

[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, North Cotswold R.D.C.

Contributors

North Cotswold (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1949

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

RURAL DISTRICT OF NORTH COTSWOLDFOR THE YEAR 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:Medical Officer of Health:

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A.EDE - Certified Sanitary Inspector.
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Sanitary Science Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G.I.JONES - Certified Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,
MORETON-IN-MARSH,
Gloucestershire.

1944-1945

1946-1947

1948-1949

1950-1951

1952-1953

1954-1955

1956-1957

1958-1959

1960-1961


1962-1963

1964-1965

1966-1967

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To the Chairman and Members of
THE NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for 1949.

It will be noted that the vital statistics again demonstrate the health of the community and the freedom the district has had from infectious disease.

Housing continues to be the major concern of the Council. Every house for which permission can be obtained is built, but there remain no less than 868 families on the waiting list. In spite of the houses provided, the number of applicants gets larger. The reason will be found in the increase of the population in the District; in each post-war year the increment has been in the order of 1,000 people. Due consideration should be given to this factor in the housing allocation for the District.

The Water Undertaking continues to take great strides forward. Unfortunately abundant water supplies in the villages accentuate the deficiencies of rudimentary sewerage systems. The Council have prepared many sewerage schemes because of their urgency; Government permission to proceed is necessary to hasten their completion.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 was implemented by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into force on the 1st October, 1949. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries became responsible for the registration of Dairy Farms and Producer-Retailers; supervision of Pasteurising Establishments passed to the County Council; both these functions were formerly carried out by the District Council, now, only the licensing of Dealers Premises is left to them.

I desire to thank Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and my colleagues for their ready co-operation and the help they have given in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1949.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	86,215
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population - mid 1949	<div> <div>Civilian</div> <div>Total</div> </div> <div> <div>19,110</div> <div>20,920</div> </div>
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	5,499
Rateable Value, March, 1950	£107,639
Sum represented by a penny rate	£433

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

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	375	192	183
Illegitimate	9	5	4
Total	384	197	187
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...			20.

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...			0.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...			20.

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	221	108	113
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...			11.5
Area comparability factor ...			0.85
Corrected Death Rate (11.5 x 0.85) per 1,000 of the population			9.8

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

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

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	7	3	4
ALL INFANTS per 1,000 Live Births ...			18

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population (Civilian 19,110, total 20,920) again shows an increase of nearly 1,000 persons apart from Service personnel in the District.

BIRTH RATE

There were 384 live births during the year, the Birth Rate being 20, the same rate as the previous year, but considerably higher than the national rate of 16.7

DEATH RATE

Deaths numbered 221, a rate of 11.5 per 1,000 of the population, but owing to the relatively high proportion of elderly folk in the Rural District, this figure must be multiplied by the area comparability factor 0.85, before comparison is made with the death rate elsewhere. The corrected death rate obtained in this way is 9.8 and compares favourably with the national rate 11.5

INFANT MORTALITY

Only seven of the 384 infants born, died during the year, the Infant Mortality Rate being remarkably low, 18 per 1,000 births. Since this rate is often taken as a delicate index of the well being of a community, it is most satisfying to note that the national rate, itself the low record figure of 32, is nearly twice as high as the local rate.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics:

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Typhoid and Para. Fevers	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis - Respiratory System	7	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	2	-
9. Influenza	-	2
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis, etc.	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer (Bucc. Cav.)	1	3
(Oesophagus (M))		
(Uterus (F))		
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	-
15. Cancer of Breast	-	2
16. Cancer of other sites	14	10
17. Diabetes	-	1
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	6	12
19. Heart Disease	38	48
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	6
21. Bronchitis	7	3
22. Pneumonia	2	3
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
Total carried forward	84	93

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total brought forward	84	93
24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	4	-
28. Nephritis	3	3
29. Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	3
32. Congenital Malformations - Birth Injuries, Infantile Disease, etc.	3	3
33. Suicide	1	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	2
35. Other Violent Causes	1	1
36. All other causes	7	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	108	113

Total both Male & Female - 221.

