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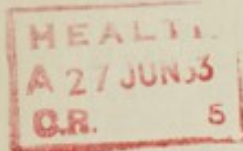


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NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1952

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

Pests Officer

R.T. WOOLCOMBE



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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I again have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the North Cotswold Rural District.

The local health statistics are remarkably good. The birth rate is high, the death rate low, while the infantile mortality rate, 5 per 1,000 births, is the lowest every recorded. This feature is particularly gratifying as infantile mortality is often taken as an index to assess the value of the social services, housing and prosperity of the people.

The incidence of infectious disease was very light.

Now that the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme is complete and even every small hamlet has a piped water supply, more and more sanitary fittings are being put into houses. The increased consumption of water makes abundantly apparent the paucity of many sewage disposal facilities and nuisances from untreated sewage more common.

The Council had foreseen this natural sequence of events and were ready to provide sewerage in many places where it was needed. Unfortunately, because of the Government's financial strictures on capital expenditure which are in operation at the present time, the Council were not allowed to start work on any of these essential projects.

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council and my colleagues for all the help, consideration and co-operation which I have received throughout the year.

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

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1953.

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)	21,520
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1952)	5,644
Rateable Value (at 31.3.1953)	£113,104
Sum represented by a penny rate	£453

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	380	190	190
Illegitimate	21	12	9
Total	401	202	199
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	18.6	
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.11	
Corrected Birth Rate (18.6 x 1.11)	...	20.6	

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	9	6	3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	0.42	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	22.0	

DEATHS

	246	128	118
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	11.4	
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.91	
Corrected Death Rate (11.4 x 0.91)	...	10.4	

NO. 30 DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

Deaths

Nil

Deaths per 1,000 total (live and still) births

Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Mortality)

Legitimate	2	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births ... 5.0

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... 5.0

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population, 21,520, is 400 less than that for the previous year, and it is the first time for many years that the Registrar-General has estimated the population to have fallen.

Even so the natural increase in population, excess of births over deaths, was 145.

BIRTH RATE

There were 401 live births compared with 374 in 1951. The Birth Rate, 18.6, as usual compares very favourably with the rate, 15.3, for the country as a whole and is higher than last year.

Owing to the relatively high proportion of elderly people in the District an adjustment should be made and the corrected Birth Rate, 20.6, used for purposes of comparison.

The District is wholly agricultural in character and the relatively high birth rate in recent years testifies to the thriving nature of this industry.

DEATH RATE

Deaths number 246, making the local Death Rate 11.4, which is much the same as that for England and Wales, 11.3. However, a correction should be made in the local rate if due allowance is to be made for the age distribution in the District, this Corrected Death Rate is 10.4.

INFANT MORTALITY

It is usual in this Annual Report to record that the infantile mortality rate for the North Cotswold District is lower than that for the country generally. In 1952 there were only two deaths of infants under one year of age, making an infantile mortality of 5 per 1,000 live births as against 27.6 for England and Wales and 28.2 for Gloucestershire.

This is the lowest rate ever recorded in the District and it is particularly gratifying as the Infantile Mortality Rate is generally accepted as reflecting on the social well being of the community.

It will be noted that both deaths occurred in the neonatal period, i.e., within four weeks of birth, when the cause of death is more often than not bound up with the health of the mother in pregnancy and confinement.

The Death Rate in this period forms the hard kernel of infantile mortality and has not declined in recent years, the great improvement being wholly due to the saving of life in the later period.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

CANCER

There were 36 deaths from cancer, 11 less than in 1951, but four deaths were from cancer of the breast. Cancer in this site and in others if treated early, gives every chance of permanent cure. It is tragic that people do not seek medical advice when they first have symptoms; put off going to their doctor, and jeopardise their chance of cure.

