

[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket R.D.C.

Contributors

Newmarket (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1957

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/v69k87my>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1957



NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1957

GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22

Rateable Value: £128,661


Estimated sum represented by a penny rate for year 1957-1958: £485

Number of inhabited houses: 6945

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 20,230

Census Population 1951: 20,220

Birth Rate	..	..	15·1
(Corrected)		..	16·5
Death Rate	..	..	10·4
(Corrected)		..	9·6
Infant Mortality Rate			19·6



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29906623>

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor H. Palmer.

COUNCILLORS

H. R. Baker.

J. H. Budden.

J. P. Clark.

F. Murfet.

J. T. Nunn.

J. G. A. Paul.

C. C. Petch.

H. J. Sadler.

C. F. Sargeant.

Mrs. J. O. Smith.

A. H. Trinder.

Rev. P. R. K. Whitaker.

C. W. L. Woollard, J.P.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:	P. A. Tyser, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector:	D. Howells, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector:	F. H. Mason, A.R.S.H.
Clerk:	Miss S. Furze.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/58 dated 13th January 1958.

Vital Statistics and Infectious Diseases.

The mid-year population of your district in 1957 was 20,230 persons which showed an increase of 40 over last year's figure and 10 over the 1951 Census figure; nevertheless, there was in fact a natural increase of 96 persons. Thus, once again there is evidence of the emigration which I referred to in my 1955 report. The district's population, although enjoying a satisfactory degree of natural increase does not grow by this means, nor by the attraction of other persons to the district; indeed it may be said that the annual 'export' of persons gives the impression of a static population. I have no explanation to offer for these facts.

The birth rate at 16.5 live births per thousand population is higher by 0.6 than last year. The number of deaths remained constant, but the small increase in population having an infinitesimal effect on the ratio the rate remains the same at 9.6 deaths per thousand population. A small rise in the infant death rate from 17.1 to 19.6 deaths under one year per thousand live births is noted and, once again, of these deaths the majority occurred in the first four weeks of life. There was a considerable fall in the still birth rate from 26.5 to 16.1 per thousand live and still births.

In the field of infectious disease no event worthy of particular mention occurred except that in the last three months of the year an epidemic of influenza, which was referred to as 'Asian influenza' invaded the district; further details are available in the body of the report. The County Council, as local health authority, continued to make arrangements for the special classes of the population to receive vaccination against poliomyelitis. The amounts of British made vaccine fell below expectation and vaccine manufactured in North America was imported, retested in this country and issued for use through local health authorities; this enabled the extent of the classes of people eligible in the Ministry's scheme to be increased.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Food Hygiene.

As will be seen from the summary of visits the greatest activity in the department during the year has been associated with this subject. It can be said that the majority of the structural improvements in food premises in the area as required by the 1955 Food Hygiene Regulations are well nigh complete. There comes now the long pull of educating those working in the food trades, not only in the best use of the facilities provided, but also in the care of foodstuffs, and, finally and most important, the need for their own scrupulous personal hygiene. This educational programme is slow and unspectacular but it is, nevertheless, the one sure way of reducing the number of food poisoning incidents recorded annually.

The future policy regarding slaughterhouses remains indeterminate and, therefore, unsatisfactory. The avowed government policy of moderate concentration has been dropped and local authorities are left in some uncertainty as to what standards will ultimately be enforceable. Of the five slaughterhouses licensed in the area, one has always been unsatisfactory, this fact being acknowledged by its owners, and another has been shared between two butchers, an arrangement which always has complications. When the Ministry's circular F.S.H. 6/57 was received an opportunity was sought to discuss its contents with the owners of slaughterhouses. These discussions have resulted in one butcher putting forward plans and getting approval to the building of his own slaughterhouse and thus ending his sharing agreement. It has also resulted in the owners of the unsatisfactory premises coming forward with plans for a slaughterhouse adequate for their needs and to be sited in more suitable surroundings. At the time of writing the Ministry's approval to the plans has been given and local planning approval is now awaited.

