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Contributors

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NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

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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 Public Health Inspector

A. EDE.

Certified Public Health Inspector

Certified Meat and Other Foods

Inspector

Sanitary Science Certificate



Additional Public Health Inspectors

G.I.JONES. Certified Public Health Inspector

J.L.KELL. Certificate Public Health Inspector
Certified Meat and Other Foods
Inspector

Pest Officer

R.T.WOOLCOMBE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

1921

RESEARCH REPORT

ON THE

1921

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To the Chairman and Members of

THE NORTH COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr.Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is again my privilege to present the Annual Report for 1956 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District.

Mr.A.Ede, the Chief Public Health Inspector contributes an account of the work of his department, the sanitary inspection of the District and the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

I am indebted to Mr.G.E.Knight, Surveyor and Engineer, for the material relating to the Council's Water Undertaking, and sewerage and sewage disposal.

The health statistics show that the steady improvement in the wellbeing of the people is maintained and that on the whole the Rural District compares favourably with similar districts elsewhere.

The Council have made a piped water supply available throughout the District.

Within the limits imposed by financial restrictions progress has been made in the provision or improvement of sewerage and sewage disposal at Bledington, Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold.

Houses now being built by the Council are for families to be rehoused from unfit dwellings. Progress is in accord with the Five Year Programme submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to the Staff and to the Members of the Council for their help and support during the year.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1957.

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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 the Armed Forces)	..	20,300
Number of Inhabited Houses (31.3.57)	..	5,815
Rateable Value (at 31.3.57)	..	£229,110
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	£832

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	317	146	171
Illegitimate	6	2	4
Total	323	148	175

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	..	15.9
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	..	1.09
Corrected Birth Rate (15.9 x 1.09)	..	17.3

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	11	7	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	11	7	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	..	0.54
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	33.0

<u>DEATHS</u>	222	109	113
---------------	-----	-----	-----

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	..	10.9
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	..	0.96
Corrected Death Rate (10.9 x 0.96)	..	10.46

<u>DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION</u>	NIL
--	-----

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

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

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	21.7
-----------------------------------	----	------

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

Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	5	2	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	..	15.5
---	----	------

POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths was 104, but in spite of this natural increase in the population other factors have had effect and the Registrar-General's estimate of the population 20,300, is a decrease of 200 from 1955.

BIRTH RATE

Although the number of births has fallen from 353 in 1955 to 323 in the year under review, the local Birth Rate 15.9 compares favourably with the rate of 15.7 for the country as a whole.

DEATH RATE

The deaths in 1956 were 222 as against 251 in 1955, making the Death Rate 10.9 which is lower than the national Death Rate of 11.7.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Seven infants died under one year of age, the infantile mortality rate being 21.7 per 1000 live births.

This rate also is lower than the rate of 23.8 for England and Wales.

CANCER

Twenty seven people died of cancer, including one man who died from cancer of the lung.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated list of International Statistical Classification:-

		Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	0	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	..	0	0
4. Diphtheria	..	-	-
5. Whooping cough	..	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	..	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis	..	0	0
8. Measles	..	0	0
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	..	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	..	3	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	1	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	0	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	10	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	2	0
16. Diabetes	..	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	11	16

	Male	Female
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
20. Other heart disease	24	37
21. Other circulatory diseases	4	4
22. Influenza	2	3
23. Pneumonia	2	7
24. Bronchitis	2	4
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34. All other accidents	3	2
35. Suicide	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Total	109	113

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

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	18.6	19.9	16.9	17.2	15.9
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.4	9.9	11.1	12.3	10.8
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 year)	5.0	19.0	22.0	22.7	21.7
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 month)	5.0	12.0	11.0	17.0	15.5

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

	England & Wales	County of Glos.	North Cotswold R.D.
Live Births	15.7	16.17	15.9
Still Births (per 1,000 total (live & still births)	23.0	22.27	33.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of Infants under 1 year)(per 1,000 live births)	23.8	19.83	21.7
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 month)(per 1,000 live births)	...	13.99	15.5
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.7	11.78	10.9

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS

AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956

(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	Under 1 Yr.		1 - 5		5 - 14		15-25		over 25		Total	
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	4	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2	3	4	-	-	-	-	3	6
Measles	-	-	15	18	28	26	-	-	-	1	43	45
	-	-										

	Under 5 yrs		5 -14		15 - 44		45 - 64		65 and over		Total	
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	3	-	3	2	-	2	7	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	1	6	2
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia						3						3
Paratyphoid Fever-			-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-paralytic	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Scarlet Fever

Only five cases of scarlet fever were notified. The disease nowadays is very light in incidence and mild in character.

Diphtheria

The District was again free from Diphtheria.