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	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	4	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	-	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	18
18. Coronary disease, angina	17	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	3
20. Other heart disease	38	45
21. Other circulatory disease	4	3
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	6	2
24. Bronchitis	3	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	4	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34. All other accidents	6	-
35. Suicide	3	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total	<u>128</u>	<u>118</u>

Total male and female - 246

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

	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>160 C.Bs.</u> <u>& Great</u> <u>Towns</u>	<u>County</u> <u>of</u> <u>Glos.</u>	<u>North</u> <u>Cotswold</u> <u>R.D.</u>
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.6	18.6
Still Births (Per 1,000 population)	0.35	0.43	0.33	0.42
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.3	12.1	11.11	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Year)(Per 1,000 Live Births)	27.6	31.2	28.2	5.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 month)			21.0	5.0

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

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	20.0	20.0	17.2	17.1	18.6
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.0	11.5	11.3	12.3	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 year)	30.0	18.0	28.2	24.0	5.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 month)				21.0	5.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1952
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under</u> <u>1 Yr.</u>		<u>1 - 5</u>		<u>5 - 15</u>		<u>15-25</u>		<u>25 &</u> <u>upwards</u>		<u>Age</u> <u>Not</u> <u>Known</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	3	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	1	1	3	5	7	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	11	9
Measles	-	-	8	11	18	17	1	-	4	2	2	3	33	33
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7	-	-	9	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	4	-	-	6	5
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-para.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1

SCARLET FEVER

Only 13 cases of scarlet fever were notified, the incidence being 0.5 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1.53 rate in England and Wales.

The District has enjoyed comparative freedom from this disease for a number of years.

Nowadays scarlet fever is mild, complications are uncommon and the modern practice of isolating cases at home has not led to any increase, indeed the general incidence has been lower since this procedure was adopted.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were notified.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 20 notifications of whooping cough as compared with 103 the previous year, the case rate being 1.0 per 1,000 of the population as against 2.6 for the whole country.

There were no deaths from this cause.

MEASLES

Here again comparatively few cases were notified, 66 instead of 458 as in 1951, the local case rate being 3.3 as compared with the national rate of 8.8 per 1,000 of the population.

No deaths occurred.

This disease is of biennial incidence, the immunity conferred by an epidemic is sufficient to protect the community for a year but by the second year there are enough susceptible young children for a fresh outbreak to occur.

POLIOMYELITIS

One non-paralytic case was notified; complete recovery took place.

FOOD POISONING

There were two cases of food poisoning:

(a) Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of cases	...	...	...	2
(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 associated with each food	...	...	...	Nil

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, 1952:

Age at 31.12.1952 i.e. born in year:	<u>Under 1 Yr. 1952</u>	<u>1. 1951</u>	<u>2. 1950</u>	<u>3. 1949</u>	<u>4. 1948</u>	<u>5 - 9 1943 - 1947</u>	<u>10 - 14 1938 - 1942</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number immunised	{ 19	236	272	289	297	{ 1,186	1,091	3,390
Total number immunised	{ 1,113							2,277
Estimated mid-year population, 1952	1,860							3,180
Number of children immunised in	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	
Primary	292	460	263	320	362	341	407	
Maintenance	262	258	260	278	238	240	109	

Only 292 children were immunised for the first time during the year as compared with 460 children in the previous year, the level of immunisation falling from 85 to 67 per cent.

The object of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign is to secure the immunisation of not less than 75 per cent of babies before their first birthday. In this District only one baby out of every four is protected in this way in the first year.

Although there were no cases and no deaths from diphtheria in this District, outbreaks with a high proportion of fatal cases did occur elsewhere.

We know that some people in our midst are diphtheria carriers and as the state of immunisation has fallen below the safety level there is a real danger of diphtheria outbreaks.

Locally there is some falling away in the response to the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign. Every effort is required to help parents to realise that diphtheria is a deadly threat and to be persuaded to have their children immunised.

VACCINATION

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination: received during the year:

	<u>Under 1 Yr.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 or over.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vaccination	233	14	12	8	12	279
Re-vaccination	1	-	3	7	52	63

The proportion of children being vaccinated continues to increase. 279 vaccinations were carried out as against 217 in the previous year.

Of the 279 persons vaccinated no less than 233 were infants under 1 year of age representing an acceptance rate of fifty-eight per cent for babies.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>	<u>All Persons</u>
	<u>0 - 4</u> <u>5 - 14</u>	
Pulmonary	1	15
Non-pulmonary	- 2	4

Deaths

Pulmonary	1	-	4
Non-pulmonary	-	-	-

Tuberculosis Register

<u>Male</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>All Forms</u>
	<u>Female</u>			<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>
39	34	73	11	10	21	94

Nineteen new cases of tuberculosis were notified, considerably more than in previous years, but nine of these cases were from the Polish Hostels and were found as the result of a special survey and visit by the Mass Radiography Unit.