The apparent continued increase in the presence of *Cysticercus bovis* in beasts signifies that these animals are being exposed to infection, probably in their pastures, since they can only acquire these cysts by themselves consuming the eggs of the human tapeworm *Taenia saginata*. Of the incidence in man, in this country, of the parasite we know very little. The thought cannot be avoided that the

distribution of nightsoil from cesspool emptiers on to land where cattle may have access could be a contributory factor. Since the eggs of the tapeworm can pass through sewage works it is possible for them to be present in streams where cattle water. There is also a possibility that the eggs can be distributed by other agencies after they have been excreted by man. It is in this field of enquiry rather than the tracing back of individual beasts that useful information is likely to be acquired.

Housing.

The report this year includes a table summarising the action taken by the Council in the post-war years with regard to eliminating houses unfit for human habitation. It will be seen that considerable strides have been made in this direction. Nevertheless there still remain one hundred and ninety-one unfit houses in the first five year slum clearance programme. In addition there are also some one hundred applicants urgently requiring rehousing. Much of the need for new housing could be met by the erection of old people's bungalows and it is hoped that the Council's plans in this direction will not be long delayed. It is unfortunate that for a period during the year, owing to the serious situation in the national economy, the Council felt compelled to call a halt to its housing programme until it could see more clearly how the national economic situation would develop.

Water Supplies.

The most important occurrences with regard to water supplies during the year has been the various meetings and conferences with neighbouring authorities concerning the Minister's requirements for the regrouping of water undertakings as set out in his Circular 52/65. During the year there was also a special enquiry into the question of the supply of water to the Cheveley Park area. At present it is supplied by the Newmarket Waterworks Company but they were unable to augment the supply sufficiently for the development proposed in the area. The result of the special enquiry has been that this Council will now be responsible for supplying water in this area.

Sewerage.

During the year the scheme for the village of Bottisham was completed and it was welcome news when the Ministry agreed to the Lode, including Longmeadow, part of this scheme being completed also, as the sewerage of these villages is extremely urgent. The Council has wisely started the preliminary steps for a sewerage scheme for the village of Burwell where it is becoming almost impossible to maintain anything like reasonable public health standards with the existing facilities. The completion, during the year, of a sewer extension at Cheveley was much needed. As will be seen in the report, considerable strides have been made in Soham in connecting properties to the sewer and eliminating archaic, offensive and insanitary conservancy systems. Nevertheless there is still considerable work to be done before it can be said that the maximum benefit is being obtained from the sewerage scheme.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Although the coming into force of the Clean Air Act 1956 may not apparently have great significance to rural authorities, it must be emphasised that in combating air pollution every little contribution helps. It is to be hoped that the Council will not delay over long the adoption of the Byelaws governing the type of solid fuel appliance fitted in new properties.

On behalf of the department I would here record our thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and interest during the year.

I am, as always, grateful to Mr. Howells and Mr. Mason for their diligent work and ready assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER.

June, 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

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

Live Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	145	150	295
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	8	11
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148	158	306
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.1
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.09)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.5
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.1
Still Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.1
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.4
								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	85	210
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.4
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.92)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.6
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.5
Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (2)	2 (2)	6 (4)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (2)	2 (2)	6 (4)
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

Infant Mortality rate (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	19·6
Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales)	..	..	23·0
Neonatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	13·1
Legitimate Infant deaths per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	20·4
Illegitimate Infant deaths	..	..	Nil
Maternal Deaths (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	Nil

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	47
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)—Respiratory	..	..	Nil
Non-Respiratory	..	..	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	6
Deaths from influenza	..	..	2
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

					1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
*BIRTH RATE...	..	..	..	..	13.9	16.6	15.6	14.6	14.5	15.1
*DEATH RATE	..	..	..	..	12.1	9.9	11.5	10.4	10.4	10.4
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	..	..			10.8	14.9	44.6	27.2	17.1	19.6
					(3)	(5)	(14)	(8)	(5)	(6)

*These rates are uncorrected. 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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	10	35
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	18	55
75 and over ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	47	93
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	85	210

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.

It is convenient to record here that from 1st January, 1958, your Medical Officer of Health has held an honorary Consultant appointment in social and preventive medicine at Fulbourn Hospital.

Public Health Inspectors.

Mr. Howells continues as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason.

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, 1957.

