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NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

STEPHEN KNIGHT

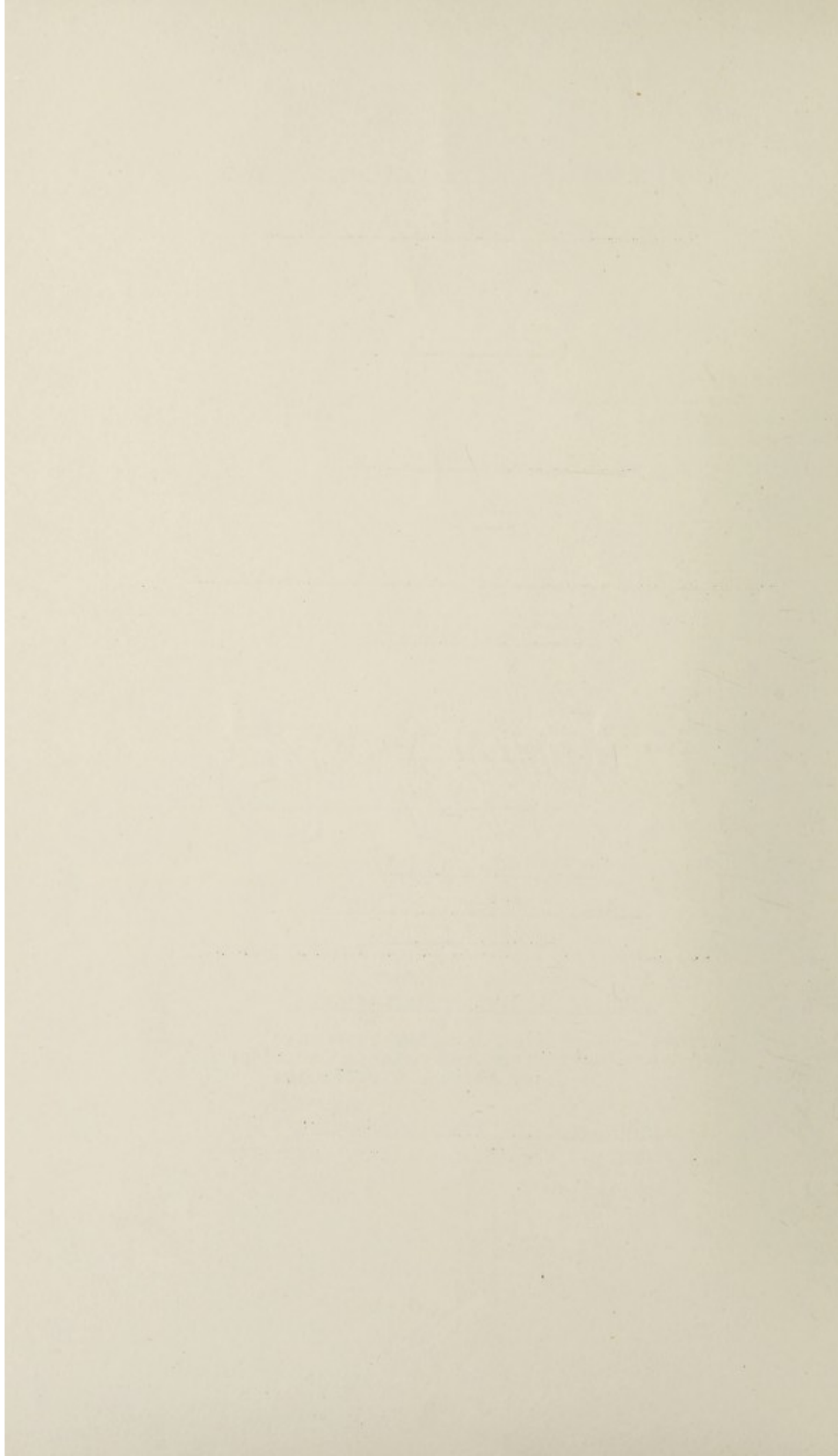
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Certified Meat & Foods Inspector
Sanitary Science Certificate

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

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Report of Medical Officer of Health

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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 for 1951 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District.

The Vital Statistics are again satisfactory. The Birth Rate is higher and the Death Rate much the same as the average for the Country as a whole.

A particularly welcome feature is that the Infantile Mortality is only 24 and as in previous years is below the national rate, 29.6

The District was free from serious infectious disease.