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR
THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>
Birth Rate	22.	19.8	21.8	20.	20.
(per 1,000 population)					
Death Rate	12.	14.2	11.9	11.	11.5
(per 1,000 population)					
Infantile Mortality Rate	24.	35.	21.	30.	18.
(per 1,000 live births)					
(Deaths of Infants under 1 yr)					

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

	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>126 C.Bs.</u> <u>& Great</u> <u>Towns</u>	<u>County of</u> <u>Gloucester-</u> <u>shire</u>	<u>North</u> <u>Cotswold</u> <u>R.D.</u>
Live Births	16.7	18.7	17.5	20.
Still Births	0.39	0.47	0.36	0.4
(per 1,000 population)				
Death Rate	11.7	12.5	11.0	11.5
(per 1,000 population)				
Infantile Mortality Rate	32.	37.	30.	18.
(Deaths of Infants under one year)				
(Per 1,000 live births)				
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis.	3.	3.8	2.2	2.6
(per 1,000 Live Births)				

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1949
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

Disease	Under 1 yr.		1 to 5		5 - 15		15 - 25		25 and upwards		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	3	10	5	3	3	-	-	14	11
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	3	9	12	2	6	-	-	-	-	14	21
Measles	3	-	6	11	23	20	5	1	3	1	40	33
Pneumonia	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	5	6
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	3	6	6	9
Cerebro-Spinal F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	5
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SCARLET FEVER

There were 25 cases of scarlet fever during the year, a rate of 1.25 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1.63 for England and Wales. There were no deaths. The disease continues to be of a mild character. No increase in prevalence has occurred, although it is now the practice to keep these cases at home if they can be effectively isolated.

DIPHTHERIA

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year, the last case occurring in 1946.

WHOOPIING COUGH

There were 35 notifications of whooping cough as against 34 the previous year. The rate per 1,000 was 1.75 as compared with 2.39 for the country as a whole. There were no deaths.

MEASLES

73 cases of measles were notified as compared with 182 the previous year, when the disease reached epidemic proportions. The local rate was 3.65 as against the national rate of 8.95.

FOOD POISONING

Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to Registrar-General:

1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total
Nil.	Nil.	12.	1.	13.

Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents:

Total Outbreaks	Total Cases
1.	12.

Outbreak Due to:

Salmonella Organisms.

Outbreaks of undiscovered Cause:

	Total Outbreaks	Total Cases	
	Nil.	Nil.	
<u>Single Cases</u>	Agent Identified.	Unknown Cause.	Total.
	1 Salmonella.	Nil.	1.

On investigation of the outbreak it was found that all the people affected had eaten galantine of chicken which was prepared by a person suffering from diarrhoea at the time. Unfortunately none of the suspected food had been saved, but salmonella organisms were recovered from the infected people.

SECTION 15, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The Council made byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air.

The Byelaws should prove a useful instrument in the hands of the public health staff and the food trades, leading to an all round raising of hygienic standards.

Illness due to food infectious has become much more frequent in recent years and continues to increase because canteens and restaurants are used so much more frequently by both adults and children.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

In order to bring home to the public and the food trades the importance of clean handling of food, every opportunity is taken by the Medical Officer of Health of giving addresses on this subject to the general public, especially the local women's organisations.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

320 children were immunised during the year and 278 children received a boosting or reinforcing injection on entry to school. The percentage of children immunised increases year by year, rising from 78% by the end of 1948 to 83% in 1949.

The acceptance rate is very high, but constant effort has to be made to maintain this response. It is by this means that the District has been free from Diphtheria for several years.

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, 1949.

Age at 31/12/49 e.g. born in year	Under						10-15 35/39	Total
	1 yr.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9		
	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1940/44		
Number Immunised	{ 13.	228	268	269	271	{ 1,385	1,302	3,736
Estimated mid-year population 1949			1,779			2,701		4,470

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, 1949			
Pulmonary	-	-	15
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	1
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
(5) Meningitis	-	-	1

Tuberculosis Deaths, 1949

Pulmonary	-	1	7
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	2
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other organs	-	-	-
(5) Meningitis	1	-	1

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1949 was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>All Form</u>
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	<u>Total</u>
32.	35.	67.	17.	12.	29.	96.

There were 17 new cases and 10 deaths from tuberculosis as compared with 13 new cases and 3 deaths the previous year.

Although there has been a considerable increase in the number of new cases the incidence of this disease is not excessive in this district as compared with the rest of the country.

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.

Deaths of Persons Not on the Tuberculosis Register.