The incidence and deaths from this disease amongst the indigenous population were not excessive.

A Mass Radiography Unit made its first visit to the District; there were sessions open to the public and special sessions for factory workers and the older school children. Many local people have for a long time wanted this Unit to make regular visits and it is now possible for such a course to be adopted.

When a person suffers from pulmonary tuberculosis adequate housing is most important to prevent other members of the family contracting the disease.

Strong recommendations for rehousing are made to the Council in those cases where it is not possible for the patient to have a separate bedroom.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 Clean Food

Although only two isolated cases were notified in this District elsewhere food poisoning continues to increase.

Outbreaks are particularly liable to occur where large quantities of food are prepared for meals as in hotels, canteens of factories and schools.

The District is a popular one for tourists so that a good deal of catering is done and freedom from food poisoning speaks well for the scrupulous cleanliness of this industry in the preparation and handling of food.

In addition to the catering establishments, food shops are inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspectors in order to ensure adequate lighting and ventilation of the premises, sufficient sanitary accommodation and washing facilities for the staff, and that proper cleanliness is observed.

In general the members of the food trade are fully conscious of their responsibility to the public and exhibit a keen desire to co-operate in all measures affecting hygiene.

MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949
Section 20

The organisms causing Undulant Fever was found in a sample of milk being sold from a farm in the District.

This disease of bovine origin can be transmitted to man by infected milk.

Upon receipt of the Analyst's report a Notice under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 was issued requiring all milk produced on the farm to be heat treated before being sold for human consumption.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 270
Accommodation for Pea-Pickers and Seasonal Workers

As a result of action taken by the Council in the previous year and the co-operation of the farmers concerned, seasonal workers requiring accommodation are housed on the farm where they are working.

The Council's Byelaws under Section 270 of the Public Health Act, 1936 calls for the decent lodging of these workers. The rules are very simple; clean buildings must be used as lodgings, the sleeping places for men and women must be separate, and adequate water supply, cooking facilities and latrines provided.

Conditions in 1952 in the Campden area, where difficulties have arisen in the past, were very much improved.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47
Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in
Need of Care and Attention

The Court made a Removal Order on an application under this section which deals with 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 person concerned was an old lady suffering from heart disease and a colostomy who had taken her discharge against medical advice from hospital. She collapsed and was given temporary shelter, from which she was removed to hospital.

Actually when the old lady was removed she was quite quiet and seemed relieved that matters had been taken out of her own hands.

A number of other cases of similar type have been kept under observation and visited from time to time. The Home Help Service is of great assistance to lonely old people whose health is failing and enables many of them to carry on in their own homes.

The Old People's Clubs also are concerned as to their members' welfare and do much to prevent bad conditions arising.

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 dialling "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 and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, 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, 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 Tuesdays
Stow-on-the-Wold	...	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Willersey	...	2nd Thursdays

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

Good progress continues to be made in the provision of new houses. The Council has built 371 houses since the war and 70 are in the course of construction. A further 120 houses have been built by private enterprise.

FORMER CAMP SITES

On the former camp sites at Weston-Sub-Edge, Cinque Foil, Blockley; and Maugersbury a few of the huts, which several years ago were not considered fit for adaptation, are still occupied.

At Weston-Sub-Edge on Site 3 there are five huts and on Site 8 two huts occupied, at Cinque Foil only two huts and Maugersbury one hut in use.

These huts are in a deplorable condition and are not even weatherproof. Provision of alternative accommodation for the families living in them is a matter of urgency.

Although one or two of the families concerned are problem families who had been on the move throughout the length and breadth of the country, and whose only reason for settling was to avoid paying rent for a time, the majority of the wage earners are employed on farms and in factories in the neighbourhood and were forced to live in these huts by the housing shortage.

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

Number of cases of overcrowding abated in 1952:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
12	22	128

Number of cases of overcrowding unabated in 1952:

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
5	7	39

Twelve cases of overcrowding, involving twenty-two families, were abated during the year. Nine of these families moved into Council Houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20

Houses Requiring Re-conditioning

Repair and reconditioning of old and out of date houses is a very important aspect of the housing problem. The post-war Rural Housing Survey showed that there were more than 1,000 houses in the District in need of thorough reconditioning to bring them into line with the standards and amenities which are expected today.