Whooping Cough

There were only nine notifications.

Measles

Measles has a biennial incidence. The year under review was not an epidemic year and only eighty eight cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis

Two cases occurred, one of them being the paralytic type.

Children between two years and nine years of age were registered for vaccination against poliomyelitis. Thirty eight per cent of these children accepted. A small quantity of vaccine sufficient for one in ten of these, was available during the year.

Food Poisoning

Total number of outbreaks	...	...	Nil
Number of cases	...	...	Nil

There was no outbreak of food poisoning and no cases were notified. Such freedom is a credit to food hygiene and food handling in the District. - 5 -

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

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

	Under 1 yr.	1.	2-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Vaccination	206	7	9	8	8	238
Re-vaccination	-	-	2	8	23	33

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age, expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year :-

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
46	58	61	43	34	66

In contrast to immunisation against diphtheria, a large increase took place in the number of children vaccinated against smallpox; 238 in 1956 as compared with 162 in 1955.

No less than 206 were infants under one year of age, making the acceptance rate in this group 66 per cent.

The state of vaccination against smallpox may be considered satisfactory although of course it means a sustained effort on the part of parents, doctors and nurses to maintain the position.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	0-4	5-14	
Respiratory	-	-	5
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	1	1
Other forms	-	-	2

Deaths

Respiratory	1
Meninges & C.N.S.	-
Other forms	-

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st. December 1956 was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>C.N.S.</u>	<u>Other Forms</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
58	42	100	1	10	14	24	125

TUBERCULOSIS (cont'd)

Eight new cases of tuberculosis occurred in 1956, six fewer than in 1955 and one person died of the disease.

The number of cases on the tuberculosis register remains approximately the same. It is considered that if full use is made of the means of preventing this disease it will be eliminated.

Owing to the rural nature of the district it is not possible to arrange for a visit by the Mass Radiography Unit each year.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is offered to all thirteen year old school children. Parents readily accept and the majority of these adolescent children are vaccinated with B.C.G. giving them protection at a time of life when they are particularly susceptible to infection.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st. December, 1956.

Age at 31.12. 1956. i.e. born in year	Under 1 year 1956				
	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5 - 9 1951-47 <u>10 - 14</u> 1946-42
Number immunised	158	247	280	278	1543
Total number immunised	..	..	..	3,740	1169
Number of children immunised in :	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952 1951 1950
Primary	230	326	329	267	292 460 263
Maintenance	382	346	255	168	262 258 260

There was a considerable fall in the number of children immunised against diphtheria, only 230 being protected in this way, as compared with 326 in 1955.

However 113 of these were under one year of age, approximately 34% of the babies born during the year.

The occurrence of cases of poliomyelitis in the summer months causes postponement of immunisation against diphtheria so that at present we are falling far short of the target figure which is the protection of 75% of babies under one year of age.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938
Clean Food

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955

These Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, replace Section 13 of the 1938 Act, as the principal law relating to food hygiene.

The application of the new Regulations is much more extensive in that they apply, generally speaking, not only to food shops but to all "food businesses", and include canteens, clubs, schools and so on.

In the main the Regulations came into force on January 1st., 1956, and are designed to prevent contamination of food. Those requirements dealing with structural alterations e.g. the provision of sinks, washbasins etc., became operative on July 1st, 1956.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.
Section 47 : removal to Suitable Premises
of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951
Section 1.

An old lady, living alone in insanitary circumstances was removed under this Section.

It was found to be impracticable to provide help in the house as she was accustomed to wander about the village at all times of night. When the time came the old lady went into hospital quite willingly.

There are old people living alone and in failing health who have been visited from time to time. A little regular help often enables them to carry on living in their own homes and prevents insanitary conditions arising. This assistance is usually given by the Home Help Service. The Old People's Clubs are most useful; they look after their members and report instances in which help is required.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examination of specimens is undertaken by Messrs. Ellis & Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

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 this Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (telephone number: 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, Charlton Kings.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

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

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

H O U S I N G

Tenants have been re-housed from seven of the thirty two houses which were in confirmed pre-war clearance areas.

Preliminary steps have been taken to make clearance areas at Blockley, Oddington, and Stow-on-the-Wold, involving twenty houses. Individual action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, has been taken against thirteen houses, resulting generally in the acceptance by the Council of Undertakings not to re-let once the houses have become vacant. The usual result is the improvement of the property, either by the existing, or a new owner.

Improvement grants have again enabled a large number of sub-standard houses to be reconditioned, and brought up to a modern standard. During the year, 65 grants were made.

It is expected that next year, more substantial progress will be made in regard to unfit properties, owing to the Council's decision to build houses only for slum clearance purposes.

Action taken during 1956.

Houses demolished or closed in the period.

