspection. Most of the premises lacked essential amenities and it was obvious that the provision of the very essentials would cost a considerable sum; after several discussions the owners of five slaughterhouses decided to qualify for licences by complying with the Council's request to improve the standard of their premises. Schedules of improvement works were prepared by the department and the owners started work on the provision of drainage, water supply, washing and hanging facilities, electric lighting, impervious floors and other necessary improvements. At four of the slaughterhouses, killing commenced on the 5th July and a system of 100 per cent meat inspection was put into operation on the same day. The extensive structural improvements at two of the slaughterhouses had not been completed by the end of the year but licences were issued, accompanied by notices requiring the execution of the outstanding works. Two of the four operative slaughterhouses are used for the killing of small animals only, bovines being slaughtered at the two Soham slaughterhouses.

The Government slaughterhouse in the Urban District was taken over by a private firm and slaughtering continued without interruption when the derationing of meat came about. It is considered that the slaughtering facilities available to the butchers in the rural district are adequate.

592 visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops and the following statement shows the quantity of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Meat and Offal Condemned.

					Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Whole Carcase	..	..	..	..	1	8	1
Livers	..	..	..	..	23	11	2
Half Livers..	..	..	..	..	2	1	—
Lungs	..	..	..	..	13	5	3
Heads	..	..	..	..	13	16	—
Kidneys	..	..	..	..	1	—	—
Hearts	..	..	..	..	—	6	—
Mesentery	..	..	..	..	2	—	—
Udder	..	..	..	..	—	1	—

Miscellaneous.

Beef, bruised	..	..	..	..	53 lbs.
Pork, bruised	..	..	..	..	10 „
Beef, bone taint	..	..	..	..	260 „
Pork, miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	10 „
Calf foreleg	..	..	..	..	9 „

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Bovines	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	262	510	838
Number inspected	262	510	838
All diseases except Tuberculosis—			
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	6	34
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	13.74	1.37	4.89
Tuberculosis only—			
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	—	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.01	—	4.65

Registered Food Premises.

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

(a) Sausage and cooked meat premises	21
(b) Fried fish shops	7
(c) Sale of Ice Cream	42
(d) Manufacture of Ice Cream	1

One hundred and fifty-two visits were made to registered premises during the year and major improvements were carried out at three premises as a result of an informal request to the owners.

Ice Cream.

One ice cream manufacturer is registered and although his premises are small, the equipment is of modern design and samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

104 visits were made to ice cream premises and eleven samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue examination; all were reported as Grade 1.

Milk.

4 dairies and 6 distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. 7 inspections of dairies were made and the premises were found to be satisfactory.

Milk Production is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and we are informed by the Cambridgeshire Agriculture Executive Committee that 62 dairy farms are registered in this area, and 27 of these are "Tuberculin Tested" herds.

Licences.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences issued	2
Supplementary Licences issued	4

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences issued	3
Supplementary Licences issued	3

One pasteurising plant, which was licensed by the Cambridgeshire County Council, closed down during the year.

Sampling.

Twenty-eight samples of pasteurised milk were collected from schools, three from the same plant failed to pass the phosphatase test but further samples proved satisfactory. This small plant has however, now passed out of use, and all pasteurised milk is transported from adjoining districts. One sample was not tested because the atmospheric shade temperature was over 65 degrees F.

In twenty-two samples of raw milk collected at farms the Public Health Laboratory reported that neither tuberculosis nor *Brucella abortus* organisms were present.

Licensed Premises.

A survey covering 79 public houses and clubs was made in 1948 and since that year the following improvements have been recorded:—

New sanitary accommodation (consisting of water closets and urinals) and drainage	26 premises
New sanitary accommodation (Pail Closets)	7 „
New glass washing facilities	38 „
Premises rebuilt	2

Numerous other structural improvements and decorations, although not recorded, have been executed by the brewers.

Fifty-three inspections of licensed premises were made during the year.