As noted in the report for last year, the Council's scheme for provision of a piped water supply in each hamlet is largely complete. More and more use is being made of the abundant water supply so that the deficiencies of many sewerage systems was becoming more evident.

Plans were complete and ready to be implemented for providing proper sewerage systems where these were necessary. Unfortunately the financial position of the Country at the present time has caused all these sewerage schemes to be postponed.


I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council for their help and consideration, and to the staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

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

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1952.



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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 mid-year population (including Members of Armed Forces)	21,900
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1951)	5,575
Rateable Value (at 31.3.52)	£110,642
Sum represented by a penny rate	£441

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	346	172	174
Illegitimate	28	19	9
Total	374	191	183
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	17.1	
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.11	
Corrected Birth Rate (17.1 x 1.11)	...	19.0	

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	9	5	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	9	5	4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	0.4	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	23.5	

<u>DEATHS</u>	269	132	137
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	12.3	
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.91	
Corrected Death Rate (12.3 x 0.91)	...	11.2	

NO. 30. DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Deaths per 1,000 total (live & still) births</u>
Nil	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

(Infantile Mortality)			
Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	9	6	3
All causes per 1,000 Live Births	...	24.	

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	8	5	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... 21.

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population, 21,900, is 1,400 more than that for the previous year. The 1951 Census figure, 21,881, tended to show that there has been an under estimate of the population.

Members of the armed forces stationed in the area are included but even so the population has increased by nearly a thousand in each of the post-war years.

BIRTH RATE

There were 374 live births as compared with 384 in 1950. The Birth Rate, 17.1, compares favourably with the rate, 15.5, for the country as a whole and even with industrial areas. If allowance is made for the unduly high proportion of elderly and retired people living in the district the corrected Birth Rate is 19.0, a very high rate for an agricultural district and one which reflects the prosperity of this basic industry in this locality.

DEATH RATE

Here again the crude local death rate, 12.3, compares favourably with the general rate, 12.5. An allowance should be made also for the age distribution in the district to obtain the corrected Death Rate, 11.2.

INFANT MORTALITY

Nine infants died in their first year making an Infantile Mortality Rate of 24 per 1,000 live births. As in previous years the local rate is lower than that for the Country as a whole, 29.6. Such a state of affairs is a welcome feature and in general reflects the well being of the community.

NEONATAL MORTALITY

Actually of the nine infants who died no less than eight of them died in the first month, in four cases prematurity being the cause of death. The cause of death of the infant in the neonatal period is bound up with the health of the mother in pregnancy and confinement. Antenatal care, employment in pregnancy, housing conditions all have an important bearing on neonatal deaths.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

CANCER

Cancer deaths numbered 47, an increase of 14 over 1950. Deaths from cancer would not be numerous if medical advice were sought in the early stages of disease. Four out of five patients treated in the early stage for cancer of the breast are alive and well after three years.

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. Tuberculosis, other	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	20
18. Coronary disease, angina	15	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
20. Other heart disease	38	43
21. Other circulatory disease	2	6
22. Influenza	2	3
23. Pneumonia	2	5
24. Bronchitis	5	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	7	5
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total	132	137

Total male and female - 269

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

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>126 C.B. & Great Towns</u>	<u>County of Glos.</u>	<u>North Cotswold R.D.</u>
Live Births	15.5	17.3	15.5	17.1
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.36	0.45		0.4
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	12.5	13.4	11.98	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Yr.)(Per 1,000 live births)	29.6	33.9	26.59	24.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants Under 1 Month)(per 1,000 Live Births)	-4-		17.53	21.0

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

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	21.8	20.0	20.0	17.2	17.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.9	11.0	11.5	11.3	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)	21.0	30.0	18.0	28.2	24.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1951
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under</u>								<u>25 &</u>		<u>Age</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>1 Yr.</u>	<u>1 - 5</u>	<u>5 - 15</u>	<u>15 - 25</u>	<u>upwards</u>	<u>not</u>	<u>Known</u>							
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	2	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	1	27	22	23	21	-	-	2	-	2	-	55	48
Measles	4	5	81	70	142	131	9	5	7	3	1	-	244	214
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	2	-	3	1	12	10	1	-	18	13
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	5	5
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-para.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

SCARLET FEVER

Ten cases of scarlet fever were notified, a case rate of 0.5 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1.11 for the country as a whole. This disease continues to decline both in incidence and in severity year by year.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were notified.

