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Contributors

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NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE YEAR 1950

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), 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 Inspector:

G.I.JONES - Certified Sanitary Inspector.

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 & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for 1950.

The Vital Statistics again reflect the wellbeing and healthy condition of the people and District. The birth rate is high and both the death rate and infantile mortality rate low as compared with the average rates for elsewhere.

In spite of the efforts and achievements of the Council, housing remains the most serious problem. The bold policy of the Council has made it possible for every hamlet to have an ample piped water supply; very soon the scheme will be complete.

The improvement in water supply in many villages aggravates the deficiencies of the sewage disposal arrangements. Parishes are pressing for proper sewerage; the schemes already in hand, together with those for housing and water supplies, are stretching to the full the resources of the Council for labour and materials.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 came into operation on 31st March, 1950. This Act imposes on the District Council a general obligation to ensure that, so far as is practicable, the District is kept free from rats and mice.

Again 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 throughout the year.

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

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1951.

NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	86,215
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year	
Home population, 1950	20,520
Census, 1951	21,881
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1950)	5,517
Rateable Value, March, 1951	£109,929
Sum represented by a penny rate	£439

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The people in the District are engaged mainly in farming, market gardening, fruit growing and associated occupations; the District is a popular residential area because of its character and amenities.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	331	160	171
Illegitimate	23	13	10
Total	354	173	181

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	17.2
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.07
Corrected Birth Rate (17.2 x 1.07)	...	18.4

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	7	3	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	0.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	... 19.3

<u>DEATHS</u>	231	129	102
---------------	-----	-----	-----

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	11.3
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.92
Corrected Death Rate (11.3 x 0.92)	...	10.5

NO. 30 DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births</u>
Nil.	Nil.

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

Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Total	10	5	5

All Causes per 1,000 Live Births	...	28.2
----------------------------------	-----	------

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE
(Neonatal Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	4.	1.	3.
Illegitimate	2.	1.	1.
Total	6.	2.	4.
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	17.

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimated total population, 20,520, is a fall of 400 from the previous year, but the 1951 Census figures are available at the time of writing and give the population as 21,881.

BIRTH RATE

Live births during the year numbered 354 as compared with 384 in 1949. In spite of the decrease the local birth rate is 17.2, which compares favourably with the rate, 15.8, for the country as a whole.

If the age distribution of the local population is taken into account to find the corrected birth rate, 18.4, the position is even more favourable as regards births.

DEATH RATE

There was a slight increase in the deaths over those in 1949, 231 as against 221, even so the local Death Rate, 11.3, is lower than the national death rate, 11.6. Here again an adjustment should be made in the local rate for purposes of comparison because of the high proportion of elderly people in the District. The corrected death rate is 10.5, a very low figure.

INFANT MORTALITY

During the year 354 children were born and ten died before they were a year old, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 28.2 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 29.8 for England and Wales. Although the local infantile mortality rate for 1950 is higher than the remarkably low rate in 1949, it is still better than the national rate, which itself shows a welcome and steady decline year by year.

The decline in infantile deaths has been due to a great saving in life after children are a month old. Deaths in the neonatal period have not diminished in the same way.

No less than six of the ten infantile deaths took place in this period. The neonatal mortality rate being 17 per 1,000 live births.

The causes of death of the infant in this period are bound up with the health of the mother in pregnancy and confinement. Antenatal care and use of facilities for the care of premature infants both at home and in hospital will bring about a diminution of neonatal deaths.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classifications:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	19	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	11
18. Coronary disease, angina	10	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	6
20. Other heart disease	29	31
21. Other circulatory disease	1	3
22. Influenza	2	1
23. Pneumonia	3	-
24. Bronchitis	6	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	7	1
34. All other accidents	8	5
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<u>129</u>	<u>102</u>

Total both male and female - 231.

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

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>126 C.Bs. & Great Towns.</u>	<u>County of Gloucester-shire</u>	<u>North Cotswold R.D.</u>
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.15	17.2
Still Births				
(per 1,000 population)	0.37	0.45		0.3
Death Rate				
(per 1,000 population)	11.6	12.3	11.46	11.3
Infantile Mortality Rate				
(Deaths of Infants under 1 year) (Per 1,000 live births)	29.8	33.8	28.31	28.2

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

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Birth Rate					
(per 1,000 population)	19.8	21.8	20.0	20.0	17.2
Death Rate					
(per 1,000 population)	14.2	11.9	11.0	11.5	11.3
Infantile Mortality Rate					
(per 1,000 live births)	35.0	21.0	30.0	18.0	28.2
(Deaths of Infants under 1 year)					

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1950
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

