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Contributors

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NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1949.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,132.
Population - 1931 Census	15,010.
Population - Mid. 1949	15,880.
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,521.
Rateable Value as at 1st. Jan. 1949	£123 .219.
Rateable Value as at 31st Dec. 1949	£127 .177.
Product of a ld. rate (as at 1st April 1949).....	£501 . 16.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

The following table shows that the Birth Rate for the District is slightly below that for England and Wales as a whole. Also an increase on the past two years, the figures being 17.06 for 1949, 16.34 for 1948 and 17.39 for 1947.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>	<u>MALE:</u>	<u>FEMALE:</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>
Legitimate.	124	126	250
Illegitimate.	11	10	21
	135	136	271

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 total population	17.06
Corresponding Rate for England and Wales	16.70

<u>STILL BIRTHS:</u>	<u>MALE:</u>	<u>FEMALE:</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>
Legitimate.	2	2	4
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	2	2	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)	14.54
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births (live and (England and Wales) still)	22.6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	0.25

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>DEATHS:</u>	<u>MALE:</u>	<u>FEMALE:</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>
	122	122	244

Death Rate per 1.000 population. 15.36

Death Rate (England and Wales) per 1.000 population. 11.70

<u>AGE AT DEATH:</u>	<u>MALE:</u>	<u>FEMALE:</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>
Infants under 1 year	3	4	7
1 - 5	2	1	3
5 - 15	1	1	2
15 - 25	-	1	1
25 - 35	3	2	5
35 - 45	4	1	5
45 - 55	7	5	12
55 - 65	29	9	38
65 - 75	43	30	73
75 and over	30	68	98
	122	122	244

MATERNAL MORTALITY: (Childbirth) 1 = a rate of 3.63 per 1.000 total births.

<u>INFANTILE MORTALITY:</u>	<u>MALE:</u>	<u>FEMALE:</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>
Legitimate.	3	4	7
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	3	4	7

The Infantile Mortality Rate (i.e. Deaths of Infants under one year) per 1.000 live births. 25.83
Corresponding Rate for England and Wales. 32.00

The Infantile Mortality rate for this district compares favourably with the figure for England and Wales but is a little higher than last year when the figure was 18.1.

Natural Increase of population (excess of Births over Deaths) = 27

Average age at Death = 67.6 years.



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DEATHS:

CAUSES OF DEATH:

Causes of Death in 1949, as supplied by the Registrar
General.

	M.	F.
All Causes	122	122.

Infectious Causes:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5	-
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	-	-
Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	3
Menengitis	...	...	...	...	1	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	-

Other Causes:

Heart and Blood Vessels	...	...	...	...	39	51
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	14	21
Cancer	...	...	...	...	25	15
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	5	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ulcers	...	...	...	...	2	2
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	1	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	-	1
Child Birth	...	...	...	...	-	1
Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	1	-
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	-	1
Asthma	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	10	13

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Again a fairly satisfactory year can be reported under this heading.

<u>DISEASE:</u>	<u>CASES:</u>	<u>SENT TO HOSPITAL:</u>	<u>DEATHS:</u>
Menengitis.	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever.	4	1	-
Whooping Cough.	24	-	1
Pneumonia.	1	1	-
Erysipelas.	2	1	-
Malaria.	3	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Measles.	6	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.	1	1	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

SCARLET FEVER: - The ages of the patients were :-
8, 6, 4 and 1½ years.

MALARIA: - These cases were reported from the Stover Park Hostel for Polish Displaced Persons.

ACUTE ANTERIOUR POLIOMYELITIS: - I am glad to report that there was one case only this year, a boy aged 15 years resident at 14, Mount Pleasant Road, Newton Abbot.

TUBERCULOSIS: - One hundred and three cases were notified during the year, 87 Males and 16 Females of which 100 were Pulmonary cases and 3 non-Pulmonary. Of these 103 cases 92 notifications were in respect of persons transferred to the Stover Park Hostel for Polish Displaced Persons. The details are set out in the following table :-

<u>AGE PERIODS:</u>			<u>NEW CASES:</u>				<u>DEATHS:</u>			
			<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 - 5					1					
5 - 15			2	1	1		1			
15 - 25			8	5	1					
25 - 35			33	4			1			
35 - 45			22	5			2			
45 - 55			17	1						
55 - 65			1				1			
65 and upwards			1							
			84	16	3		5			

WATER SUPPLY:

The water supply in the Urban District is obtained from the Hennock (Treated Water) Reservoir of the Torquay Corporation, and a copy of the result of a sample taken on the 21st of February 1949 is as follows :-

Sample 21.2.49.