There is little to comment upon in the table of infectious diseases this year.

One case of *paratyphoid fever* occurred, the origin of which was not discovered.

Three cases of *poliomyelitis* were notified during July, two of which were associated with paralysis. All three occurred in separate parts of the district and there was no apparent connection between them.

No cases of diphtheria, dysentery or food poisoning were reported.

A certain number of cases of measles and whooping cough occurred as shown in the tables.

Influenza.

Influenza is not a notifiable disease. During the summer information was available in this country that a pandemic of influenza was spreading from Eastern countries; this was referred to as "Asian influenza". In the county arrangements were made to ascertain when the pandemic reached Cambridgeshire. A more comprehensive picture of events, in the light of the illness not being notifiable, is obtained by considering the effect of the invasion on the County as a whole. From the weekly figures of new claims for sickness benefit which are received from the local offices of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, it appeared that about the 17th September the County began to be invaded. The weekly sickness figure rose at that time by more than 30% and continued to rise steeply until 1st October, when it was double the normal figure; by the middle of November the major part of the pandemic in this county was over. To begin with the illness was more prevalent on the County boundaries and in the City of Cambridge, but eventually all areas were affected.

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.

Fourteen cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. This is exactly twice the number notified last year. The increase is almost entirely due to six cases notified in connection with one family group. One respiratory and one non-respiratory case were transferred to the district previously notified in other areas. On balance at the end of the year there was one more respiratory and three less non-respiratory cases on the register.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

Section 50.

No action was required under this Section during the year

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1957.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Dysentery	Measles	Totals
Under 1 year	-	4	-	-	-	4	8
1 — ..	-	1	-	-	-	5	6
2 — ..	-	3	-	-	-	2	5
3 — ..	-	3	-	-	-	8	11
4 — ..	-	9	-	-	-	15	24
5 — 9 ..	1	35	-	-	-	48	84
10 — 14 ..	-	6	-	-	-	14	20
15 — 24 ..	2	-	-	1	-	2	5
25 and over	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTALS ..	3	61	2	1	-	100	167
1956 TOTALS	7	4	1	1	-	24	37

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 — 14 ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
15 — 44 ..	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
45 — 64 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	1	-	-	3	1	-	5
1956 TOTALS	4	1	2	-	-	-	7

Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1947-1957.

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

			Respiratory Male Female	Non-Respiratory Male Female	Total Male Female
1.	Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	.. ..	45 35	14 16	59 51
2.	Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations		8 6	- -	8 6
3.	Cases restored to Register	.. .. .. ..	- -	- -	- -
4.	Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—				
	(a) Transferred from other Districts	.. .. .. ..	- 1	- 1	- 2
	(b) From Death Returns	.. .. .. ..	- -	- -	- -
5.	Number of Cases removed from Register	.. .. .. ..	9 5	2 2	11 7
6.	Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year	.. ..	44 37	12 15	56 52

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.
RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS
CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.57.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0 — 15 ..	3	5	3	3	6	8	14
15 — 25 ..	4	2	5	5	9	7	16
25 — 35 ..	7	3	18	3	25	6	31
35 — 45 ..	16	—	6	1	22	1	23
45 — 55 ..	7	—	1	—	8	—	8
55 — 65 ..	4	1	2	2	6	3	9
65 and over ..	3	1	2	1	5	2	7
TOTALS ..	44	12	37	15	81	27	108

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1957:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	1,191
Bakehouses	48
Fried Fish Shops and other premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	451
Miscellaneous food premises	284
Canteens	12
Licensed Premises	67
Shops	236
Knacker's Yard	2
Factories	72
Public Cleansing	145
Infectious Disease enquiries	23
Premises disinfected or disinfested	11
Drainage and Sewerage	487
Sewage Disposal Works	9
Schools (excluding visits for milk sampling)	15
Moveable Dwellings	47
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	453
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	10
Housing Act, 1949 (re Improvement grants)	77
Nuisances (including re-visits)	73
New drains tested	35
Petroleum Acts and Regulations	4
New petrol tanks tested	1
Miscellaneous	173
Sanitary Accommodation	26
TOTAL ..	3,952

Number of samples taken:—

Water	83
Milk	23
Ice Cream	9
Informal notices served	119
Specimens collected	54

HOUSING

Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	31
(2) Unfit houses closed under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 and Sections 10 and 11, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	19
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936..	Nil

REPAIRS.

HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

(4) After informal action by Local Authority	81
(5) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by Local Authority	Nil
(6) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1936	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by Local Authority	Nil

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

Parish	Demolished		Houses Closed		Parts of Buildings Closed	Demolition Orders Made	D.O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	Orders	Undertakings			
ASHLEY ..	11	-	-	2	-	9	-
BOTTISHAM ..	11	12	4	2	1	37	-
BRINKLEY ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
BURROUGH GREEN ..	4	-	-	2	-	4	-
BURWELL ..	10	-	5	3	-	15	1
CHEVELEY ..	2	-	2	1	-	2	-
CHIPPENHAM	1	-	2	1	-	1	-
DULLINGHAM	3	-	1	-	-	4	-
FORDHAM ..	11	-	5	-	-	7	-
ISLEHAM ..	19	-	3	2	-	22	-
KENNETT ..	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
KIRTLING ..	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
LODE ..	3	-	-	1	-	3	1
REACH ..	3	-	-	-	-	6	-
SNAILWELL ..	1	35	1	-	-	2	-
SOHAM ..	38	-	8	2	1	42	2
STETCHWORTH	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4	-	5	1	-	6	-
SWAFFHAM PRIOR ..	7	-	3	-	-	11	-
WESTLEY WATERLESS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WICKEN ..	6	-	1	3	-	7	-
WOODDITTON	5	-	2	1	-	5	-
TOTAL ..	141	47	44	22	3	186	4

Fifty-nine houses were built by private enterprise during the year and the Council built 18 houses and 18 bungalows; two of the bungalows were designed for old people and consisted of one bedroom, living room, kitchen and bathroom with all modern amenities. These old people's bungalows cost £967 each, including site works, and further bungalows are in course of construction in an effort to cope with a social problem of some magnitude.

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1948	98	44	142
1949	104	18	122
1950	38	17	55
1951	112	5	117
1952	72	20	92
1953	137	52	189
1954	110	58	168
1955	140	35	175
1956	124	49	173
1957	36	59	95
Total	971	357	1,328

Council Houses.

The Council now owns 1,746 houses which are under the management of the Council's Surveyor. One hundred and twenty pre-war houses have been provided with modern amenities but a considerable number of dwellings still exist with primitive sanitation and no indoor water supplies. It has been the policy of the Council to sell their houses to sitting tenants or other suitable applicants and 24 properties have changed hands since the scheme commenced.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Section 1.

At the end of the year, 191 unfit houses remained occupied: these are houses which were listed in the Council's first 5 year demolition programme but included in these are 38 owner-occupied dwellings which are bound to create practical difficulties. In addition to the Council's slum clearance programme, approximately 100 applicants urgently required rehousing at the end of the year. Only 4 war-time hutments remained occupied.

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. During the year, 77 visits were made in this connection and owners were advised on the specified requirements and the procedure involved before they could qualify for a grant.

The following figures are of interest:—

(a) Number of houses on which improvement grants were paid during 1957	..	..	86
(b) Amount paid in grants	..	..	£18,351
(c) Number of properties improved since the Act came into force	..	..	244
(d) Amount paid in grants on (c)	..	..	£54,629

Moveable Dwellings—Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269.

There is no serious caravan problem in this area, the only moveable dwellings being occupied mainly by people who have no other home or persons engaged on casual agricultural work. Two applications for licences were refused on public health grounds but eighteen licences were issued to persons wishing to station trailer caravans for human habitation. There are no licensed camping sites in the area.

Rent Act, 1957.

Very few enquiries have been received in connection with this Act, although it is observed that a considerable number of tenants have had their rents raised. One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received and granted.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses.

Five slaughterhouses continued to be licensed. Circular F.S.H. 6/57 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was received during the year and introduced recommendations with regard to minimum standards for slaughterhouses. Discussions and negotiations with regard to this Circular took place with owners of slaughterhouses. One butcher decided to relieve the inevitable overcrowding which existed at one shared slaughterhouse by building his own premises. He was advised on procedure and planning and the scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, official approval following within a few weeks. Although his premises will be small they will be adequate for his throughput and will result in some improvement in the slaughtering facilities in the area.

