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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

RURAL DISTRICT OF NORTH COTSWOLD

FOR THE YEAR 1948.



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:


A. EDE - Certified Sanitary Inspector.  
Certified Meat & Foods Inspector.  
Sanitary Science Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

H. BRAMWELL - Certified Sanitary Inspector  
(to July 31st, 1948).  
G. I. JONES - Certified Sanitary Inspector  
(from September 27th, 1948).

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Council Offices,  
MORETON-IN-MARSH,  
Gloucestershire.



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To the Chairman and Members of

THE NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for 1948.

There has been a considerable increase in population and in rateable value, an interesting feature in a district where the sole industry is agriculture, reflecting as it does the emphasis placed on this industry in the national economy.

The inference to be drawn from the summary of vital statistics for the District contained in this Report, is that the general improvement in health has been maintained during 1948, while comparisons with the country as a whole are favourable.

The provision of new houses in the face of great difficulties has been one of the chief activities of the Council. Parliament is providing means to facilitate the reconditioning of old houses. No less than 1,600 houses in this District may be dealt with in this way. It is considered that the full use of reconditioning powers will not only greatly improve the general standard of housing but reduce very considerably the demand for new houses.

The National Health Service Act which came into force on 5th July has had far reaching effects. In the re-alignment the Council's function is concerned with environmental services, all personal services passing to other authorities. The Rural District is of sufficient size to administer such services and while the present arrangement is a sensible one, any further encroachment on their powers is likely to be a retrograde step.

The Council accepted a proposal of the County Council that the District Medical Officer of Health should be appointed a Divisional Medical Officer of Health of the County Council for services under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Divisional Health Office is at Lexham Lodge, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings.

This appointment will be of mutual benefit to both authorities and facilitate an effective liaison.

I desire to thank Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and my colleagues for their loyal co-operation on all occasions.

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1949.



Vol. 10, Part 1, 1910

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	86,218.
Registrar-General's estimate of -	
Resident population - mid 1948	18,280.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	5,426.
Rateable Value March 1949	£102,136.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£407.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District, which is a favourite residential area, is devoted mainly to farming, horticulture and associated occupations.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
Legitimate	347	178	169
Illegitimate	19	10	9
Total	366	188	178

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population.....20.

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	10	5	5
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population.....0.6

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
	216	113	103

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.....11.8

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live &amp; Still) Births.</u>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 Other Maternal Causes	2	5.3

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.  
(Infantile Death Rate).

	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
Legitimate	11	8	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	11	8	3

ALL INFANTS per 1,000 Live Births.....30.

## POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population - 18,280 - shows that there has been a considerable increase of nearly 1,000 persons.

## BIRTH RATE.

Live births numbered 366 during the year, giving a Birth Rate of 20; it is slightly down compared with last year's rate of 21.9, but is considerably higher than the figure of 17.9 for the country as a whole. The local rate has fallen only slightly below the peak of the post-war years.

## DEATH RATE.

The 216 deaths which occurred give rise to a Death Rate of 11.8 compared with 10.8 for England and Wales. The Death Rate has remained at a fairly constant figure for a number of years.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

Eleven infants of the 366 born, died before they were a year old, the infantile mortality being 30. This figure, although somewhat below the general rate of 34, is much greater than the extremely low figure of 21 for 1947. This District had enjoyed for many years an infantile mortality rate much lower than that in the country as a whole.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Here again, after several years with no maternal deaths, two occurred in 1948, giving a maternal mortality rate of 5.3 per 1,000 births. This figure is very large when compared with the rate of 0.73 for England and Wales, but must be balanced against the years during which the maternal mortality in the District was nil.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

The principal causes of death were:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Typhoid and Para.Fevers	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System	2.	3.
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	2.
Syphilitic Diseases	1.	-
Influenza	-	-
Measles	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis etc.	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-
(Bucc. Cav.)		
Cancer (Oesophagus (M) )	3.	2.
(Uterus (F) )		
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	2.	2.
Cancer of Breast	-	1.
Cancer of Other Sites	16.	13.
Diabetes	1.	2.
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	7.	8.
Heart Disease	34.	46.
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4.	8.
Bronchitis	4.	-
Pneumonia	5.	2.
Other Respiratory Diseases	2.	-
Total carried forward	81.	89.