Moreover, it costs much less to renovate these older houses than to build new ones so that if some effective means could be devised to deal with this problem a great saving in

capital expenditure could be made.

It is not practicable to serve a repair Notice under the Housing Act, 1936 if the house is let at a controlled rent. Such a notice can only require repairs at a reasonable expense, i.e., recoverable from the rent. Nowadays the rent from a controlled house, even if taken over a long period, would in no way meet the bill for alterations. Under these circumstances the demolition section applies and its operation means the loss of a house to the District.

A little patching can be effected by using the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, but if extensive repairs are called for the Judicature frown upon this method and regard it as a misuse of the Public Health Act.

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 provides for generous grants to be made where the reconditioning of houses is carried out. Local Authorities may 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 that of a new Council house 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.

These grants are also available to owner occupiers upon the same terms and conditions.

In spite of this assistance since the Act came into force only two applications have been approved by the Ministry and one or two more not allowed because the proposals were merely for repair.

If the reconditioning costs £600 the Government's grant is £300 and the increase in rent allowed because of the owner's expenditure £18 per year.

Many people complain of the state of the houses they are living in but when proposals are put to them for alterations to be carried out on these terms, the majority prefer to stay as they are, in their dilapidated cottages lacking most of the amenities.

It was hoped that a great deal of use would be made of this section and that it would be a means of dealing with this problem, but there has been little response. As time goes on more houses are falling into a state of decay, demolition becoming inevitable and those displaced relying on the Council to provide new Council houses.

Total number of applications received	...	...	Nil
Applications approved by the Ministry			
of Health	...	...	Nil
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	18,000
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
Length of mains	112 miles
Total Capital Expenditure	£329,898
Total Consumption	850,000 gallons per day

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

The five Contracts of the Council's Post-War Comprehensive Water Scheme have been completed at a total cost of approximately £250,000. A piped water supply is now available in all the small villages and hamlets in the District.

Work is proceeding on a further contract for £113,861 to provide Shipston-on-Stour R.D.C. with a bulk supply of 500,000 gallons of water per day. The Contract entails laying a new nine inch main from the Seven Springs source, Hartford Bridge, through Upper Slaughter, and Lower Swell to Donnington Reservoir and a twelve inch main from this reservoir through Broadwell and Evenlode to the boundary of the District at Little Compton.

The new main completes the Evenlode ring main and will augment the supply to Moreton-in-Marsh. The existing main to Moreton-in-Marsh is being used to capacity and at times of peak demand the water pressure in the Moreton mains is liable to fall.

Another scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a new 300,000 gallon reservoir at Wyck Beacon to replace the existing 60,000 gallon reservoir and for a new pumping station and headworks at Dovedale to augment the source and pumping capacity at Mill Cottage, Blockley.

During the year 89 samples of water were taken from the Council's supplies and submitted for analysis, of these four 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. All the consumer samples were satisfactory, seven of the samples taken at the source fell into Class II of the Ministry's grading.

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

Ten 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 No. of houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied by Public Mains:</u>		<u>No. of Houses without Public Supply</u>
		(a)	(b)	
		<u>Direct into House.</u>	<u>By Stand pipe</u>	
Adlestrop	64	-	-	64*
Aston Sub-Edge	31	3	-	28*
Batsford	55	26	-	29*
Bledington	114	99	-	15
Blockley	662	593	26	43
Bourton-on-the-Hill	102	74	4	24
Bourton-on-the-Water	483	427	30	26
Broadwell	96	27	38	31
Campden	618	584	-	34
Clapton	31	26	-	5
Condicote	33	32	-	1
Cutsdean	33	-	-	33*
Donnington	36	30	-	6
Ebrington	183	85	-	98
Evenlode	77	57	6	14
Great Rissington	93	63	20	10
Guiting Power	117	29	64	24
Icomb	48	37	-	11
Little Rissington	45	32	8	5
Longborough	133	99	20	14
Lower Slaughter	78	43	-	35
Maugersbury	53	28	-	25
Mickleton	259	224	4	31
Moreton-in-Marsh	536	532	-	4
Naunton	123	41	62	20
Oddington	134	104	20	10
Saintbury	36	8	-	28
Sezincote	32	4	-	28
Stow-on-the-Wold	546	476	66	4
Swell	128	101	8	19
Temple Guiting	123	29	5	89*
Todenham	74	48	24	2
Upper Slaughter	82	54	6	22
Westcote	55	55	-	-
Weston-Sub-Edge	116	87	5	24
Wyck Rissington	47	32	-	15
Willersey	168	160	-	8

* Private Piped Supplies to a Number of these Houses.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Nothern Parishes Sewage Disposal Works, Honeybourne

An agreement has been reached with the Evesham R.D.C. to treat sewage at the Honeybourne Disposal Works from the parishes of Church and Cow Honeybourne.