WHOOPING COUGH

103 cases were notified, a case rate of 4.7 per 1,000 of the population as against the general rate of 3.8. No deaths occurred. Immunisation against whooping cough does not, as yet, give the same measure of protection as diphtheria immunisation.

MEASLES

Measles was more prevalent throughout the country. Locally there were 458 cases, a rate of 19 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with the national rate of 14. The disease is one which has a biennial incidence. No deaths occurred.

POLIOMYELITIS

Only one non-paralytic case of poliomyelitis was notified.

FOOD POISONING

There were no cases of food poisoning.

(a) Total Number of outbreaks	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of cases	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil
(d) Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks attributable to each	...	...	...	Nil
(e) Foods involved, with number of outbreaks association with each food	...	...	...	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases:

	<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>All Persons</u>
Pulmonary	-	2	10
Non-pulmonary	-	2	2

Deaths

Pulmonary	-	-	-
Non-pulmonary	-	-	1

Tuberculosis Register

<u>Male</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-pulmonary</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
33	26	59		10	7	17	76

The number of new cases notified was much the same as last year, the local incidence is not high. Only one death occurred from this disease. Modern treatment has brought about a marked fall in the death rate from Tuberculosis.

Adequate accommodation is the most important factor in preventing the spread of tuberculosis in an infected family. It is most imperative that the patient should have a bedroom to himself.

Medical recommendations for rehousing are concerned usually only with the patient. In the case of tuberculosis, however, there is a greater urgency if the patient is infectious and children or young adults are at risk because of bad housing conditions. Here the health of more than one person is involved. When these conditions exist the Medical Officer of Health makes representations to the Council and the family receives a high priority for rehousing.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (in relation to child population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to December, 1951:

Age @ 31.12.51 i.e. born in year	<u>Under</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5 - 9</u>	<u>10 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>1 Yr.</u>	<u>1951</u>							
No. immunised	(26	264	344	280	315)	(1,656	1,369)		4,254
Total No. Immunised	(1,229						(3,025		
Estimated mid-year population	1,944						3,045		4,989

Although 460 children were immunised for the first time during the year as against 263 in 1950, the percentage of immunised children fell from 86 to 85 owing to a substantial increase in the child population.

The overall proportion of immunised children is satisfactory, but still parents do not have their babies immunised early enough. Only 26 babies out of a possible 374 were immunised before their first birthday. The object of the campaign for immunisation against diphtheria is to get 75% of the babies protected before they are a year old.

Although this district was again free from diphtheria, outbreaks still occur elsewhere, and will occur here if the level of immunisation falls.

Owing to the success of the immunisation campaign diphtheria is a rarity and many young parents are totally unacquainted with the severity of the disease. The campaign needs everyone's support and must be pushed with the utmost vigour to encourage parents to have their children immunised, diphtheria can be kept under only by a high proportion of immune people in the community.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

CLEAN FOOD

There were no outbreaks and no cases of food poisoning. The national campaign for clean food is having effect. Public opinion is aroused and the general public is demanding clean methods in the preparation and handling of food.

The risks of outbreaks of food poisoning are greatly increased where there is communal feeding as in restaurants, factories and schools. The absence of such outbreaks testifies to the careful technique which is necessary in the kitchens of these places.

Minimum requirements for food premises as to sanitary provision, ventilation and cleanliness are laid down in Section 13 of this Act.

Now that the County Council have delegated to the Council powers under subsections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38 of the Shop Act, 1950, the Council is responsible also for lighting, washing facilities and facilities for employees' meals.

The Council has adopted byelaws for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

Systematic inspection of food shops is being carried out, proprietors are required to comply with the statutory standards, and the food handlers called upon to exercise scrupulous cleanliness.

In pursuance of the Clean Food Campaign there has been a general feeling that dogs should not be allowed in food shops. The Minister of Food considered that in dealing with this problem an appeal to the public and the food trade would be more successful than prohibitive regulation.

The Council, acting on the Minister's recommendation, has asked food traders to display a notice signed by the Medical Officer of Health requesting customers not to bring dogs into food premises.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 270

ACCOMMODATION FOR PEA-PICKERS AND SEASONAL WORKERS.

In November the Council called a meeting with local representatives of the National Farmers' Union to consider the provision of accommodation by employers for persons engaged in pea-picking and other seasonal work in the area.

Lack of sufficient accommodation has created a serious problem in the neighbourhood of Chipping Campden.