	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total Brought Forward	81.	89.
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	6.	1.
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	2.	-
Appendicitis	1.	-
Other Digestive Diseases	3.	2.
Nephritis	3.	2.
Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	2.
Premature Birth	3.	-
Congenital Malformation - Birth Injuries, Infantile Disease, etc.	2.	-
Suicide	1.	1.
Road Traffic Accidents	2.	-
Other Violent Causes	-	2.
All other causes	9.	4.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	113.	103.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total both Male and Female - 216.		

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR  
FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
Birth Rate	20.2	20.1	22.	19.8	21.8	20.02
(per 1,000 Population)						
Death Rate	10.9	12.4	12.	14.2	11.9	11.81
(per 1,000 Population)						
Infantile Mortality Rate	21.8	35.5	24.	35.	21.	30.
(per 1,000 live births)						
(Deaths of infants under one year).						

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY  
RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC. ARE GIVEN BELOW.

	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>	<u>126 C.B's &amp; Great Towns.</u>	<u>County of Gloucester- shire.</u>	<u>North Cotswold R.D.</u>
Live Births	17.9	20.	17.9	20.
Still Births				
(per 1,000 population)	0.42	0.52		0.6
Death Rate				
(per 1,000 population)	10.8	11.6	10.7	11.8
Infantile Mortality	34.	39.	30.4	30.
Rate				
(Deaths of Infants under one year)				
Per 1,000 live births				
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3.3	4.5		3.0
(Per 1,000 live births)				



# PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1948. (Excluding Tuberculosis).

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Under</u>		<u>1 to 5.</u>		<u>5 to 15.</u>		<u>15 to 25.</u>		<u>25 and</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>1 Year</u>								<u>upwards.</u>			
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2.	2.	8.	13.	-	1.	-	-	10.	16.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2.	-	7.	10.	11.	4.	-	-	-	-	20.	14.
Measles	5.	1.	46.	23.	48.	54.	1.	2.	-	2.	100.	82.
Pneumonia	2.	5.	-	-	2.	1.	2.	-	2.	3.	8.	9.
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.	13.	10.	13.
Cerebro-Spinal F.	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	1.
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(non-	-	-	-	1.	-
							civilian)					

### Scarlet Fever.

There were 26 cases during the year, a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 population, compared with 1.73 for England and Wales. There were no deaths. The number of cases decreases year by year while the disease continues to be of a mild type. Many people suffering from infections due to the scarlet fever organism do not have a rash. It is usual to isolate cases at home now-a-days because of the attenuated nature of the infection, the relative freedom from complications in persons nursed at home, and the need for redeploying hospital beds.

### Diphtheria:

There were no cases of diphtheria.

### Whooping Cough.

Notifications of whooping cough numbered 34 compared with 47 last year, a rate of 1.9 as against 3.42 in the country as a whole. There were no deaths.

### Measles.

This disease has a biennial peak in incidence, 1948 was the year to anticipate more cases in this district, there were 182 notifications, a case rate of 9.1 compared with 9.34 for England and Wales. Although Measles was epidemic in many of the villages, there were no deaths.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

It is satisfactory to record each year an increase in the proportion of children immunised. The target figure of 75 per cent has been exceeded in this District during 1948, 78% of children under 15 years of age have been immunised now as compared with 70% in the previous year. The risk of an outbreak of diphtheria is remote, but to eliminate the danger entirely, 75% of children under 5 years of age should be immunised. During the year 362 children were immunised for the first time and 238 children had a boosting or reinforcing dose on entry to school. A considerable effort is required to maintain such good figures and parents are to be congratulated on their response to the immunisation campaign. On just one point there could be a little improvement, it is that some parents tend to put off the treatment instead of having it done when the child is eight months old.