Food Shops, Cafes, Etc.

Regular inspections have been made of premises where foodstuffs are prepared, stored or exposed for sale and the following foodstuffs were condemned:—

225 tins of various foodstuffs—Blown or otherwise unfit.
34 lbs. Cheese—Mould.

The school canteens were inspected and several of the suggestions made regarding improvements have already been acted upon by the County Council.

Byelaws.

The byelaws made by the Council under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to hygiene in food premises, are strictly enforced but unfortunately one still finds owners of food premises who are loath to provide a constant hot and cold water supply over a proper lavatory basin discharging to the drains. Current legislation still fails to make this requirement more specific.

Bakehouses.

Thirty-nine visits have been made to the 16 bakehouse premises in the area and these were found to be satisfactory. Six informal notices were served requiring minor improvements.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933—1951.

Twenty-eight licences were issued to slaughtermen. The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, came into operation on the 5th July, 1954, after which date a further four licences were issued to slaughtermen. Under the provisions of the last named Act, each licence specifies the types of animals which may be slaughtered and the instrument to be used.

Knacker's Yard.

One licensed Knacker's Yard is situated in a remote part of the district where the creation of a nuisance is most unlikely. The knacker meat is sterilized on the premises and fed to the owner's stock.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A tender amounting to £163,000 was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in May for works included in the Soham Sewerage Scheme consisting of sewers, treatment works, pumping stations and machinery. Work commenced on the scheme in July and satisfactory progress in the laying of 15", 12" and 9" sewers had been made by the end of the year.

Thirteen small sewage treatment plants on Council housing sites and three village disposal works are maintained by the Surveyor's Department and the regular de-sludging of settlement tanks and pump wells prevented serious breakdowns and nuisances.

The Council's Cesspool Emptier has been extremely useful in dealing with a number of septic tanks on Council housing sites which are very troublesome and require weekly clearance. However, it is anticipated that the sewerage schemes, which should be completed in the reasonably near future, will abate the majority of these recurring nuisances.

One hundred and fifty-seven miscellaneous inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage. The relaxation on the siting of septic tanks in relation to dwellinghouses has proved most helpful to owners who would otherwise have been deprived of the advantage of modern sanitation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Household rubbish and salvage is collected by two vehicles manned by a foreman, two drivers and six labourers who are also responsible for the maintenance of two refuse tips and paper baling. Disposal is by controlled tipping at Burwell Broads and Fordham, and wet tipping is carefully avoided. The Council's Rodent Officer makes frequent inspections of the pits to ensure proper control over rats and other pests and no serious nuisance was reported.

To encourage the saving of waste paper, a large quantity of trade refuse is collected free of charge, but this type of rubbish is now increasing and, if the service is to run to schedule, it may be necessary to abandon the collection of bulky materials which cannot be truly classified as "household rubbish."

The following areas receive a WEEKLY collection:—

Area	No. of Houses
Burwell	824
Fordham	598
Soham	1,652
Area adjacent to Newmarket town	357
TOTAL	3,431
=50% of whole district.	

The following areas receive a FORTNIGHTLY collection:—

Area	No. of Houses
Ashley	155
Bottisham	281
Brinkley	74
Burrough Green	119
Cheveley	231
Chippenham	132
Dullingham	202
Isleham	474
Kennett	81
Kirtling	137
Lode	218
Reach	104
Stetchworth	200
Swaffham Bulbeck	225
Swaffham Prior	223
Snailwell	106
Westley	52
Wicken	199
Woodditton	220
TOTAL =50% of whole district.	3,433

A small number of houses in the Padney and Soham Fen area are dealt with monthly, along with a few isolated dwellings in other parts of the district. 718 loads were collected during the year, 2,376 gallons of petrol were used and the vehicles travelled 15,825 miles.

It should be noted that the quantity of refuse collected has increased from 528 loads in 1951 to 718 loads in 1954, an increase of 36%, which can be attributed to the development of Council estates and to the fact that burnable rubbish, as distinct from salvage, is not being burned by householders.