Bourton-on-the-Water

At the time of writing (June, 1953) the Minister has given his consent for the Bourton-on-the-Water scheme to proceed.

It is anticipated that work on the new sewers, pumping station and new disposal works will begin in February, 1954

Bledington

Now that a start is to be made on the sewerage scheme at Bourton-on-the-Water, the scheme for Bledington should be next on the list. Conditions in the village are very bad, many of the houses are low lying, the water table is high and there is the utmost difficulty in draining the houses. The roadside gullies have become foul sewers and discharge into the stream alongside the village green, which in turn has become an open sewer instead of a clean river. At times flooding takes place and foul matter gets on to the floors of shops and houses.

Moreton-in-Marsh

It has been found that further works will be required in addition to those carried out in 1951 to prevent pollution of the Evenlode Brook adjoining the pumping station at Moreton-in-Marsh. A scheme was submitted to the Minister to provide a new storm water pumping station and a new pumping main to the disposal works at an estimated cost of £11,550.

The Statutory Notice served by the Thames Conservators remains in force and requires the Council to abate a nuisance caused by discharge of sewage into the River Evenlode at the Moreton-in-Marsh Pumping Station.

Stow-on-the-Wold, Upper & Lower Slaughter & Wyck Rissington

Because of the Government's financial policy the Minister will not allow the schemes to proceed for sewerage and sewage disposal at Stow-on-the-Wold, Upper & Lower Slaughter and Wyck Rissington.

Difficulties in disposal of drainage at Stow-on-the-Wold made it impracticable to improve in many houses the sanitary fittings as some of the swillies in Stow-on-the-Wold soon become choked.

At Lower Slaughter sewers carrying the overflow from cesspits discharge directly into the River.

Conditions are bad at Wyck Rissington, foul drainage finds its way into the roadside ditches and these, if not cleaned out, give rise to a nuisance.

Sludge Composting

Difficulty in getting rid of sludge is usual in most sewage works. Even after drying farmers find it of little use as it has no manurial value.

The wet sludge is troublesome and obnoxious to handle and many lagoons have to be made where it can drain and dry.

At the Chipping Campden Disposal Works composting of sludge has been going on for several years. The sludge is run over a layer of straw, more straw is put down and the process repeated until there is a sizeable compost heap. In a few weeks a sweet smelling, friable compost is formed. It has excellent manurial value and is in keen demand by farmers.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1952

Complaints received	335
Informal notices	158
Statutory notices	22
Nuisances abated	116
Premises disinfected after disease	29
Premises disinfested	44
Food shops and catering establishments visited	436
Bakehouses visited	38
Factory inspections	60
Outworker premises inspected	1
Camping and caravan sites visited	179
Visits to dairies and cowsheds	81
Visits to slaughterhouses	17
Drains inspected	401
Smoke observations	11
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	382
Visits under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	1,959
Visits made for all purposes	6,647

Refuse Collection

The collection of household refuse was maintained throughout the year.

The severe weather at the end of the year made this duty difficult, imposing considerable strain on staff and vehicles. Some delays were caused naturally, but all lapses were made good. This was made possible, only by the loyal co-operation of the men doing the work, at the cost of some sickness due to exposure to dense fog and cold.

I was pleased by the willing forbearance and patience of the ratepayers at that time. There were no complaints, but reasonable enquiries showed a desire to co-operate at a difficult time.

Refuse Disposal

The same system of refuse disposal is in operation, and its weakness was disclosed when the above-mentioned weather conditions prevailed. For a period a non-tipping lorry had to be pressed into service to replace tipping vehicles, that had broken down. This, with shortage of labour, made the levelling of tips fall behind schedule.

Conditions on the tips were worse than on the roads, this aggravated the disorder.

Much of the covering material available forms very treacherous mud during wet weather.

The abandonment of paper salvage has meant disposal of 10 to 12 tons of paper at the tips in addition to past intake.