Labour for seasonal work on the farms is obtained in various ways. On one farm there are excellent lodgings to which the same families come year after year, on another caravan dwellers are employed and others arrange bus services from the neighbouring villages. In these cases no difficulties arise from accommodation of the workers.

However, some farms rely on truly casual labour, usually of the roadster type. In the season as many as 50 of these people may be moving from farm to farm. They sleep in barns, by the roadside and in coppices. The lack of shelter, water, latrines and cooking facilities aggravates their degradation and menaces the health of the district.

If a barn was occupied the farmer claimed that the Council's byelaws, under Section 270 of the Public Health Act, 1936 for securing the decent lodging of seasonal workers, did not apply as the people concerned were not working for him.

As a result of the meeting with the farmers and subsequent negotiations, a farmer in the Campden area has agreed to set aside buildings for the accommodation of these workers. The Council's byelaws will apply. The conditions laid down are the minimum under which human beings should live. The buildings must be cleaned out before occupation; the sexes segregated; provision made for water supply, latrines, some sort of camp cooking facilities and straw for bedding.

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.

Visits have been made to a number of cases of this type but the Home Help Service was able to provide for the need of some of these lonely old people and enable them to carry on in their own homes.

The activity of the Old People's Clubs, as at Bourton-on-the-Water, is particularly valuable in preventing bad conditions arising. Absentees from the meetings are visited and help, if required, is given at an early stage when it is most useful.

As an experiment the Old People's Welfare Committee are maintaining a register of old people living alone in the Blockley and Chipping Campden area.

They are visited from time to time and if experience shows that such a register is valuable the scheme will be extended to the rest of the county.

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
Little Rissington	...	2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Mickleton	...	2nd Tuesdays
Moreton-in-Marsh	...	2nd Tuesday
Stow-on-the-Wold	...	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Willersey	...	2nd Thursday

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

The Council has built 293 houses since the war and 83 are in course of construction. A further 104 houses have been built by private enterprise.

A number of huts on former camp sites at Maugersbury, Blockley, and Weston-Sub-Edge are still in use. Those at Cinque Foil, Blockley and many at Weston-Sub-Edge are in an advanced stage of decay and not even weatherproof.

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, 1951:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
5	6	35

No. of Cases of Overcrowding unabated:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
12	25	105

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Section 20

This section empowers local authorities to make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings by conversion of houses or other buildings and for the improvement of existing houses. The houses must have an estimated life of 30 years, and the standard of accommodation provided must approximate to that of a new Council houses after the improvements have been carried out.

The grant is for fifty per cent of the outlay and the owner is entitled to increase the rent to give a return of 6% on his share.

The section was intended to be used as a means whereby the general standard of housing in a district might be raised. Only two applications were made in 1951 whereas some 1,000 houses in the district are in need of thorough recondition. The financial stringency of the present time precludes any extensive use being made of this section.

Total number of application received	...	2.
Applications approved by the Ministry of Health	...	2.
Applications disapproved by the Ministry of Health	...	Nil.
Applications not submitted to the Ministry of Health	...	Nil.

WATER SUPPLY

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

Population served	16,000
Area served, in square miles	90
Average Daily Consumption (Domestic)	25 gallons per head
Average Daily Consumption (Trade)	18 gallons per head
Total storage capacity	1,461,000 gallons
Length of mains	112 miles
Total Capital Expenditure	£264,000

Bulk supplies are provided to the Rural Districts of Evesham, Stratford-on-Avon, and Chipping Norton.

Contract No. 4 for extensions to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme was completed during the year. This contract, at a cost of £100,000, provides for mains to be laid in Upper and Lower Swell, Upper and Lower Slaughter, Dorn, Wyck Rissington, Clapton and Kitebrook; reconstruction of the Upper Swell Pumping Station; reservoirs at Upper Slaughter, Upper and Lower Swell, Stow-on-the-Wold and Clapton.

The provision of a piped water supply to Lower Slaughter and Clapton is a great boon as no piped water supply was available before.

Extension of the Council's water mains to Adlestrop and Daylesford has been deleted from Contract No. 5 but the mains have been laid to Maugersbury, Oddington, Great and Little Rissington and Naunton.

During the year 81 samples of water were taken from the Council's supplies and submitted for analysis, 19 of these were for both chemical and bacteriological analysis. Monthly samples are taken from each of the Council's sources of supply and periodically chemical examinations of the water are also made. Reports on these samples were satisfactory.