Of the ten people who died from tuberculosis, five had not been notified as suffering from tuberculosis. Three of these were apportioned to this district by the Registrar-General as normally resident here, although they died elsewhere. In the remaining two cases there is no reason to offer as to why they had not been notified.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service is operated by 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 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 No. Cheltenham 3614 or to the Home Help Office, 77 Promenade, Cheltenham, Telephone No. Cheltenham 53121.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. 3614.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

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

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

One application was made to the Court under this Section. The person concerned was only 47 years old, but she was living in insanitary conditions, was unable to fend for herself and was half starved.

An Order was made for her detention in residential accommodation for a period of three months. No application for the renewal of the Order was necessary as a certificate for her detention was given under another Act.

Although only one application has been made to the Court it has been necessary to keep a number of aged people under observation. The plight of these old people because of their incapacities has been brought to notice by relations, neighbours and District Nurses.

The Home Help Service has been of great assistance in many instances. A little timely help and the provision of a meal is often sufficient to enable lonely old people to carry on in their own homes.

Some routine method must be devised whereby these old people are visited from time to time and help provided where necessary

The operation of a mobile meal service is cumbersome in a rural area. In its place a neighbour can often be found who will provide a meal under the aegis of the Home Help Service.

The spirit of the old folk is particularly noticeable in country districts, but though they refuse to appeal to the National Assistance Board they will accept the Home Help Service. The latter being a development of the good neighbourliness of our villages.

Apart from the humanitarian aspect of such work, there is saving of expensive beds in hospitals and homes, should such accommodation be available.

HOUSING

The Council have made strenuous efforts to build as quickly as possible the maximum number of houses for which permission can be obtained from the Ministry of Health.

Since the war, 188 Council houses have been built, including 40 temporary bungalows; a further 68 houses were under construction at the end of the year. In addition, approximately 70 housing units have been provided in requisitioned and converted properties.

The old camp sites at Maugersbury, Blockley and Mickleton are still in temporary occupation. The dwellings on these sites are worn out Nissen huts, and the Council has continued its policy to demolish the huts as they become vacant.

Some families of squatters have moved into the various dispersal sites of the Honeybourne Aerodrome at Weston-sub-Edge. The people are mainly of the vagrant type and are continually on the move. An increase in the number of these families is likely to cause a major problem. The position was aggravated by the control of these sites being in the hands of various Government Departments. However, as a result of strong representations made by the Council, the hutments, which are totally unsuitable for temporary housing, are being demolished.

Five of the brick buildings on the aerodrome itself are being converted to make ten dwellings.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Section I.

The Council have been hampered in building new houses and enforcing improvements in existing houses because their statutory powers were limited by the phrase "houses for the working classes" which occurred in the former Housing Acts. This limitation has been removed by Section I of the Act; the Council's duty now is in regard to the housing of the community as a whole.

Section 2

No application was made to the Council under this section for action to be taken to quash a Demolition Order. The provision is a temporary one relating to houses where Demolition Orders were made prior to 1st January, 1946, but, as the result of works carried out since the Demolition Order was made, are considered fit for human habitation. Applications must be made by 31st July, 1950.

Section 20.

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 empowers local authorities to make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses and other buildings and for the improvement of existing dwellings.

Application for grant must

- (a) be made to, and approved by, the authority before work is begun;
- (b) include full particulars of the proposed works and of the property on which the works will be carried out, together with plans and specifications and an estimate of the cost.

The local authority must satisfy themselves that:

- (a) the resulting dwellings will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for at least thirty years;
- (b) the applicant has either a freehold interest or a leasehold interest in the property for an unexpired term of at least thirty years; and
- (c) the dwellings will conform with such requirements with respect to their construction and physical condition and the provision of services and amenities as the Minister may specify.

No application for grant under this Section was received during the year, although the Rural Housing Survey showed that 1,600 houses in the area were in need of thorough reconditioning and might well qualify for grant.

WATER SUPPLY

(Statistics Relating to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme)

Population Served	...	14,000
Area served, in square miles	...	90
Average daily consumption	...	25 gals. per head (domestic)
Average daily consumption	...	18 gals. per head (trade)
Total storage capacity	...	663,000 gallons.
Length of mains	...	100 miles

A piped water supply, from the Council's mains, has been provided at Saintbury, Aston-sub-Edge, Icomb, Draycott, Paxford and Aston Magna during the year.

At Ebrington the reservoir and mains are completed, but cannot be brought into use until machinery is delivered for

the booster station at Paxford.