Hennock (Treated Water.)

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling.)

Number of Bacteria	) 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 at 20°C.
growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in -.	Absent from 100 ml
Bact. Coli	Present in -.	Absent from 100 ml
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in -.	Absent from 100 ml

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

THOMAS BROWN. M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE NEWTON ABBOT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report for
the year ending 31st December 1949.

DRAINAGE:

In connection with additions and alterations to existing premises 107 visits have been paid and 44 tests carried out in relation to drainage works and the installation of sanitary fittings.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948:

1. <u>Inspections:</u>	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority.	54	17	2	Nil
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	44	12	1	Nil
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	2	1	Nil	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948 contd.

2. <u>Cases in which defects were found:</u>	Found	Remedied	Ref: to H.M. Insp.	Ref: by H.M. Insp.	Prosecution
<u>No: of cases in which defects were found</u>					
Want of cleanliness (S 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S 3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S 4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S 7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	3	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION:

1949 has seen a quickening of the interest shown by the general public in the manner in which food is handled and in November 1949, your Council decided to adopt the Model Byelaws drawn up by the Ministry of Food.

Periodical visits are paid to premises in which food is stored, prepared and handled for human consumption, and in this connection 168 inspections have been made.

Meat Inspection:

The Council's Abattoir continues to be occupied by the Ministry of Food and killing is carried out for a district covered by five local authorities with a total population of approximately 60,000.

Inspection of animals killed is 100% and it will be appreciated that this entails a considerable amount of work being carried out by this Department, also a heavy responsibility in the inspection of meat for such a large area.

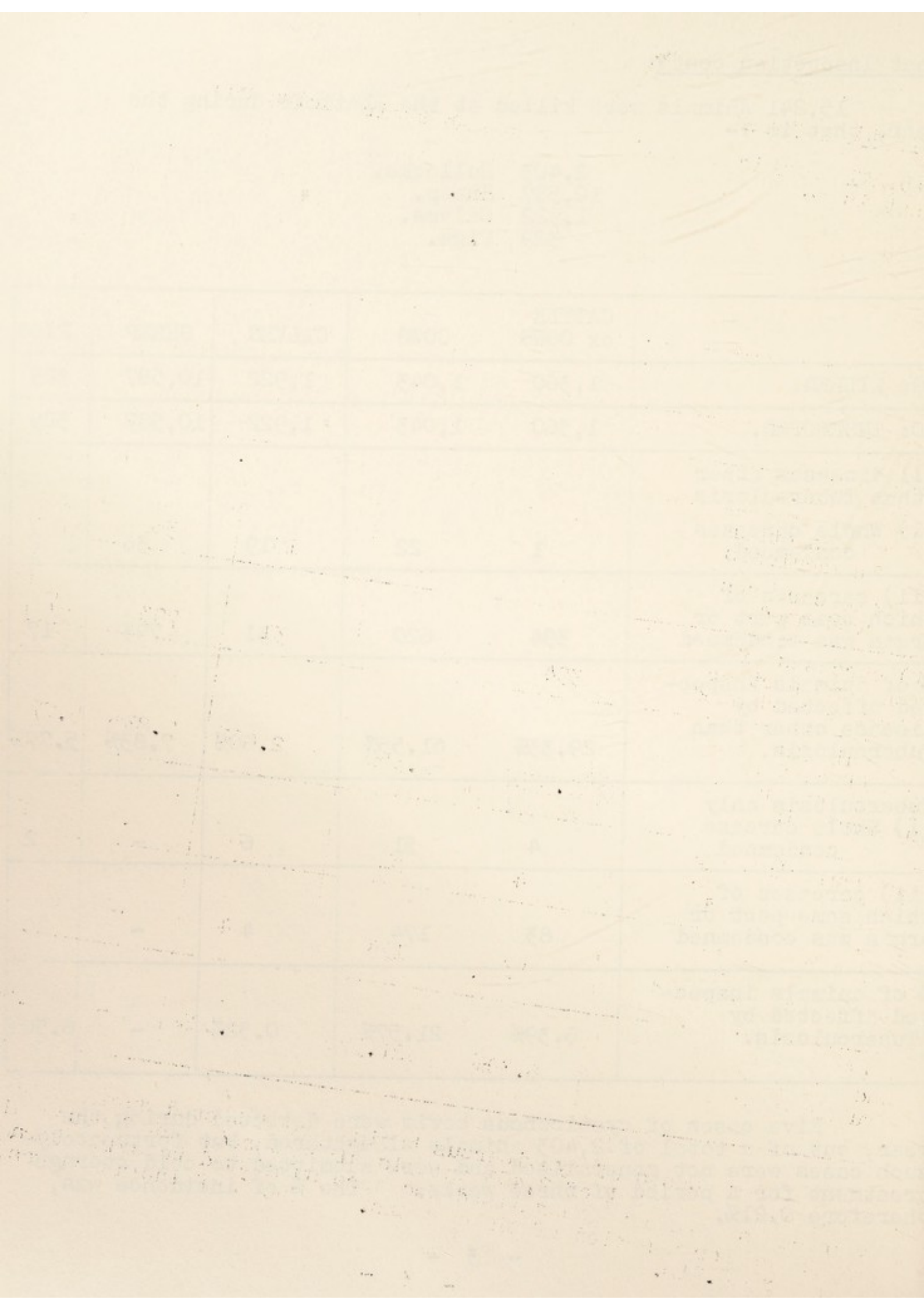
Meat Inspection contd:

15,241 Animals were killed at the Abattoir during the year, that is :-

2,403	Bullocks.
10,587	Sheep.
1,922	Calves.
329	Pigs.

	CATTLE ex COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
NO: KILLED.	1,360	1,043	1,922	10,587	329
NO: INSPECTED.	1,360	1,043	1,922	10,587	329
All diseases other than Tuberculosis					
(i) Whole carcasses condemned.	1	22	19	36	2
(ii) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	394	620	31	793	17
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis.	29.33%	61.55%	2.60%	7.83%	5.77%
Tuberculosis only					
(i) Whole carcass condemned	4	51	6	-	2
(ii) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	83	174	4	-	20
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis.	6.39%	21.57%	0.52%	-	6.50%

Five cases of cysticercus bovis were detected during the year, out of a total of 2,403 animals slaughtered, but fortunately such cases were not generalised and were submitted to cold storage treatment for a period of three weeks. The % of incidence was, therefore 0.21%.



FOOD INSPECTION: contd:

Milk:

In October 1949, the functions of local authorities in relation to the production of milk, were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, local authorities continuing to deal with the distribution side of the industry. During the year 15 visits were paid to dairy premises.

Ice Cream:

The production and sale of Ice Cream continues to be covered by the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947, and frequent visits have been paid to premises where Ice Cream has been produced.

At the end of the year 32 premises were registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 relating to the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream and of this number 5 were in respect of premises where Ice Cream is manufactured.

No legal standard has been prescribed for Ice Cream but examination is carried out by the Methylene Blue Test.

20 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination with the following results :-

Grade 1	-	4
Grade 2	-	6
Grade 3	-	3
Grade 4	-	7

3 of these results of examination cannot be considered valid owing to the unusually hot weather during that period - 1 being Grade 2 and 2 being Grade 4.

Unsound Food:

The amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption during the year is as follows :-

94	Bullock carcasses and offal.
27	Calf carcasses and offal.
44	Sheep carcasses and offal.
177	Bullocks Heads.
18	Pigs Heads.
2,708	Organs and Parts.
3,139	lbs Beef.

THE SECRETARY OF THE
TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO THE HONORABLE
COMMISSIONER OF THE
INTERNAL REVENUE

DEAR SIR:
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the Regulations governing the collection of the tax on the sale of certain goods.

The proposed amendment is being considered by the Bureau and it is expected that a final decision will be reached in the near future. In the meantime, the existing Regulations will continue to apply.

Very respectfully,
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Enclosed for the Commissioner are two copies of the proposed amendment to the Regulations governing the collection of the tax on the sale of certain goods. One copy of the amendment is also being furnished to the Board of Tax Appeals for their consideration.

The enclosed copy of the proposed amendment is being furnished to the Board of Tax Appeals for their consideration. The Board will hold a public hearing on the amendment at a date to be determined by the Board.

FOOD INSPECTION: contd:

Unsound Food contd:

438	tins Milk.
146	tins Meat.
81	tins Fruit.
352	tins Vegetables.
11	tins Soup.
103	tins Preserves.
65	jars of Pickle and Sauce.
236	tins Fish.
339	stone Fish.
117	pkts. Various Cereals.
25	Bottles Salad Cream.
500	lbs. Salad Cream.
28	lbs Dried Fruit.
1,364	lbs. Oranges.
182	Fowls.
23 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs. Butter.
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Cheese.
120	pkts. Cheese.
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Tripe.
22	lbs. Sweets.
2	cwt. Sugar.

I am pleased to report that in no case was it necessary to formally seize the unsound food, all being voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

HOUSING:

The work of housing falling on this Department comes under two headings, namely, re-housing families, and the repairing and/or improvement of properties.