The great benefit from mass immunisation is reaped very quickly in the elimination of diphtheria; 1948 was the second year of complete freedom from the disease which the District has enjoyed.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

(in relation to child population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1948.

Age at 31/12/48	Under 1 year							Total
	e.g. born in year							Under
	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1939/43.	1934/38.	15.
Number immunised	{ - 170. 246. 201. 203 } { 1363 1191 }							3374
Estimated mid-year population 1948	1717 2595							4312.

### Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

There were no cases and no deaths from Diphtheria.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following cases were notified during the year:-

	<u>Children.</u>		<u>All Persons.</u>
	0 - 4.	5 - 14.	
Tuberculosis Notifications 1948:			
Pulmonary	-	-	11.
Non-Pulmonary:			
(1) Glands	-	1.	1.
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	1.
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Deaths, 1948:			
Pulmonary	-	-	3.
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	1.
Meningitis	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1948, were as follows:

<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>			<u>All Forms.</u>
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total.
31.	32.	63.	21.	15.	36.	99.

There were 13 new cases and 3 deaths from tuberculosis as compared with 10 new cases and 3 deaths the previous year.

The Council give priority for rehousing to persons returning home after treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis where it is not possible for them to have a separate bedroom. Action of this type is a great step in preventing the spread of tuberculosis.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service is now maintained by the Health Committee of the County Council. There is a control station in Cheltenham and sub-station at Moreton-in-Marsh. The ambulance Service may be obtained by telephoning Cheltenham 3112 and in emergency dialing "999" or "0" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

A Hospital Car Service is operated; 48 hours notice should be given of the requirements, and requests for this Service made to the Control Station at Cheltenham. The Service is available for taking



patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service when public transport is not practicable.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE.

This Service is organised by the Public Health Committee of the County Council. The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated. A charge according to a scale of assessment is made for the Service.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made through the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone number Cheltenham 3614.

#### NURSING IN THE HOME.

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone Number Cheltenham 3614.

#### CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Blockley	...	...	...	...	Alternate Wednesdays.
Bourton-on-the-Water	...	...	...	...	2nd & 4th Tuesdays.
Chipping Campden	...	...	...	...	2nd Monday.
Mickleton	...	...	...	...	2nd Tuesday.
Moreton-in-Marsh	...	...	...	...	2nd Tuesday.
Stow-on-the-Wold	...	...	...	...	1st and 3rd Monday.
Willersey	...	...	...	...	2nd Thursday.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### WATER SUPPLY.

The first phase of the Council's post-war water scheme is nearing completion; mains have been laid in Blockley, Ebrington, Saintbury, Aston Subedge and Icomb. Work has started on the second phase of developing the new source at Seven Springs, near Harford Bridge, on the River Windrush. These works will afford an adequate supply for the southern and western portion of the district. When completed the schemes will ensure a piped water supply in all parts of the District.

The private village supply at Maugersbury failed in June but it was possible to readily overcome the difficulty by connecting the local system with the Council's comprehensive water scheme.

65 samples of water from the Council's supplies were taken for analyses and found to be satisfactory. 11 samples were taken from private water supplies.

Chlorination as a safeguard is carried out in the Council's comprehensive water scheme, and is in keeping with modern practice.