Now that the new source of supply at Seven Springs, Harford Bridge, has been collected, the average daily yield of the springs has been found to be 2,000,000 gallons per day.

Sixty-seven samples for bacteriological analyses were taken from the Council's supply.

In October the samples taken at Mill Cottage Springs, Blockley were found to be unsatisfactory. There had been a prolonged drought followed by heavy rain, the ground above the spring head was cracked, roots of trees had penetrated into the collecting chamber. Further restrictions on the use of the land at the springhead were enforced, and certain trees in the immediate vicinity of the springs were felled. These additional protective measures proved to be effective, and later samples were found to be satisfactory.

No adverse report was made on any of the samples taken elsewhere from the Council's supply.

Thirteen samples were taken from private water supplies, eleven of these were unsatisfactory, and in each case appropriate action was taken.

In July, the Council, in common with many other water authorities, found it necessary to restrict the use of water for gardens and car washing; the domestic supply being unaffected.

Chlorination, a requirement of the Ministry of Health, is carried out as a safeguard in the Council's comprehensive water scheme.

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

	<u>Total No. of houses</u>	<u>Number of houses Supplied 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	114	96	18
Blockley	645	439	172
Bourton-on-the-Hill	101	71	24
Bourton-on-the- Water	471	383	56
Broadwell	96	21	34
Campden	597	559	38
Clapton	31	2	29
Condicote	33	32	1
Cutsdean	33	-	33
Donnington	36	29	7
Ebrington	179	13	166
Evenlode	72	24	33
Great Rissington	91	32	4
Guiting Power	116	26	26
Icomb	48	31	17
Little Rissington	45	-	45
Longborough	130	61	40
Lower Slaughter	77	19	58
Totals carried forward	3063	1851	936

	<u>Total No. of houses</u>	<u>Number of houses Supplied by Public Mains</u>	<u>Number of houses without public supply.</u>	
		(a) <u>Direct into house.</u>	(b) <u>By Stand- Pipe</u>	
Totals brought forward	3063	1851	276	936
Maugersbury	55	25	-	30
Mickleton	237	201	4	32
Moreton-in-Marsh	494	490	-	4
Naunton	123	-	-	123
Oddington	131	100	20	11
Saintbury	35	5	-	30
Sezincote	26	4	-	22
Stow-on-the-Wold	519	443	71	5
Swell	127	77	8	42
Temple Guiting	122	28	5	89
Todenham	75	37	35	3
Upper Slaughter	82	-	-	82
Westcote	56	54	2	-
Weston-Sub-Edge	102	71	5	26
Wyck Rissington	47	19	-	28
Willersey	161	149	-	12
TOTALS	5,455	3,554	426	1,475

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Northern Parishes

Further progress was made during the year towards completion of the main sewerage scheme for the northern parishes.

The gravity sewer at Weston-sub-Edge is in operation, but the sewer at Willersey and Mickleton, although completed, could not be used until machinery for the pumping stations had been delivered early in 1950.

Stow-on-the-Wold.

A Public Inquiry was held by the Minister of Health on 28th January, 1950 into the Council's proposals to borrow £70,700 to provide main sewerage and sewage disposal at Stow-on-the-Wold.

The town has no main sewerage system; the drainage from the majority of the properties discharging into a convenient rock fissure or swilly.

A third of the houses are without sinks and have only bucket closets or privy vaults. No improvement can be made in these conditions with the existing drainage arrangements.

The site of the swilly determines the point at which the house drains discharge, in some cases it is most unsuitable, being below a larder window, directly underneath the convenience or even in the cellar of the house.

The most essential feature of a drainage system is that it should be self-cleansing; swillies in the nooks and crannies of the rock are anything but self-cleansing. They become choked and are offensive.

The Minister has given his approval to the Council's scheme.

Bourton-on-the-Water, Upper and Lower Slaughter.

On the same day an Inquiry was held into the Council's proposals to borrow £61,550 for works of sewerage and sewage disposal in these parishes.

The existing works at Bourton-on-the-Water are obsolete and overloaded, the effluent gives rise to pollution of the River Windrush. The sewers are subject to flooding, there is excessive infiltration of subsoil water and the sewer fall is totally inadequate. At Lower Slaughter the foul sewers discharge direct to the river, whilst the small works at Upper Slaughter is obsolete and gives rise to pollution of the river. The Minister of Health approves in principle the Council's scheme.