(Including Tuberculosis)														
	Under 1 Yr.		1 to 5		5 - 15		15 - 25		25 & up- wards		Age Not known		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	2	8	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	11.	4.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-
Whooping Cough	2	5	21	21	17	22	-	-	-	1	-	-	40.	49.
Measles	3	2	35	37	48	42	1	3	2	-	2	2	91.	86.
Pneumonia	1	1	2	2	2	4	-	1	8	3	-	-	13.	11.
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	-	-	4.	8.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Polionyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1

SCARLET FEVER

Fifteen cases of scarlet fever were notified as compared with 25 cases the previous year, the local rate being 0.7 per 1,000 of the population as against a national rate of 1.5. There were no deaths and the cases generally were of a mild type. Where possible cases were isolated at home. There was no spread of the disease because this course was adopted, and valuable hospital beds were set free.

DIPHTHERIA

A case of clinical diphtheria occurred in a youth who had been immunised as a baby. Palatal paralysis typical of the disease developed but the diphtheria bacillus was not cultured from throat swabs.

WHOOPING COUGH

Notifications of whooping cough increased from 35 in the previous year to 89 in the year under review. The rate per 1000 was 4.4 as against 3.6 for the country as a whole. Although no deaths occurred, the disease in young infants is distressing and dangerous.

The protection afforded by immunisation is, as yet, not so good as in the case of diphtheria.

MEASLES

Although measles was more prevalent during the year, 177 cases compared with 73 in the previous year, the local case rate, 8.8 per 1,000 of the population was much the same as in the country as a whole, 8.4 per 1,000.

There were no deaths due to measles.

POLIOMYELITIS

There were five cases of poliomyelitis, making the local rate 0.25 per 1,000 of the population as against 0.18 for the country as a whole. There were no deaths and in only one instance is there serious residual paralysis.

FOOD POISONING

Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected)

<u>1st Qr.</u>	<u>2nd Qr.</u>	<u>3rd Qr.</u>	<u>4th Qr.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nil.	20.	Nil.	Nil.	20.

Outbreaks due to identified agents:

<u>Total Outbreaks</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>
Nil.	Nil.

Outbreaks of Undiscovered cause:

<u>Total Outbreaks</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>
1.	20.

The outbreak of food poisoning occurred in a Service establishment. Although the causal organism was not identified the evidence was that sausage meat had been contaminated during preparation in the Service kitchen. Two of the kitchen staff were found to be suffering from diarrhoea.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

Registration of catering premises is not compulsory but a list of such places has been compiled. There are approximately 250 establishments carrying on the business of catering, fish frying, sale of ice cream, grocers, bakers and butchers. A systematic inspection of these premises is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. At the visit particular attention is paid to cleanliness of premises and personnel and to the arrangements for preparation, handling and storage of food. A copy of the Council's byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the sale of food, together with health educational leaflets appropriate to the trade, are given to the staff of the establishment. Where necessary suggestions for the alterations of the premises are made.

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, 1950.

Age @ 31.12.50	<u>Under 1 Yr.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>
i.e. born in yr.	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>41/45</u>	<u>36/40</u>	
No. Immunised	{ 3.	162.	266	306	265 }	(1,527	1,348)	3,8
Estimated mid-year population, 1950.			1,783				2,680	4,4

Although the percentage of children immunised against diphtheria has increased from 83% in 1949 to 86%, there was

some falling off in the important age groups of children under 1 year old and under 2 years old. This was due to the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the summer months. No immunisation was carried out from July to mid-October. There was, therefore, a considerable leeway to make up and special efforts were made to deal with the situation. Particulars available at the time of writing show that these efforts have been largely successful.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases were notified during the year:

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	0 - 4	5 - 15	
Tuberculosis			
Notifications, 1950:			
Pulmonary	-	-	8
Non Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	1
Tuberculosis Deaths, 1950:			
Pulmonary	-	-	6
Non Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1950, was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total	Total
25	23	48	11	5	16	64

There were nine new cases and six deaths from tuberculosis as compared with seventeen new cases and ten deaths the previous year.

The incidence of the disease in this district is not greater than elsewhere.

In making recommendations for rehousing, patients suffering from tuberculosis are classified in three categories. Category "A" includes only those patients having chronic infectious pulmonary tuberculosis, usually with a positive sputum, where the housing conditions are bad and young adults or children are at great risk.

The Council were able to rehouse all persons who were recommended in this category.

Category "B" includes patients suffering from all forms of tuberculosis where the disease is active and where housing conditions are likely to have a detrimental effect on the general health of the patient.

Category "C" includes all other cases of tuberculosis where priority for rehousing should be given on social grounds and not on medical.