During the year 56 new Council houses have been occupied but this does not appear to have made much impression on the size of the list of those families still requiring accommodation, which at the end of the year amounted to 551 applications.

The improvement of existing conditions presents a difficult problem. A number of houses in the town are below present day standards, but there is little scope for carrying out other than essential repairs on account of building costs.

In a number of cases demolition of the property is the only satisfactory solution, but this, of course, is impracticable on account of the large number of families who are having to share living accommodation with other families.

HOUSING contd:

In July, the Housing Act, 1949 became operative. Under this Act all houses are brought within the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936 relating to repair, demolition and closing of insanitary premises, the proviso regarding houses "being occupied or suitable for occupation by members of the working class" having now disappeared. Provision is also made for financial assistance towards the improvement of housing accommodation.

It cannot be said that there is any sense of satisfaction felt with the result of work carried out in this sphere.

386 dwelling houses have been inspected during the year for defects under the Housing Acts, or Public Health Act involving 608 visits.

54 Informal Notices to remedy defects were served. In 8 cases Statutory Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 were served requiring repairs. In 16 cases Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936 were served. 48 dwelling houses were rendered fit in consequence of such action.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse has been maintained and under existing conditions regarding the availability of staff and labour costs, an improvement in these services was not possible without increased expenditure.

Refuse Disposal:

In February tipping on land adjoining the pumping station in Forde Road was completed. It was in November 1941 that tipping commenced on this land known as Triggs Meadow, and raising the level of the land and filling-in of the old dis-used sewerage tank and surrounding area, has provided tipping facilities for seven years and made available a useful site in lieu of ground which was frequently water-logged.

Also in February tipping was commenced at Torquay Road near Penn Inn, a project which was the cause of some mis-giving amongst members of the public as to any nuisance which might arise. In spite however, of tipping within a few feet of the main road, thanks to the cooperation of the Staff on Refuse Collection and Disposal, the work was carried out with no nuisance arising.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL contd:

Refuse Disposal:

Refuse was tipped to form a ramp from road level to the lower level to which land between Torquay Road and the Railway Embankment is proposed to be raised.

In June tipping operations were transferred to a field at the rear of Forde Road and continued on this site until October when a return was made to the Penn Inn site.

Teiga Road Depot:

I am pleased that the end of the year saw the completion of the work of providing reasonable washing and sanitary facilities for the staff who are engaged on the Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

Salvage:

The year has proved extremely difficult from the salvage point of view.

In March difficulty was experienced in disposing of stocks of baled paper. These conditions continued until June when the position was such that the Board of Trade announced that it had been decided to remove the direction made under the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 requiring compulsory salvage operations. By this time stocks held by the Council amounted to approximately 35 tons and the position was rapidly approaching when no further storage space was available.

It was however, found possible to dispose of small quantities, at very much reduced prices, and the clearance effected was sufficient to enable a modified salvage collection scheme to be continued, and by the end of the year it was possible to clear stocks of baled paper within a reasonable time.

Details of salvage disposed of are as follows:-

57½ tons of Waste Paper at approximately	£ 337.	0.	0.
1½ tons of Rags at approximately	27.	0.	0.
144 tons of Kitchen Waste.			

The first of these is the fact that the
 the following

It is also to be noted that the
 the following

The second of these is the fact that the
 the following

The third of these is the fact that the
 the following

The fourth of these is the fact that the
 the following

The fifth of these is the fact that the
 the following

The sixth of these is the fact that the
 the following

The seventh of these is the fact that the
 the following

The eighth of these is the fact that the
 the following

RODENT CONTROL:

The functions of the Council under this heading necessitated the part time services of one employee on the work of baiting and poisoning.

The methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continue to be adopted in this work with satisfactory results.

In this connection 18 premises were dealt with involving 48 visits.

Treatment of the sewerage system for rat destruction was carried out in May and November.

The results of such treatment indicate that the infestation of sewers is not heavy but it does also prove the necessity for periodical treatments.

This work and action in regard to surface infestation proves effective in keeping the number of rats in the district to a small proportion of the number present in the town prior to a systematic control being carried out.

STAFF:

During the year there has been a change in the clerical staff, Mr. Gilpin resigning and the post being filled by Miss Davies in February 1949.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Rodgers, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and to Miss Davies for their cooperation and the manner in which they have carried out their duties.

In conclusion I wish to record my thanks to the members of the Council for the support and consideration extended to me and to thank my colleagues for the cooperation given to me during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. PETHICK, M.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