The owner of the unsatisfactory premises, which were mentioned in last year's report, decided to build a new slaughterhouse on a suitable site. This department welcomed the opportunity of advising on the layout of the premises and by the end of the year plans were in hand and negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily.

All animals were examined by the Council's public health inspectors who are fully qualified for this duty. It is noteworthy that the number of cattle affected with tuberculosis fell from 5% to 4.2%.

On the other hand, it is with some concern that one must report the increase in the number of animals found to contain *Cysticercus bovis* in the muscles. Every effort is made to combat this disease, including the tracing back of the animals' origin, but it is quite impossible to detect every case by ordinary inspection methods. Carcases which were found to contain one or more viable cysts were stored at a temperature of 20°F. for 3 weeks, in accordance with the recommendation outlined in Memo 3/Meat.

One thousand one hundred and ninety one visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops and the following table shows the quantity of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Meat and Offal Condemned.

	Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Whole Carcases	—	5	1
Livers	88	28	2
Half Livers	13	2	—
Lungs	21	6	1
Heads	20	70	—
Kidneys	1	1	—
Hearts	7	3	—
Mesentery	5	12	—
Skirt	4	—	—

Miscellaneous.

Pork, Bruising and Malformation	56 lbs.
Ribs, Tuberculous	40 lbs.
Tinned Foods, Various	8 tins

**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part
during the Year 1957.**

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	706	5	29	2248	51	862	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	4	1	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	93	—	—	39	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	13.1	—	—	1.9	1.9	0.46	—
Tuberculosis only:—							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	—	—	70	3	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.2	—	—	3.1	5.8	—	—
Cysticercosis:—							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The routine inspection of food premises formed a major part of the work of the public health department and the following improvements were recorded during the year:—

New or reconditioned premises	6
Washing facilities provided	18
Improved or new Sanitary Accommodation ..	6
New drainage systems	8
Drainage improved	4
Improvements to fittings, benches, etc. ..	29
General decorations	24
General repairs	17

The Regulations formed an important step towards improved hygiene in food establishments although it has been obvious for some years that the inspector's work is as much educational as statutory. Much is left to his discretion and one still wonders when the time will come when open food will not be allowed to be displayed in shop windows under any circumstances; the law is still very weak on this point.

Smoking is now prohibited in rooms containing open food and persons handling open food should not smoke. Several verbal warnings were given during the year but this filthy habit will never be stamped out until some food handlers become more conscious of their duty to the general public.

One thousand and forty visits were made to food premises (excluding slaughterhouses) and one can report with satisfaction that the relationship between the department and the food trade is generally satisfactory.

Registered Food Premises.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

(a) Sausage and cooked meat premises	14
(b) Fried fish shops	6
(c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	50
(d) Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream.	1

Three hundred and fifty one visits were made to the above premises during the year.

Ice Cream.

Nine samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and all were reported as Grade 1. One hundred and thirteen visits were made to ice cream premises during the year.

Most of the ice cream sold in the area is manufactured and prepacked by well known firms.

Milk.

There are no registered dairies in the area, other than those attached to dairy farms. Eleven distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954. Milk production is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and we are informed that 49 dairy farms are registered in this area; 24 of these are Tuberculin Tested herds.

Licences.

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

Dealers' Licences issued	11
Supplementary Licences issued	4

Sampling.

Twenty samples of pasteurised milk were collected from schools and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for statutory examination. These were all reported as satisfactory but the Methylene Blue Test was not carried out on 9 of the samples owing to the high atmospheric shade temperature.

Three samples were submitted for biological examination; no evidence of tuberculosis or *Brucella abortus* was found.

Licensed Premises.

Sixty-seven inspections of public houses were made during the year and improvements to sanitary accommodation and glass washing facilities at eleven premises were supervised.

Bakehouses.

Forty-eight visits were made to bakehouses during the year and as a result of discussions with the owners, extensive improvements were made at four premises. One baker received a stern warning from the Council regarding his unsatisfactory premises.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954.