Deaths of Persons from Tuberculosis Not on the Register of Notified Cases.

Of the six people who died from tuberculosis, two had not been notified as suffering from this disease. Both persons were elderly people ordinarily resident in the district, the condition was probably not diagnosed until shortly before death.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service is operated by the County Council. There is a control station at Cheltenham and a 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 the use of public transport is not possible.

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 to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. Cheltenham 55746.

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. Cheltenham 55746.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

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

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

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

No application was made to the Court under this Section for the removal of aged or infirm people living in insanitary circumstances and unable to devote to themselves, and not receiving from other people, proper care and attention.

The Home Help Service continues to be of great help in many instances where aged people are living alone. A little timely help, such as the provision of a hot meal, often enables the old people to carry on in their own home instead of having to seek residential accommodation.

There is as yet no systematic visiting of lonely old people. If such visiting were the custom action could be taken in some cases to prevent insanitary conditions developing.

HOUSING

At December, 1950 the Council had built 246 houses since the war, including 40 temporary bungalows; 76 houses were under construction.

Demolition of the Nissen huts, and rehousing of the families at the old camp sites at Maugersbury, Blockley and Mickleton continued. At the end of the year, the site at Mickleton had been cleared, 11 huts remained at Maugersbury, and 2 at Blockley.

Brick built huts on the Honeybourne Aerodrome were converted during the year to provide ten homes of prefab standard, with an estimated life of 10 years.

OVERCROWDING

The following table sets out the position with regard to certified cases of statutory overcrowding in the district. In each instance representations have been made to the Council for the family to be rehoused.

Statement of Statutory Overcrowding

No. of Cases of Overcrowding abated, 1950:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
11	16	75

No. of cases of Overcrowding unabated:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
18	29	137

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Section 2

No application was made to the Council under this section for action to be taken to quash a Demolition Order. The provision was a temporary one and applications had to 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.

Two applications for grant under this Section were under consideration during 1950. There remain some 1,600 houses in need of thorough reconditioning which might quite well qualify for grant.

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

Population served	16,000
Area served, in square miles	90
Average daily consumption	25 gallons per head (domestic)
Average daily consumption	18 gallons per head (trade)
Total storage capacity	663,000
Length of mains	100 miles

Considerable progress was made in the extensions to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme.

Contract No. 3 for construction of headworks for the new source at Seven Springs was largely completed during the year.

Similar progress was made in the £100,000 No. 4 Contract. Mains were laid in Upper and Lower Swell, Upper and Lower Slaughter, Dorn, Wyck Rissington and Clapton. This contract also includes reconstruction of foundations and new machinery at Upper Swell Pumping Station; reservoirs at Upper Slaughter, Upper & Lower Swell, Stow-on-the-Wold and Clapton; together with extension of mains to the Kitebrook area.

Work commenced in December, 1950 on Contract No. 5 which was let for £65,550. The Contract provides for mains to Maugersbury, Oddington, Adlestrop, Daylesford, Great and Little Rissington and Naunton, with reservoirs at Oddington, Great and Little Rissington and Naunton.

118 Samples of water were submitted for analysis during the year, 31 of these were for both chemical and bacteriological investigation. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken each month from the Council's main sources at Upper Swell and Blockley. A periodic chemical examination was also made.

Slight contamination with surface water occurred in the Mill Cottage Springs at Blockley, but certain road gulleys were diverted with a satisfactory result.

The reports on water samples from the Council's supply were satisfactory except for those which lead to this investigation.

Six samples were taken from private supplies; where necessary appropriate action was taken.

Chlorination, a requirement of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning, is carried out as a safeguard in the Council's supplies.

The following tables set out the position with regard to water supply in the various Parishes:

	<u>Total Number 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>	
Adlestrop	64	-	-	64
Aston-Sub-Edge	31	3	-	28
Batsford	53	13	-	40
Bledington	114	98	-	16
Blockley	645	440	33	172
Bourton-on-the- Hill	101	71	6	24
Bourton-on-the- Water	474	399	30	45
Broadwell	96	21	41	34
Campden	599	561	-	38
Clapton	32	19	-	13
Condicote	33	32	-	1
Cutsdean	33	-	-	33
Donnington	36	29	-	7
Ebrington	181	45	-	136
Evenlode	72	24	15	33
Great Rissington	91	44	32	15
Guiting Power	116	26	64	26
Icomb	48	36	-	12
Little Rissington	45	20	20	5
Longborough	130	66	24	40
Lower Slaughter	78	35	-	43
Maugersbury	55	25	-	30
Mickleton	251	215	4	32
Moreton-in-Marsh	508	504	-	4
Naunton	123	-	-	123
Oddington	132	101	20	11
Saintbury	35	6	-	29
Sezincote	26	4	-	22
Stow-on-the-Wold	519	443	71	5
Swell	127	81	8	38
Temple Guiting	122	28	5	89
Todenham	75	47	25	3
Upper Slaughter	82	-	-	82
Westcote	56	56	-	-
Weston-Sub-Edge	102	72	5	25
Wyck Rissington	47	24	-	23
Willersey	162	154	-	9
Total	<u>5494</u>	<u>3742</u>	<u>403</u>	<u>1349</u>