Bledington

Serious pollution of the tributary of the River Evenlode occurs at Bledington. The foul drains of houses in the village are connected to the surface water drains which discharge direct into the river.

Owing to the topography of the village, the nature of the soil and high level of subsoil water, it is impracticable to disconnect the foul drains and require a separate system for each house.

The Thames Conservators have served an abatement notice on the Council to take action to stop the pollution of the river which is taking place.

In order to deal with the problem, the Council have placed Bledington first in the list of villages to be provided with main sewerage and sewage disposal works.

The necessary Public Inquiry into the Council's scheme is awaited.

Local conditions are aggravated by flooding which occurs after heavy rain. Negotiations have taken place with the owner so that the sluices of the Mill may be adjusted and spill ways provided.

SLUDGE COMPOSTING.

Difficulty has always been experienced at the various sewage works in disposing of sludge. This material has little or no manurial value. In the crude state, even though it has been dried, it is found to be unsuitable in cultivation.

An interesting experiment is being carried out at the Chippin Campden Works, where sludge is being composted with straw. A rough lagoon, 15 feet across, is made with straw bales; loose straw is then spread to a depth of fifteen inches and sludge allowed to run over the straw. This process is repeated until a height of six feet is reached. Rapid decomposition of the straw takes place, and in six months an inoffensive and friable compost is ready for use.

The labour involved in this process is less than that required to handle the sludge in the old drying beds, whilst the product is a compost of high manurial value and is likely to be in keen demand.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1949

Complaints received	...	...	...	225.
Informal notices	...	...	...	145
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	58
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	179
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	23
Premises disinfected for other causes	..			29
Shops visited	...	...	...	209
Bakehouses visited	...	...	...	45
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	24
Outworker Premises visited	...	...	...	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds visited	...	...	...	28
Cowshed and Dairy Inspections	...	...	...	332
Drains Inspected	...	...	...	380
Water Samples taken for Analysis	...	...	...	80
Slaughterhouse visits	...	...	...	19
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	78
Houses Inspected Under Public Health & Housing Acts	...	...	...	1078
Number of visits for all purposes	...	...	...	4447

REFUSE COLLECTION

The delivery of a new refuse vehicle was made in the latter part of the year and henceforth I am hoping to receive fewer complaints arising from uncovered refuse on our vehicles.

The district collection of household refuse was maintained throughout the year.

The method of refuse disposal still gives rise to expense and complaints. Supervision as far as possible is not sufficient to safeguard the tips against improper unofficial use. The only answer to these difficulties is a proper depot and plant for refuse destruction.

SALVAGE.

The salvage of useful materials suffered a serious set back in July this year. The Central Authorities, after intensive appeals to Local Authorities to collect waste paper, quite suddenly withdrew and left many of us with stocks of practically unsaleable mixed waste which had to be stored and sold at the end of the year at a very reduced price.

I protested at once on behalf of the Council, but could gain no redress.

The holdup persisted so long and I was seriously considering dumping the stock of paper when an offer was received to buy at £2.10.0d per ton (in place of £6.5.0d per ton). I was relieved to sell the stock before spontaneous combustion did the job for us.

Summary - Salvage, 1949/50

<u>Income:</u>					£.	s.	d.
Mixed paper	-	41 tons	13 cwt.	1 qr.	202.	10.	10d.
Metal	-	4 "	12 "	3 "	6.	19.	1d.
Rags	-		14 "	2 "	7.	5.	0d.
Total					£216.	14.	11d.

Expenditure:

		£.	s.	d.
Wages	-	116.	12.	9d
Heating	-	1.	14.	5d
Twine	-	12.	15.	4d
Overalls	-		16.	9d
Total	-	£231.	19.	3d

This transaction shows a loss of £15.4.4., but the twine is still in stock against possible resumption of salvage operations.

I asked the supplier of the twine to accept its return, but the demand had dropped all over the country and they expressed themselves unable to comply.

The loss is due to the drop in price of material quite suddenly when the Government withdrew their support.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foods were destroyed or otherwise disposed of as being unfit for human consumption.