Twenty-four licences were issued to slaughtermen although a number of the men concerned are not engaged in regular slaughtering.

Knacker's Yard.

One old established Knacker's Yard is licensed but very little business is carried on; no horses were slaughtered but five horse carcasses were brought into the premises.

WATER SUPPLY

Almost the whole of the rural area is supplied with water from the Chippenham and Swaffham Prior pumping stations which are under the Council's control. 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.

Sufficiency of Supply.

All parishes have a piped water supply available and a mains extension to an isolated part of Kennett was completed during the year. The owner of three isolated dwellings was requested to provide wholesome water supplies but it was quite impossible for the Council to act in default because the law does not provide for the recovery of expenses beyond the sum of £20 per house. The Public Health Act, 1936, and Water Act, 1945, urgently require amendments in this connection.

In 1957 a total of 175,000,000 gallons of water were pumped from Chippenham and Swaffham Prior. In 1954, the first full year of operation of the Regional Water Scheme, the total pumped was 124,000,000 gallons. This amounts to an increase of 41% over a period of only 3 years.

During the year the supply to Ashley and Cheveley was much improved by the installation of a booster pump at Saxon Street and an order was placed for a second booster to be installed in the main supplying Woodditton and Kirtling.

As the result of a special enquiry held by Mr. le G. Hetherington, O.B.E., M.A., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E. the Council are to be responsible for supplying the Cheveley Park Area (now supplied by Newmarket Waterworks Company) and it was decided to lay a 6" main from the Reservoir at Warren Hill to feed into the existing mains network at Ashley Road in that area.

Chlorination.

All supplies are chlorinated by automatic plant at the source.

Sampling.

Samples are taken regularly for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis at the Public Health and Public Analyst's laboratories.

Water Sampling during 1957.

Sample	Main Supplies		Private Supplies		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Chemical ..	4	—	—	1	83
Bacteriological	59	8	5	6	

The unsatisfactory samples from main supplies were collected from a new mains extension which after further chlorination and flushing proved satisfactory.

Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies.

Test	Chippenham	Swaffham Prior
Physical Characters	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value)	7.5	7.8
Parts per 100,000		
Chlorine	2.05	25.35
Ammonia (free and Saline)	Absent	Absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0020	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0329	0.0263
Nitrates	0.70	Absent
Nitrites	Absent	Absent
Total Hardness	25.8	6.0
Bacteriological Examination		
Coliform Organisms in 100 mls.	Nil	Nil
No. of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C... .. .	Nil	Nil

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Shops Act, 1950.

The department is responsible for inspections under the provisions of Section 38 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 the Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no 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 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 and business premises and premises and land owned by the Council. A free service is now provided to householders but the occupiers of business premises are charged at the rate of 7/6 per hour.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

No licence to keep a pet shop was issued during the year.

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

Advice is given to occupiers on request, and where necessary rooms are sprayed with a modern insecticide or treated with a suitable powder. Nine infestations were dealt with during the year. After cases of infectious disease, rooms are disinfected by special arrangement.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936.

The department was responsible for the licensing of petrol storage installations and the inspection and testing of new tanks, but this duty was passed to the Surveyor early in the new year.

One new installation was approved during the year.

Four visits were made in connection with this legislation.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

At the end of the year, approximately 726 premises were connected to the new Soham sewers; this amounts to about 58% of the premises on the line of the sewer, but unfortunately not all these premises are provided with water closets. Thirty-one vault closets were abolished at Soham in response to informal action.

A number of ditches at Soham are heavily polluted with sewage effluent but as the sewer has not been made available to the premises concerned it is difficult to find a satisfactory solution.

The Bottisham Sewerage Scheme was completed during the year and 143 premises had been connected to the new sewers by December.

Council house improvement schemes are being prepared for houses in the above parishes and it is hoped that the sewers can be put to full use by abolishing pail closets and other primitive forms of sanitation and connecting the premises to satisfactory drainage systems.

Ministry authority has now been given for work to start on the sewerage of Lode (including Longmeadow) where inadequate cesspools, septic tanks and primitive closets have been a source of nuisance for some years.