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Northern Parishes

The sewerage scheme for the five northern parishes, Mickleton, Aston-Sub-Edge, Weston-Sub-Edge, Saintbury and Willersey, was completed during the year.

Stow-on-the-Wold.

After a Public Inquiry into the Council's proposals to raise a loan of £70,700 to provide main sewerage and sewage disposal at Stow-on-the-Wold, the Minister of Health gave his consent for the scheme to proceed.

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

The Ministry of Health, after a Public Inquiry, also gave approval to the Council to proceed with the replacement of sewers at Bourton-on-the-Water, Upper and Lower Slaughter, and provision of new disposal works at a cost of £61,550.

Bledington

The provision of a long overdue sewerage scheme for Bledington was held up in order that negotiation for a joint scheme might take place with a neighbouring authority. After investigation the Council decided to proceed with its own scheme to avoid delay and for reasons of economy.

Wyck Rissington

Complaints are made of pollution in ditches and streams in and around the village.

There are 32 houses in the village, and in recent years many of the properties have been provided with sanitary fittings such as water closets, sinks and baths. Most of the sewage is untreated and discharges into ditches, even to one on the village green. The local water supplies have been augmented by the Council's piped supply. These factors aggravate conditions caused by lack of a proper sewerage system. Representations have been made to the Ministry of Local Government and Planning for sewerage to be provided for this village.

Bourton-on-the-Hill

A petition to the Council was received from residents complaining of unsatisfactory sewage disposal arrangements.

The village is on a steep hillside; it is impossible to provide septic tanks at many of the houses. Where bucket closets exist difficulty is often found in disposal of night soil.

Some foul sewage finds its way into the surface water system, but this system cannot be adapted to serve for sewage disposal.

A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Local Government and Planning to sewer the village and connect to the Moreton-in-Marsh system. A local disposal works is not advisable as there is no stream in the vicinity large enough to give the necessary dilution to the effluent.

SLUDGE COMPOSTING

Sludge Composting at the Chipping Campden Disposal Works continued throughout the year and proved most successful. Straw for the process is found by a local horticulturist.

The sludge composted with straw has a high manurial value. It is easier to handle and there is a saving of labour as compared with the old sludge drying bed method of disposal.

FLOODING

Several times during the year flooding took place at Moreton-in-Marsh, Bourton-on-the-Water and Bledington. The flooding has become more frequent and more severe. Improvements in land and road drainage enable heavy flows of storm water to reach low lying places very quickly. The existing surface drainage systems in these places may be inadequate and then flooding occurs. Inlets to the foul sewers become submerged, the sewers choked and a nuisance is caused thereby.

CLOSURE OF CHURCHYARDS

In Rural Districts up to the present time it has not been the custom to apply for official closure of full churchyards when new cemeteries are opened.

However, now that Section 269(2) of the Local Government Act, 1933 enables a rural parish, having a Parish Council, to obtain repayment from the General Rate Fund of the expenses of maintaining a closed churchyard, it is natural that the Church Authorities should make use of the enactment.

Applications were made for the closure of the churchyards at Chipping Campden and Blockley. There were more than adequate grounds for giving a certificate that in each instance re-opening the ground for new graves was likely to endanger the public health. In due course both churchyards were closed by Order in Council.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1950

Complaints received	312.
Informal Notices	149
Statutory Notices	136
Nuisances abated	244
Premises disinfected after Infectious Disease	26
Premises disinfested	52
Shops visited	166
Food & Drugs Act Visits including Catering Establishments	231
Bakehouses visited	47
Factory Inspections	26
Outworker Premises Visited	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds visited	63
Dairies Visited	36
Drains Inspected	730
Water Samples taken for Analysis	116
Slaughterhouse Visits	18
Smoke Observations	14
Houses Inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	746
Number of visits for all purposes	5,269

Refuse Collection

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

Salvage

The salvage of useful material has again become important. In my view the importance of this work was overlooked last year by the Central Authorities, who withdrew support from this work much too quickly. In so doing they destroyed a nationally important undertaking.