(1) Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) | Nil |
| (b) Houses affected by undertakings given by owners under Section 11. | 13 |
| (c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) | Nil |

(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) | Nil |
|---|-----|

Repairs in the Period

- | | | |
|---|----|----|
| (3) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of Informal Action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.. | .. | 22 |
| (4) <u>Public Health Acts - Action after service of formal notice</u> | | |
| Houses in which defects were remedied.. | .. | 5 |

NEW HOUSES

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Completed in 1956: | Council Houses .. | 28 |
| | Private Enterprise.. | 39 |
| Programme for 1957: | | <u>92</u> |

Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants were made in respect of improvements and alterations to 65 dwellings during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Statistics relating to the Council's

Comprehensive Water Scheme

Population of statutory area	21,893	
Population served	19,000	
Area served in square miles	90	
Daily average consumption (domestic)	25	gallons per head
Daily average consumption (trade)	18	"
Total storage capacity	1,812,000	"
Length of mains	118	miles
Capital expenditure	£351,400	
Total consumption (Direct & Bulk)	1,100,000	gallons per day

During the year a bulk supply of water from the Council's comprehensive water scheme was made available to Shipston-on-Stour Rural District Council.

A new reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity at Wyck Beacon, to augment supplies in the southern area, was almost completed.

174 samples for analysis were taken from the Council's supply, 145 were Class 1, 16 Class 2, 11 Class 3, and 2 samples Class 4. The cases of unfit samples were investigated and the cause eliminated.

29 samples were taken from private sources of which 11 were satisfactory and 18 unsatisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Bledington

During the year a new Pumping Station and Diverter Station and a new Disposal Works were completed which provided a new sewerage system for the village.

Bourton-on-the-Water

A length of spun iron sewer was laid along Rissington Road and a new Pumping Station was erected together with a new Disposal Works. The old works which have become obsolete are now used only for the treatment of storm water.

Stow-on-the-Wold

A new scheme to provide sewers and sewage disposal for Stow-on-the-Wold was commenced during the year.

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 a Public Supply</u>	
		(a)	(b)		
		<u>Direct into House</u>	<u>By Stand- pipe</u>		
Adlestrop	65	-	-	65	*
Aston Subedge	31	3	-	28	*
Batsford	55	26	-	29	*
Bledington	126	112	-	14	
Blockley	687	826	18	41	
Bourton-on-the-Hill	112	90	4	18	
Bourton-on-the-Water	502	459	28	15	
Broadwell	115	101	7	7	
Camden	649	618	-	31	*
Clapton-on-the-Hill	32	29	3	-	
Condicote	34	33	-	1	
Cutsdean	33	-	-	33	*
Donnington	37	31	-	6	*
Ebrington	186	110	-	76	*
Evenlode	78	64	6	8	
Great Rissington	93	70	13	10	
Guiting Power	122	39	59	24	
Icomb	52	42	-	10	
Little Rissington	45	45	-	-	
Longborough	134	125	-	9	
Lower Slaughter	78	60	-	18	*
Maugersbury	56	33	-	23	
Mickleton	274	241	4	29	
Moreton-in-Marsh	550	546	-	4	
Naunton	123	102	13	8	
Oddington	141	116	16	9	
Saintbury	36	27	-	9	
Sezincote	32	4	-	28	
Stow-on-the-Wold	578	531	43	4	
Swell	133	129	-	4	
Temple Guiting	124	41	5	78	*
Todenham	74	48	24	2	
Upper Slaughter	82	80	2	-	
Westcote	56	56	-	-	
Weston Subedge	118	91	4	23	
Wyck Rissington	50	43	-	7	
Willersey	184	176	-	8	

* Private piped supplies to a number of these houses.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Complaints received	220
Informal notices	116
Statutory Notices Public Health Act	6
Statutory Notices Housing Acts, Notice of Survey -	81
Nuisances abated	148
Premises disinfected	9
Premises disinfested (beetles, fleas etc.)	13
" (rats)	176
Food shops and catering premises visits	935
Bakehouse visits	28
Slaughterhouse visits	332
Drains inspected and/or tested	370
Animal carcasses inspected	2,383 (including Evesham abattoir)
Samples taken	72
Prevention of Damage by Pest Act visits	1,456
Visits made for all purposes	5,654

Refuse Collection

The household refuse collection has been maintained without interruption under some difficulty for a time owing to the work worn state of our older vehicle.

This state of affairs is now happily ended. The delivery of a new vehicle in September provided the opportunity for a thorough overhaul of the two older lorries. While I think the cost of these overhauls was not economic, I must admit that the Council are, for the first time, equipped with purpose built vehicles for the work of household refuse collection, without having to recourse to uncovered wooden lorries in case of breakdown of a proper refuse vehicle. The new fore and aft type has proved a great improvement, it is cleaner both from the point of view of collection and the men manning it. Better provision is made for the accommodation of the team, and provision for the carriage of waste paper on the vehicle has enabled the trailer to be dispensed with.