The following table sets out the position with regard to water supply in the various parishes.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Total No. of houses.</u>	<u>Number of Houses Sup- plied by Public Mains.</u>		<u>Number of houses without public supply.</u>
		<u>(a) direct into house.</u>	<u>(b) by stand pipe.</u>	
Adlestrop	64.	-	-	64.
Aston Subedge	31.	-	-	31.
Batsford	53.	13.	-	40.
Bledington	113.	94	-	19.
Blockley	645.	402.	62.	181.
Bourton-on-the-Hill	100.	69.	6.	25.
Bourton-on-the-Water	469.	368.	32.	69.
Broadwell	96.	21.	41.	34.
Campden	595.	557.	-	38.
Clapton	29.	-	-	29.
Condicote	33.	31.	-	2.
Cutsdean	33.	-	-	33.
Donnington	36.	29.	-	7.
Ebrington	179.	12.	-	167.
Evenlode	72.	19.	15.	38.
Great Rissington	91.	21.	66.	4.
Guiting Power	116.	23.	66.	27.
Icomb	48.	6.	-	42.
Little Rissington	45.	-	-	45.
Longborough	129.	59.	30.	40.
Lower Slaughter	76.	10.	-	66.
Maugersbury	54.	23.	-	31.
Mickleton	235.	198.	5.	32.
Moreton-in-Marsh	489.	485.	-	4.
Naunton	123.	-	-	123.
Oddington	131.	96.	23.	12.
Saintbury	35.	1.	-	34.
Sezincote	26.	4.	-	22.
Stow-on-the-Wold	517.	436.	76.	5.
Swell.	126.	76.	8.	42.
Temple Guiting	120.	25.	5.	90.
Todenham	73.	33.	37.	3.
Upper Slaughter	82.	-	-	82.
Westcote	56.	52.	4.	-
Weston Subedge	100.	69.	5.	26.
Wyck Rissington	47.	3.	-	44.
Willersey	159.	147.	-	12.
Total	5,426.	3,382.	481.	1,563

#### SEWERAGE.

The main sewerage scheme for the northern parishes, Mickleton, Weston Subedge and Willersey, was being carried out during the year. The gravity sewer for Weston Subedge was completed and ready for connections.

The main sewerage scheme will do away with a serious nuisance in the neighbourhood of these villages, where the ditches in the neighbourhood are deep with stagnant sewage.

The obsolete works at Bourton-on-the-Water are inadequate and give rise to pollution of the River Windrush. A scheme to provide new sewers and new works for Bourton-on-the-Water and Lower Slaughter are under consideration by the Ministry of Health.

The Council made an application to borrow £5,950 for the purpose of enlarging the Moreton-in-Marsh sewage disposal works and to carry out improvements at the main pumping station.

The pumping station is incapable of dealing with the flow after storms. The storm water tanks overflow and serious pollution of the stream alongside the pumping station occurs.

The Minister has given approval to the majority of the Council's proposals. A new tank to even out the flow at the main works is to be constructed; alterations made to the inlet of the pumping station to exclude storm water; new storm water tanks provided and 3 acres of land adjoining the pumping station acquired so that the storm water can be purified by land treatment.

#### HOUSING.

In the post-war period to December 1948, the Council had completed 126 houses, including 40 prefabs. There were 66 houses under construction and proposals had been made for 45 houses. In addition the Council had provided 70 housing units in requisitioned and converted properties.

The former camp sites at Maugersbury, Blockley, and Mickleton are Nissen Huts and now completely worn out; it is the Council's policy to demolish these hutments as they become vacant.

An ex-Service Camp at Weston Subedge of more permanent brick construction, now under the Control of the Council, will provide in the first instance, 12 housing units of the standard set by a prefab.

Such accommodation is urgently required since no less than 668 families are on the Council's waiting list.

For some time past during the war and post-war years, there has been a virtual standstill in so far as the enforcement of improvement in existing houses is concerned. Preliminary work, however, to this end has been done in this District. The Rural Housing Survey shows that 1,600 houses, some 42% of the total, are in need of thorough reconditioning to make them habitable.

The Housing Bill now before Parliament provides machinery for dealing effectively with these houses. It is hoped that house owners will be fully aware of these provisions and that they will take advantage of the facilities voluntarily so that in only a small number of cases will the Council have to use statutory powers.

The Bill will enable local authorities to make "improvement grants" to private owners for the improvement of houses or the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses or other buildings. Such grants will not exceed one-half of the cost of the work, and will not be paid in respect of ordinary repairs. The Council must be satisfied that the dwelling will last for thirty years and will conform to the standard expected in a new house. No grant will be payable where the estimated cost is less than £100 or more than £600.

Conditions are attached to the loan; the house must be used only as a private dwelling and when not occupied by the applicant for grant or a member of his family, shall be let at a controlled rent. An increase in the annual rent, equal to 6 per cent of the owners share of the cost, is allowed.



## REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1948.

Complaints Received	167.
Informal Notices Served	133.
Statutory Notices Served	-
Nuisances abated	137.
Premises Disinfected After Infectious Disease	37.
Premises Disinfected for Other Causes	14.
Shops Visited	157.
Bakehouses Visited	28.
Factory Inspections	91.
Outworker Premises Visited	2.
Tents, Vans and Sheds Visited	22.
Cowshed and Dairy Inspections	254.
Drains Inspected	265.
Water Samples Taken for Analysis	57.
Number of Visits for all purposes	3,441.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE COLLECTION.

The collection of household refuse has been maintained through the year.

There is a slight improvement in the manner of storage of refuse of dwellings, i.e. the number of proper dustbins is increasing. This increase is slow owing to a marked unwillingness to purchase during times of high prices.

The Public Health Act is not definite enough in specifying responsibility for supply of bins.

The supply of dustbins by a Public Authority is the best method, but the Public Health Act sets the annual charge too low to cover present day prices. This section of the Act might well be brought up to date.

Before this report was completed the Local Authorities (Charges for Dustbins) Order, 1949 was issued increasing the maximum annual charge for dustbins supplied by Local Authorities from 2/6d to 5/-d as from the 1st April, 1949.

During the year a Questionnaire was sent to 18 other Rural Authorities asking for details of refuse collection. The answers disclosed the fact that this Authority gives better service at less cost than most of the Authorities replying.

This service is carried on with comparatively few complaints from ratepayers, and some of these prove to be unjustified.

The want of another special service vehicle still gives rise to some worry and expense.

There seems to be a lack of wisdom in exporting vehicles which are so badly needed for home community welfare.



## Salvage Account, 1948:

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	64.	16.	1.	416.	0.	3.
Increased Paper Allowance				16.	14.	0.
				432.	14.	3.
Scrap Iron	8.	16.	1.	13.	4.	3.
Non-ferrous Metal		2.	3.	4.	11.	0.
Rags	1.	6.	2½.	13.	7.	6.
	75.	1.	3½.	463.	17.	0.

The increase in paper collection was about 25.6% over the year 1947.

### REFUSE TIPS.

Refuse disposal by means of tipping at old quarries has been continued through the year.

These tips are a problem due largely to unauthorised and careless dumping.

I respectfully submit the time has arrived to reconsider the method of refuse disposal. Within a few years the tips at Blockley, Bourton-on-the-Water and Oddington Hill will be filled up.

Suitable sites for tips within reasonable distance of the collecting points are getting scarce and owners are adverse to quarries on their land being so utilised.

The time will come when incineration will have to be undertaken.

This means is expensive in capital cost and upkeep, but with proper apparatus a greater proportion of the waste material can be salvaged, and the rejected waste reduced in bulk.

Further, incineration destroys organic and vegetable matter which at present encourages the breeding of rats and flies, and reduces the possibility of polluting under-ground water supplies.

### FOOD INSPECTION.

Foods surrendered or otherwise disposed of as being unfit for human consumption is detailed in the following list:

Salt Pork	56 lb.	Home killed) for private
Bacon	80 "	Home killed) consumption.
Cheese	24 " 7 oz.	20¼ lb. were French cream cheese in a rotten and verminous condition.
Meat	51 "	Home killed beef, Bone taint due to injury when alive.
Meat paste	2 tins.	
Meat	20 "	
Sausages	2 "	
Sausages	24 lb.	Rotten due to delay in transit.
Fish	77 tins & jars.	
Fish cakes	6 "	
Vegetables	63 tins	
Fruit juice	11 "	
Preserves	25 tins & jars.	
Fruit	45 tins	
Milk	93 "	
Soups	22 "	
Pate de foie	1 "	
Custard Powder	7 lb.	Contaminated in transit.
Dried Peaches	56 "	
Cereals	89 "	Verminous.
Orange Cheese Curd	9 "	Damaged in transit.

These figures are an improvement on those of 1947.

#### COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

254 visits were made to Cowsheds and Dairies, 1 intimation of defects was served.

The standard of cleanliness is well maintained in spite of many of those establishments being old fashioned.

The number of producers interested in the possibilities of producing T.T.milk is increasing.

This is encouraging and will lead to a steady improvement in the quality and cleanliness of milk.

It will be a good thing for the general welfare when quality is stressed above quantity.

The Milk Marketing Board still tries to encourage the production of milk in premises that are far from ideal. This puts quantity first, and is not fair to good producers.

In general, producers have shown a spirit of co-operation in the common effort to improve the milk supply.

60 farms in the district are licensed to produce T.T.milk and 15 to produce Accredited.

4 Retailers were licensed to use the term "Tuberculin Tested" in connection with milk for sale and 2 for "Pasteurised".

1 Pasteurisers licence is in force.

#### SCHOOL MILK.

48 reports on milk purchased by the schools were received from the School Medical Officer.

Of these, 21 were up to designated standard and 27 failed to satisfy that standard.

Of the 27 failures, 16 were retailed after purchase from a wholesale depot, 13 of these were reputed to be pasteurised. These pasteurised supplies came from Birmingham in bulk.

The attention of the local branch of this Wholesale Suppliers was drawn to these poor reports.

#### PASTEURISED MILK.

13 samples of pasteurised milk were taken at the United Dairies Depot, Moreton-in-Marsh (nine by the R.D.C. Sanitary Inspectors and 4 by County Council Inspectors) and submitted for analysis; all were satisfactory.

These numbers are low as the United Dairies shut down their plant for a long period while new machinery was installed.

#### ICE CREAM.

15 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, 8 of these are for sale only, the remaining 7 for manufacture as well.

12 samples were taken and submitted for analysis. Of these, 6 were Grade I, two were Grade II, three were Grade III and one was Grade IV.



The producers of the Grade IV sample was warned to take greater care, but the reason for his poor sample was the breakdown of newly installed plant.

These premises were shut down at the end of the summer season, but sampling will be resumed when they open for the next season.

The sampling and visits produced good results for the later samples showed improvement from Grade III to Grades I and II.

#### BAKEHOUSES.

28 visits were made to Bakehouses, in three cases letters were sent to occupiers and owners calling for improvement.

#### FRIED FISH.

Two new registrations were granted and certificates issued for the use of premises for the preparation and frying of fish. One to an old established business which was modernised, and one to a newly established business.

One application was deferred owing to unsatisfactory layout. This application was dropped and the premises put to other use.

I wish to respectfully suggest that bye-laws governing this trade are desirable as the Food and Drugs Act is not sufficiently stringent to cover all possibilities in this business.

The consumption of fried fish is increasing in this area.

#### TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There was a slight improvement at Westington in the annual nuisance from casual workers.

The owner of the land on which the nuisance arises has at last been persuaded to take action to prevent trespassing by temporary campers.

The site is more exposed now owing to felling of trees in the copse, this will tend to discourage the travellers.

#### CARAVANS.

Seven licences to station moveable dwellings were in force.

These caravans are generally occupied owing to the shortage of houses; they are carefully kept and give rise to no nuisance.

Often these habitations are in use because of the practice of the Air Ministry of bringing young married men to the district and making no provision for their families. It is only natural that these young people should wish to be together.

The Ministry does not suffer from shortage of space in this area and could well provide at least suitable camping sites for married personnel.

#### RATS AND MICE.

Twenty-eight visits were paid to premises said to be infested by rats. In each case information was given to the County Pests Officer who carried out any necessary work.

#### VERMIN.

Fourteen premises were treated with gammexane powder or smoke for infestation by beetles, fleas or flies.



These gammexane powders and smoke generators have taken the place of sulphur candles, they are more effective and results more lasting.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE.

These premises continue to suffer wilful damage by persons of both sexes in search of amusement.

The automatic locks become receptacles for all sorts of rubbish which causes much loss of time in repair and adjustment.

The only cases of major damage were a sink at Campden and W.C door at Stow-on-the-Wold.