Chlorination, a requirement of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning, is carried out as a safeguard in the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme. This supply was satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Eighteen samples were taken from private supplies. Where necessary appropriate action was taken and many houses with bad private water supply were connected to the public mains.

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

	<u>Total</u> <u>No. of</u> <u>Houses.</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u> <u>supplied by</u> <u>Public Mains</u>		<u>No. of Houses</u> <u>without</u> <u>Public Supply</u>
		(a) <u>Direct</u> <u>into</u> <u>House.</u>	(b) <u>By</u> <u>Stand-</u> <u>Pipe</u>	
Adlestrop	64	-	-	64
Aston-Sub-Edge	31	3	-	28
Batsford	55	26	-	29
Bledington	114	98	-	16
Blockley	647	467	33	147
Bourton-on-Hill	101	71	6	24
Bourton-on-Water	478	410	30	38
Broadwell	96	27	38	31
Campden	606	568	-	38
Clapton	32	26	-	6
Condicote	33	32	-	1
Cutsdean	33	-	-	33
Donnington	36	29	-	7
Ebrington	181	72	-	109
Evenlode	72	48	6	18
Great Rissington	92	57	20	15
Guiting Power	116	28	64	24
Icomb	48	37	-	11
Little Rissington	45	25	15	5
Longborough	131	92	20	19
Lower Slaughter	78	43	-	35

	<u>Total No. of Houses.</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied by Public Mains.</u>	<u>No. of Houses without Public Supply</u>
		(a) <u>Direct into House.</u>	(b) <u>By Stand- pipe.</u>
Maugersbury	55	26	-
Mickleton	257	221	4
Moreton/Marsh	521	517	-
Naunton	123	-	103
Oddington	133	103	20
Saintbury	35	7	-
Sezincote	32	4	-
Stow-on-the-Wold	526	452	69
Swell	127	87	8
Temple Guiting	122	28	5
Todenham	75	48	25
Upper Slaughter	82	7	75
Westcote	57	57	-
Weston-Sub-Edge	108	79	5
Wyck Rissington	47	25	-
Willersey	165	157	-
	<u>5,552</u>	<u>3,964</u>	<u>546</u>
			<u>1,031</u>

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

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

Owing to financial stringency the Minister will not allow the schemes to proceed for sewerage and sewage disposal at Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water, Upper and Lower Slaughter.

Bledington

A Public Inquiry was held on 3rd May, 1951 into the Council's proposals to borrow £16,500 for purposes of sewerage and sewage disposal at Bledington. The Minister has approved the scheme in principle and did allocate a starting date, but owing to the change in financial policy permission for work to proceed was withdrawn.

Bourton-on-the-Hill

A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Minister to provide sewers in Bourton-on-the-Hill and to connect to the Moreton-in-Marsh system. No Public Inquiry has yet been held.

Moreton-in-Marsh

The Thames Conservators served a Statutory Notice on the Council to abate a nuisance caused by discharge of sewage into the River Evenlode at the Moreton-in-Marsh Pumping Station. As a temporary measure land was provided for treatment; a scheme is being prepared for improved pumping arrangements and modification of the disposal works.

Blockley

Improvements were carried out at the Blockley Sewage Disposal Works including the provision of a new filter bed in an effort to produce an effluent which would satisfy the requirement of the Severn River Board.

Sludge Composting

Sludge composting is still being carried out at the Chipping Campden Disposal Works. New composting bays were constructed. The process is highly successful and has proved of interest to other authorities whose representatives have made special visits

FLOODING

The County Council, in consultation with the Council, have prepared a scheme for dealing with flooding at Moreton-in-Marsh.

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.

Application was made for the closure of the churchyard at Bledington. There were ample grounds to justify closure and a certificate was given that it was not in the interest of public health that further interments should take place.

The churchyard was closed by Order in Council made on the 4th October, 1951.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1951

Complaints received	374
Informal Notices	134
Statutory Notices	47
Nuisances Abated	171
Premises disinfected after Infectious Disease	19
Premises disinfested	51
Food Shops & Catering Establishments (Food & Drugs Act) visits made in connection with food inspection & operation of Clean Food Byelaws	353
Bakehouses visited	42
Factory Inspections	77
Outworkers premises inspected	3
Camping and Caravan site visits	104
Visits to Dairies	78
Drains Inspected	385
Slaughterhouse visits	12
Smoke observation	12
Houses inspected under Public Health Act and Housing Acts	384
Premises surveyed under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	423
Visits made for inspection & treatment under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	2,007
Visits made for all purposes	6,384

REFUSE COLLECTION

The household refuse collection has been maintained throughout the year with no serious dislocation. I know there is some dissatisfaction in the area owing to the stoppage of collection on national holidays but the cost of collection on such days would be out of all proportion to the service rendered.