Income.

Salvaged Materials.

Material	1954			1953		
	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.
Waste Paper	83 16 2	554	15 10	71 3 0	423	3 6
Ferrous Metals	16 8 3	64	13 9	17 8 1	65	7 11
Non-Ferrous Metals	2 17 0	42	10 11	3 11 1	33	5 7
Rags and Sacking	2 2 2	58	8 10	3 8 1	72	14 1
Bones				7 3	2	5 10
Sundries		11	12 8		4	4 0
TOTALS	105 4 3	732	2 0	95 18 2	601	0 11

At the end of the year, the following prices were being obtained for scrap materials:—

Mixed Waste Paper	£7 0s. 0d. per ton
Cast Iron	£5 10s. 0d. „ „
Light Iron	£2 5s. 0d. „ „
Lead	£75 0s. 0d. „ „
Brass	£108 0s. 0d. „ „
Rags	£30 0s. 0d. „ „
Sacking	£6 0s. 0d. „ „

Nightsoil Collection.

The Council has not undertaken the collection of nightsoil but a Contractor is available to householders by private arrangements.

Cesspool Emptying.

A "Shelvoke & Drewry" 1,100-gallon cesspool emptier and two men are employed full time on the emptying of cesspools and septic tanks. A third man is occasionally diverted from refuse collection to cesspool emptying on the larger estates and this procedure has been found profitable. Private householders are charged at the rate of 30/- for the first load cleared and 15/- for each subsequent load on the same date. The housing revenue account is debited, at the same rates, to cover the cost of emptying Council house cesspools, no charge being made on the general rate for this service.

No. of Cesspools emptied	..	..	..	891
No. of Loads	..	..	..	1,607

216 of the above cesspools were on private premises and the remainder on Council house estates.

The vehicle covered a distance of 8,671 miles in the course of this work and consumed 1,461 gallons of petrol.

Owing to the pressure of work it has been necessary to engage a private contractor on numerous occasions to assist with cesspool emptying on Council estates.

The disposal of cesspool contents presents a formidable problem, particularly at certain times of the year when farmers are loathe to accept dumping on agricultural land. The disposal of this sewage in the Bottisham sewage works was tried but gave rise to nuisance and seriously affected the efficiency of the settlement tanks.

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Shops Act, 1950.

The department is responsible for inspections under the provisions of Section 31 relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and heating of shops where persons are employed. In the majority of shops a combined inspection can be made to ensure compliance with this Act and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

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

Offensive Trades.

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

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A full-time Rodent Officer is employed by the Council on survey and treatment duties under the provisions of the above Act. A close liaison is maintained with the Agricultural Executive Committee, who continue to deal with agricultural lands by contract, and this department undertakes work on private premises at the rate of 6/- per hour.

The following summary of inspections includes work carried out by sanitary inspectors in the normal course of duty:—

	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Coun- cil Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	(5) Agricul- tural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	34	6,620	492	7,146	981
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification		20	10	30	5
(b) Survey under the Act ..	34	467	130	631	148
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)		730	352	1,082	47
III. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats { Major	8	—	7	15	1
{ Minor	20	65	62	147	10
(b) Mice { Major		—	—	—	—
{ Minor		10	20	30	—
IV. Number of infested properties (in Sec. III) treated by the Local Authority	28	60	50	138	5
V. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VI. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ..	—	2	—	2	—

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

One licence to keep a pet shop was issued during the year.

Eradication of Vermin.

No bed bug infestations were reported. Every assistance is given to occupiers who are troubled with minor flea infestations, but with D.D.T. and other insecticides on the market, the occasion rarely presents itself. Wasps nests have been dealt with occasionally and cockroaches in bakehouses are effectively controlled by new methods.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.**1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. factories not having mechanical power)	5	4	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power)	58	64	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	63	68	4	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	3	—	—	—