The trailer had outlived its useful life and would shortly have had to be replaced. I have not succeeded in discovering a possible purchaser.

Refuse Tips

Two main tips are still in use with the addition of a new small tip at Westcote, being filled at the request of the Parish Authorities. This small quarry will soon be completely filled and so a local eyesore will disappear.

I have again been very fortunate in obtaining supplies of covering material at small cost which have been of great assistance in keeping the tips tidy.

Paper Salvage

In spite of the slump, Messrs. Ainsworth & Company continue to collect our output of waste paper.

A total of 119 tons 9cwt. 3qrs. was disposed of, an increase of about 16 tons over last year.

The value represents a turnover of £868 for the year.

FOOD INSPECTION

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

Tinned Food:

Preserves 24 tins : fruit 210 tins : fruit juice 18
milk 10 tins: cream 4 tins: fish 36 tins: tins:
soup 13 tins: meat 26 tins: cereal 1 tin:
tinned ham 29lbs.9 ozs: corned beef 6 lbs:
tinned veal 6 lbs.

Miscellaneous Food:

Meat pie 4½ lbs: meat pies 2: cheese 2½ lbs:
packets of cheese 1 : bacon 14 lbs: sausage 3 lbs:
butter ½ lb: puff pastry 2 lbs: chocolate 5 packets:
sponge mixture 2 packets: sauce powder 2 packets:
fruit pudding 1: onions - 3 tons 11cwt.

Home Killed Meat:

1 heifer weighing 157 lbs: 1 sheep weighing 29 lbs:
4 pigs " 342 lbs: 2 oxheads " 61 lbs:
1 heifer head " 30 lbs: 6 pigs heads " 55½lbs:
Pork - 25 lbs: mutton - 5½ lbs: livers - 297½ lbs:
lungs - 36½ lbs: kidneys - 4½ lbs:

Disposal of Unsound Food

Unsound food is destroyed by fire on the Council's refuse tips, under supervision to prevent any possibility of misuse of this material.

These foods are collected in small quantities and are of many varieties, therefore there is no economical way of utilising them for any purpose.

Slaughterhouses

There are four Council slaughterhouses and one Knackers yard in the area.

All animals slaughtered for human food were examined, totalling 967, as follows :-

Beasts 130; Calves 12: Sheep 634: Pigs 191.

Food Premises

Shops and premises where food is handled are as follows:-

Grocers 56: greengrocers 14: bakers 15: butchers 14:
confectioners 23: caterers 135: fish 7:
general shops 17.

102 premises are registered as follows :-

39 for sale of ice-cream: 4 for preparation of fried
fish:
2 for sausage making: 7 as dairies.

No ice cream was made in this area during the year, the supply trade is in the hands of wholesale manufacturers. Four check samples were taken and all were good. There is far less likelihood of unclean ice-cream being sold under these conditions as the makers are under supervision and sampling in so many areas, also competition tends to keep them up to scratch.

In addition the retail ice cream/^{trade}handle wrapped products almost without exception in this district.

The greater part of the retail milk trade is in the hands of seven dealers registered by the Council. Some small amount of the trade may be among the producer retailers which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

There has been little cause for complaint regarding cleanliness or quality in the trade; premises are clean and service good. Of a number of samples taken, not one failed to reach a good standard.

Much of the raw milk sold is high grade T.T. and the remainder pasteurised.

The four registered fried fish premises have given no cause for complaint of nuisance.

Nine hundred and thirty five visits were made to food premises in connection with the new Regulations, many of these visits were for the purpose of consultation and planning improvements which are in many cases in hand.

To give the management time to study the requirements, extracts from the Food Hygiene Regulations were delivered to every establishment where food is handled, before the operative sections came into force. This method of advising follows the wish of the Ministry of Food and has met with general co-operation in the various trades.

CARAVANS

Twenty five caravan sites were under licence during the year and twenty were in force at the end of the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954.

No certificates of want of repairs were applied for during the year. This part of the drive for improvement in dwelling houses appears to have been stillborn.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE by PESTS ACT, 1949.

In course of operation under the above Act, Mr. Woolcombe, the Council Pest Officer, has made 458 surveys of properties divided as follows :-

Agricultural premises 46: Council establishments 14.

Infestations were found in 68 dwellinghouses, 18 business premises, 9 agricultural holdings and 9 Council establishments.

1014 visits were made for the purpose of treatment of infestations.

The estimated kill of rodents was about 4,500.

A.EDE.

Chief Public Health Inspector