The rapid strides made during the last two years must, however, not give rise to complacency. Sewerage schemes at Burwell and Fordham are urgently required and the public health nuisances at Reach and Chippenham bear no relation to the size of these parishes. Cesspool emptying is a weekly task on housing estates in the parishes mentioned.

Stetchworth and Cheveley have sewers and treatment plants which cater for most of the village but it will be necessary to make provision for Dullingham village in the not-too-distant future.

A sewer extension at Church Lane, Cheveley, 162 yards in length, was completed during the year.

In response to informal action, extensive improvements were carried out at a private sewage treatment plant at a local biscuit works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Household rubbish and salvage is collected and disposed of by direct labour, a foreman and eight men being engaged on this work. Two Shelvoke and Drewry vehicles are used, one being a 16/18 cub. yard Fore and Aft tipper with a diesel engine, and with these vehicles half the district is cleared weekly and half fortnightly.

All rubbish is disposed of by controlled tipping, a new tip being started at Woodditton on the 20th May. The Fordham pit is almost full but the Burwell Broads pit will continue in use for about six years because the rubbish is burned when tipped and bulldozed about every three months. In this way, flies and crickets do not create a nuisance and a sleeper road is unnecessary.

The pits are sprayed regularly and the Council's rodent officer ensures that rats are poisoned by modern methods.

The disposal of rubbish is rapidly becoming a serious problem aggravated by the geologist's report on the danger of polluting underground water supplies in this area, the bulk of the drinking water being derived from a shallow well in chalk. This emphasises the importance of finding an alternative to controlled tipping and the solution, whatever it may be, will be very expensive compared with the cost of the service in the past.

Collection and Disposal of Rubbish.

Year ended 31st March, 1958.

Number of loads cleared	..	..	..	839
Miles travelled	..	..	..	15,905
Gallons of fuel used:				
Petrol	..	..	..	1,400
Diesel	..	..	..	758

Compared with the 1956 figures, there has been an increase of 6.5% in the quantity of rubbish cleared.

Salvaged Materials.

The following materials were baled and salvaged at the Burwell Depot:—

Material	Year ended 31st March, 1958			Year ended 31st March, 1957		
	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.
Waste Paper	64 7 1	343	4 10	82 13 0	497	16 7
Ferrous Metals	1 15 0	11	7 6	10 6 0	37	5 5
Non-Ferrous Metals	19 3	29	0 1	10 1	47	8 9
Rags and Sacking	1 19 2	50	16 5	2 1 0	47	16 7
Sundries		5	5 0		12	11 10
TOTALS	69 0 6	439	12 11	95 10 1	642	19 2

The selling price of waste paper was reduced by 6d. per cwt. to 5/- per cwt. for mixed and 6/6 per cwt. for newsprint.

Nightsoil Collection.

Many hundreds of pail closets are still emptied in small back gardens but plans are going ahead embodying the sewerage of more villages which will do much to overcome this problem. The Council has not undertaken the collection of nightsoil.

Cesspool Emptying.

The "Shelvoke and Drewry" cesspool emptier continues to do excellent work after seven years hard service without an overhaul.

The following statistics are of interest:—

Year ended 31st March, 1958.

(a) Council house cesspools cleared	785
(b) Private cesspools cleared	346
(c) Number of loads from (a)	1,361
(d) Number of loads from (b)	412
(e) Mileage	9,183
(f) Fuel used	gallons 1,702
(g) Charges—Council houses—one load	£1 10s. 0d.
do. additional loads	15s. 0d.
(h) Charges—Private—one load	£2 0s. 0d.
do. additional loads	£1 0s. 0d.

The above charge for clearing private cesspools will be reduced on 1st April, 1958, to £1 10s. 0d. and 15s. 0d. The cesspool emptier is used for the desludging of small sewage disposal plants but it is still necessary to engage a private contractor to assist with this work during busy periods and at holiday times.

The disposal of sewage still creates a serious problem, but the Soham and Bottisham sewers were again used for the disposal of many thousands of gallons which had been pumped from cesspools within a radius of several miles.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (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	2	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power)	59	70	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	64	72	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)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	6	—	1	—