It should have been realised that any undertaking of this nature required depots, plant and labour which are easier to discard than put into efficient operating order again.

I trust that a suitable depot and organisation will soon be built up again allowing useful material to return to circulation and profits from the same be helping forward the expense of necessary services.

Refuse Disposal

The collapse of the waste paper salvage campaign added to the problem arising from the only method of disposal of refuse available to the Council. Paper is untidy on tips and adds to the possibility of fires.

Unfortunately available sites right away from centres of habitation are scarce, and the necessity of utilizing such quarries as are available is giving rise to numerous complaints.

It is unfortunate that the pressing need for proper incineration of household refuse should coincide with a period of stringency.

Food Inspection

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

Bacon	16 lb.	Wet fish (Haddock)	56 lb.
Dried Fruit	3 lb. 6 oz.	Tea	3½ lb.
Fruit	125 tins	Meat	59 tins
Fruit Juice	13 "	Meat Beef (Bone-tainted)	77 lb.
Vegetables	171 "	Sausages	48 "
Milk	53 "	Meat Paste	1 Jar
Preserves	15 "	Ham turned	5 lb.
Soup	18 "	Butter	80 "
Custard	1 "	Margarine	36½ "
Cereal	1 "	Cheese	6½ "
Prune Baby Food	12 "	Camembert	6 lb. boxes
Fish	51 "	Cooking Fat	14 lb.

The beef was returned to Central Slaughter House for salvage. Fats were returned to wholesalers for salvage.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Milk Sampling

24 samples of milk were taken for analysis, 13 of which were pasteurised and 11 of raw milk.

All the pasteurised samples were satisfactory but two of the samples of raw milk did not reach an approved standard.

The attention of the Ministry of Agriculture's Officers was drawn to these poor results for the said Officers to take action at the place of production.

Milk Retailers

There are six Milk Retailers registered with this Council. Five are licenced to deal in Pasteurised milk and Six licenced to deal in Tuberculin Tested milk.

Other retailers in the area are producer-retailers and come under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Ice Cream

Twelve Ice Cream samples were taken. Six were Grade 1, two Grade 2, two Grade 3, and two Grade 4.

There is a steady tendancy for ice cream retailers to give up manufacture and take supplies from manufacturers in wrapped blocks.

This is an improvement as the weakest point of the procedure in sale is handling by servers and there is little chance of small makers investing in necessary heat treatment plants.

Bakehouses

47 visits were made to bakehouses which were generally found to be clean, minor improvements were carried out as a result of verbal inciminations.

Fried Fish

There has been no addition to the list of Fish Fryers' Establishments and existing premises are kept clean and have given no cause for complaint.

Caravans

23 licences to station moveable dwellings were issued. All

the sites have been tidy and well kept and no nuisance caused.

Public Conveniences

These premises continue to suffer wilful damage, fortunately in not such an expensive form as of previous years.

Alterations and additions to direction signs were made at the request of Parish Councils at Stowoon-the-Wold and Moreton-in-Marsh.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

This new Act delegated responsibility for Pests, i.e., rat and mouse infestations, to the Rural District Council as from the beginning of April, 1950.

Mr. Woolcombe left the service of the County Council and joined the Rural District Council staff in time to carry on the work from the commencement of this Council's responsibility.

This enabled the department to start operating at once; indeed work was started before the law printers were ready with the necessary books, notices and forms.

The Act throws all responsibility for ensuring that the provisions are carried out on the Local Authority, but reserves certain operations to the Ministries of Agriculture and Food.

During the period April to end of the year:-

2788 visits were made for all purposes.
1566 premises were surveyed, 1347 found to be clear of rats, etc. and 219 discovered to be infested by rats or mice in varying degrees. Of these 209 were dealt with by the Council's operator, and 10 by others.

In addition to the above work 100 visits were made in connection with testing and poisoning at sewer manholes.

The number of complaints of rats and mice received from the public numbered 66.

The number of premises infested includes also property of the Council, such as sewage works or tips.

The sewage works, sewers and refuse tips have been regularly surveyed and dealt with as occasion arises.

The Air Ministry accepted the Council's tender for pest operations at Rissington Aerodrome.

Work was also undertaken at a Ministry of Food grain store, for repression of infestation by mice.

All ratepayers were circularised informing them of the Council's readiness to undertake rat repression work.

Some have expressed their satisfaction with the result of work by the Council staff after experience of some other operators.

It was not necessary to serve statutory notices to enforce the Act during the year.

Generally the Public have given willing co-operation in the work, and we have met with no obstruction.