This area is fortunate in that shortage of labour has not caused a complete breakdown in the service, a position that has arisen in other areas.

The provision of spare vehicles has been a great help in maintaining continuous service.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The means of disposal of refuse still gives rise to complaint, often from householders who have been content for years while their refuse was taken elsewhere, but strongly object to dumps in their own neighbourhood.

There is no doubt of the unpleasantness of these dumps but circumstances force the use of sites which I much deplore.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following foods were surrendered and destroyed or otherwise disposed of:

Milk	...	138	tins
Vegetables	...	55	"
Fruit	...	158	"
Preserves	...	20	"
Fruit juice	...	14	"
Meat	...	61	"
Fish	...	42	"
Soup	...	16	"
Tinned Ham	...	227	lb.

Cheese	...	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Beef		
(Home killed)...		14 lb.
Butter	...	9 lb.

I am pleased to say there has been an improvement in the matter of home killed meat. The quantity surrendered is very small compared with previous years. This shows some improvement at the place of slaughter and cooling.

The tinned ham figure is heavy but this has been general throughout the country. Condemnations of tinned ham at the ports have been large and the matter was brought to the attention of the Ministers concerned by Sanitary Inspectors. Generally, deterioration has been brought about by insufficient cooking, poor containers and nail damage.

FOOD PREMISES

Food premises have been inspected and proprietors furnished with copies of the Council's byelaws. Generally speaking premises in which food is handled in this area are as good as one could expect, considering the fact that they are old and pre-date the public anxiety for cleanliness and the Acts of Parliament enforcing it.

Advice was given where required as to the best way of improving matters and several contraventions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act pointed out.

Persuading owners of shops to improve means of personal cleanliness would be easier if the Government would discard the purchase tax on all fittings required. The expense and difficulty is quite heavy enough under ruling prices and shortages.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

The number of retailers has not changed since the last report and samples taken have proved satisfactory.

The number of samples is far lower than one would wish, but pressure of other work prevented the number being increased but the wholesalers supplying their retailers are subject to samples being taken by the County Council who are responsible for pasteurising plants, also samples are taken at the Schools.

ICE CREAM

50 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream in the area.

Only one ice cream manufacturer now carries on business in the district and he is considering giving up this manufacture as the cost of equipment under the Heat Treatment Regulations is prohibitive.

All other dealers buy from wholesalers.

BAKEHOUSES

42 visits were made to bakehouses and conditions were fairly good, some whitewashing was required.

FRIED FISH

There has been no addition to the list of Fish Friers and no nuisance or complaint arose from this business.

CARAVANS

10 licences to station caravans were in force at the end of the year.

Generally speaking the sites are well kept and no nuisance arose.

A proportion of the van dwellers are still R.A.F. personnel engaged on instruction courses at local Air Stations.

There are constantly changing and somewhat difficult to keep a check on.

With all the land at the disposal of the Air Ministry, the service could well establish camping sites on Government ground.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Some of the general public still do not sufficiently appreciate the facilities supplied for their comfort, and continue to extract some amusement from damaging these premises.

Major damage has not been so great in the past year but considerable pilfering of paper went on.

In an effort to curb this profit I have had special toilet roll holders fitted which up to date have been a success.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Operations under the above Act were continued through the year. 423 premises were surveyed and 226 were found infested by rats or mice. 222 were treated by the Council's Operator.

The District is beginning to appreciate the service as the number of complaints was nearly double that of last year.

Council's property was surveyed and action taken when required.

Sewers were treated twice in the twelve months where rats were present.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to cause unnecessary expenditure by keeping in operation a dual rat killing personnel especially for work on agricultural land.

SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER

The salvage of waste paper re-commenced in March 1951 and by the end of that year a total of 84 tons, 10 cwt. 2 qrs. was collected and disposed of for the sum of £1,251.1.4d.

(At the time of writing the position is not so happy, the waste paper market having slumped badly)

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