Imported Beef	176 lb.	Bonetainted and returned to the Depot.
Pork Cutlets	71 lb.	Putrid. -do-
Bacon - Home Killed	135½ lb.	Not properly cured and putrid.
Bacon - Commercial	9 lb. 7 oz.	Putrid.
Ham	22 lb.	Bone taint.
Meat	34 tins.	
Bacon	2 tins.	
Soup	12 tins.	
Suet - Prepared	15 packets.	
Suet - Butchers	½ lb.	
Fish	42 lb.	
Fish	22 tins.	
Preserves	32 jars and tins.	
Vegetables	103 tins.	
Cooking fat	1 lb.	
Cereals	7 lb.	
Milk	101 tins.	
Ice Cream	378 bricks -	Defrosted during delivery.
Fruit	43 tins.	
Blanc Mange Powder	14 lb.	
Baking Powder	7 lb.	
Margarine	24½ lb.	Rancid. Returned to Wholesaler.
Butter	1 cwt. 29 lb.	Collected by Ministry of Food.
Butter	62 lb.	Returned to Wholesalers.
Bread	190 lb.	Unsaleable owing to use of wrong flour. Collected by Millers
Ready mixed puddings	4 pkts.	(for animal food)
Mayonnaise	1 - 1½ gallon jar.	
Sauce	3 bottles.	
Peanut butter	2 jars.	
Cheese	9 lb. 6 oz.	
Fruit Juice	6 tins.	
Prunes	2½ lb.	
Eggs	808.	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 & 1944. Milk & Dairy Regulations, 1949

In October, 1949 supervision of milk producers passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and of pasteurising to the County Council.

Registration and control of retailers remains with the Local Authority, including the issue of Dealer Licences for Designated milks where such dealers are not producers of the product sold.

I cannot question the wisdom of the change, but feel that undue complication will arise, also no authority can do better than the Local Authority in the supervision of local industries as important as food production. Given sufficient staff and the powers enjoyed under the new regulations, the possibility of controlling milk from production to consumption by one Authority would have been advantageous.

During the year, 332 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies; generally speaking conditions and co-operation in this area were good.

Certainly some establishments were old and not altogether satisfactory. The new powers given in the 1949 Regulations should rectify any shortcoming such as this.

MILK SAMPLES.

Ten samples of pasteurised milk were taken and all were up to the required standard.

Ten samples of raw milk were taken at the same time from bulk and the results of analysis showed unfortunately how necessary this heat treatment is.

SCHOOL MILK SAMPLES.

Ten reports on samples of school milk were received from the Gloucestershire School Authorities. All showed good keeping qualities, but three failed to show absence of B.Coli organisms. Two of the latter were from the same milk.

I am pleased to note that the School Authorities are now arranging for a pasteurised milk supply for schools.

DESIGNATED MILK.

70 Producers in the area are licenced for T.T.Milk.

10 Producers in the area are licenced for Accredited Milk.

ICE CREAM.

Twenty-five samples of ice cream were taken for analysis, of these, fourteen were Grade 1, six were Grade 2, three were Grade 3 and two Grade 4.

In other words, 20 were good and 5 indifferent. The indifferent samples were all taken on a particularly sultry day in July and the weather no doubt had great influence on the results obtained.

Even with every care taken it is difficult to get these samples to the laboratory in time without some defrosting.

BAKEHOUSES.

Forty-five visits were made to Bakehouses.

FRIED FISH.

Four premises are registered for fish frying in the area, all are kept in good condition and no complaints have arisen of nuisance.

There is a minor invasion at times by travelling fish fryers. On inspection, these mobile shops have been

satisfactory, but the proposed clean food bye-laws will give better control over these visitors who are not sufficiently covered by existing Acts.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

These have not given much trouble during the year, except for one area where casual workers are an annual nuisance, largely owing to their filthy habits and conduct. They are of a type which no bye-law can altogether make decent.

CARAVANS.

Seventeen licences to station moveable dwellings are in force, all the sites are clean and well kept and no complaint of nuisance has arisen.

RATS AND MICE.

Thirty-four visits were made in respect of rats or mice complaints, these were passed to the County Pest Officer and attended to.

VERMIN.

Twenty-nine premises were disinfested of vermin such as flies, beetles, fleas, etc.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

These premises continue to suffer damage, in the search for amusement by the simple-minded.

It has proved impossible to keep such fittings as paper holders in working order. Often the paper and roller is stolen almost as soon as it is supplied.

The attendants work well to keep such places in condition, performing an almost thankless job which so many users fail to appreciate.