This paper is largely responsible for the untidy appearance of the tips. When burnt we have complaints of smoke, and if not burnt the wind generously distributes it over the countryside.

The only satisfactory answer to the problem is incineration at a properly constructed depot.

Controlled tipping in an area such as this is too expensive an operation in both material and labour.

Food Inspection

The following foods were surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption:

Tinned meat	139	tins
tinned vegetables	75	"
preserves	16	"
fruit	276	"
fruit juices	33	"
tinned milk	45	"
tinned fish	50	"
tinned sausage	10	"
tinned cereal	11	"
tinned soup	106	"
tinned syrup	1	"
plum puddings	8	" 1 lb. each
chocolate cake filling	28	lb.
sheep offal	2	lb.
home killed beef	78	lb. (Bone tainted)
home killed lamb	48	lb. (Putrid and/or diseased)
tinned ham	174	lb. 11½ oz. (Bad cooking or tinning)
cheese	31	lb.
dried fruit	7	lb.

Quite a proportion of tinned food found unfit is rendered so by damage in transit (due to the modern use of cardboard for outer cases)

The tinned hams are an exception to this rule. This material has been a problem throughout the country. These consignments are generally from continental firms who are cashing in on a prevailing shortages here and show lack of experience in both cooking and canning.

Food Premises and Catering Establishments.

These premises were inspected and generally found satisfactory. Restriction in materials and purchase tax continue to be obstacles to rapid improvement in old premises.

Broadly speaking this district is well served by the food trade and no glaring shortcomings due to carelessness in handling have come to light.

The control exercised through our inspection before granting a catering licence is a good arrangement and co-operation with the Food Control Authority is now working smoothly.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

One new milk dealer established a business in the district during the year.

Many of the retail suppliers of milk in this area are producers also and are controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The simplification expected when the new regulations came into force has proved an illusion and there is the making of a new administrative tangle in the present arrangements.

Ice Cream

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

The trade is now in the hands of five or six wholesalers or manufacturers. The making of ice cream has ceased in this district.

The cost of machinery to comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations is prohibitive, and the use of cold mix which would avoid this expense is unpopular.

This tends to standardise the product and makes possible the reduction of sampling due to the prevailing custom of dealing only in prepacked ice cream.

Ten samples were taken, none fell below Grade 2, most were Grade 1. This result speaks well both for manufacture and service.

Fried Fish.

There were no additions to the number of premises used for fish frying. Those registered were all satisfactory and no complaint of nuisance arose.

Caravans

There were 18 licences to station moveable dwellings and 2 licences for camping sites in force at the end of the year.

No nuisance arose from any of these sites. Up to that time the most frequent demand for licences came from Air Ministry personnel.

Conditions on a site provided by the Air Ministry did not reach the standard expected by this Council.

Public Conveniences

In an effort to improve the appearance and brightness of these premises the Public Health Committee agreed to distemper the interior walls.

This did make a great improvement in the cleaner appearance of the buildings until the sub-normal minority discovered that a clean canvas was provided for their ribald art. Now there is every promise that the majority of decent people will have to suffer a return to a rough dark finish in an attempt to restrain the sub-normal art.

Other types of wilful damage continue to cause a steady drain of expense on these premises.

I hope if any more conveniences are built they will be sited as much in the open as possible, for preference just in front or adjacent to Police Stations where an element of risk will possibly restrain irresponsible persons.

This want of respect for ratepayers property is general and not particular to the Cotswold area.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council's Operator has been fully employed in carrying out surveys and treatment required by the above Act.

Since the Council decided to make no charge for treatment of private dwellings the number of complaints from such premises has shown an increase, this is a good sign as early treatment is a great help in preventing the spread of rat infestation.

The number of agricultural properties treated increased from 20 to 35. These are not free treatments.

These requests for help arose in most cases from recommendation by neighbouring farmers who were well satisfied with the Council's service and charges, and bear witness to the efficiency and diligence of the Council's Operator.

449 premises were surveyed
201 premises were treated, comprising:

105 dwellinghouses
35 agricultural properties
52 business premises.

The Council's refuse tips, sewage works, etc. were surveyed and treated as required.

1959 visits were made for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of this Act.

I have to thank the Medical Officer and the members of my staff for their loyal co-operation.

A.EDE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.