

**[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, North Witchford R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

North Witchford (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1958

The Chairman,  
Baddington,  
North Witchford Rural District Council,  
Baddington, 200.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1958 on the health condition of your district during that period.

I also present the Public Health Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

31st December 1958.

(1) Hospital.

Most patients are now treated at Baddington Hospital.

(2) Ambulance facilities.

These are controlled by the County Council.

(3) Child Welfare.

Clinics are held at Baddington and Waverley.

Public Conditions.

The bulk of the adult population is engaged in agricultural work and there are a considerable number of small-holdings under the control of the late of the County Council. Agricultural work also provides seasonal employment for many of the female adult population.

THE  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
MAY 1 1901  
TO THE  
LAND OFFICE  
SALT LAKE CITY  
BY  
J. M. WILSON  
RECEIVED

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

The Lindens,  
Doddington,  
March, Cambs.  
Tel. Doddington 206.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1958 on the health condition of your district during that period.

I also present the Public Health Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

(1) Public Health Committee.

This comprises the whole Council.

(2) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Public Health Inspector - JOHN METCALFE, M.R.S.H.

(3) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses under the control of the Local Authority.

(4) Hospital.

Most Patients are now treated at Doddington Hospital.

(5) Ambulance Facilities.

These are controlled by the County Council.

(6) Child Welfare.

Clinics are held at Doddington and Manea.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The bulk of the adult population is engaged in agricultural work and there are a considerable number of small-holdings under the control of the Isle of Ely County Council. Agricultural work also provides seasonal employment for many of the female adult population.





# GENERAL STATISTICS.

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Area (acres) ... ..                                      | 26,088  |
| Population (estimated mid year by Registrar General) ... | 4,800   |
| Number of inhabited houses ... ..                        | 1,684   |
| Rateable Value ... ..                                    | £35,720 |
| Estimated net product of a penny rate ... ..             | £130    |

The estimated population is slightly above the figure calculated for the previous year. The Census return in 1951 was 5,023.

# VITAL STATISTICS.

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Live Births ... ..  | 68    |
| Live birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..                       | 14.16 |
| Still-births ... ..   | Nil   |
| Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births                  | -     |
| Total live and still-births .. ..                                 | 68    |
| Infant deaths ... ..  | Nil   |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total               | -     |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate          | -     |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate        | -     |
| Neo Natal (first four weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births | -     |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births            | 1.47  |
| Maternal deaths (including abortion) ... ..                       | Nil   |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births           | -     |

# Deaths in Area and Causes:

|   | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Malignant neoplasm stomach              | 2         | -         | 2             |
| Malignant neoplasm breast               | -         | 2         | 2             |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 5         | 4         | 9             |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system      | 4         | 3         | 7             |
| Coronary disease angina                 | 3         | 2         | 5             |
| Hypertension with heart disease         | -         | 1         | 1             |
| Other heart disease                     | -         | 2         | 2             |
| Other circulatory disease               | 1         | -         | 1             |
| Pneumonia                               | 3         | 3         | 6             |
| Bronchitis                              | 3         | -         | 3             |
| Other diseases of respiratory system    | -         | 1         | 1             |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea      | 1         | -         | 1             |
| Nephritis and nephrosis                 | 1         | -         | 1             |
| Hyperphasia of prostate                 | 1         | -         | 1             |
| Congenital malformations                | 1         | -         | 1             |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | 2         | 6         | 8             |
| Motor vehicle accidents                 | 1         | -         | 1             |
| All other accidents                     | -         | 1         | 1             |
|   | <u>28</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>53</u>     |



The death rate for the Rural District in 1958 was 11.04 per 1,000 population, compared with 10.85 for the previous year.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

|                         | <u>Total Notified.</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Gastro enteritis        | 7                      |
| Scarlet Fever           | 1                      |
| Whooping Cough          | 1                      |
| Acute Pneumonia         | 6                      |
| Measles                 | 1                      |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis  | 4                      |
| Erysipelas              | 1                      |
| Lobar Pneumonia         | 1                      |
| Tuberculous Adenitis    | 1                      |
| Tuberculous Peritonitis | 1                      |
|                         | <u>24</u>              |

#### FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were no notified outbreaks of food poisoning in the Rural District during 1958.



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# PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1958.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers of visits and inspections carried out during 1958.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Water Supply  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53.  |
| Drainage  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57.  |
| Fried Fish Shops  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5.   |
| Vans and Sheds  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22.  |
| Factories   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16.  |
| Bakehouses  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3.   |
| Sanitary Accommodation  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44.  |
| Refuse Dumps  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16.  |
| Rats and Mice (including premises visited by Rodent Operator) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47.  |
| Manure and Refuse Accumulations                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.   |
| Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8.   |
| Nightsoil Disposal  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6.   |
| Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52.  |
| Dykes   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59.  |
| Building Byelaws  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 347. |
| New Drain and sewer inspections including tests               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37.  |
| Infectious Diseases Investigations                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.   |
| Petroleum Installations                                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.   |

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts and Housing Consolidated Regulations (excluding Council Houses) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27.  |
| (2) Number of houses surveyed for Slum Clearance (Not included in (1))  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18.  |
| (3) Number of Inspections for the above purpose (1) and (2) (including re-inspections)                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 86.  |
| (4) Number of Dwellings inspected under Rent Act, 1957  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.   |
| (5) Number of Inspections and Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37.  |
| (6) Number of Visits to Council Houses - Repairs, maintenance, and complaints, etc.                                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 717. |

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

|                                     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Butchers' Shops and Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11. |
| Grocers' Shops                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18. |
| Ice Cream Premises (Retail)         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8.  |

## NOTICES SERVED.

|  |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of written Informal Notices served                      | ... | ... | ... | 25.  |
| No. of above complied with                                     | ... | ... | ... | 19.  |
| No. of above in hand   | ... | ... | ... | 4.   |
| Demolition Orders served                                       | ... | ... | ... | 4.   |
| Undertakings accepted under Section 11(3) of Housing Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | 1.   |
| House numbering notices served (Wimblington)                   | ... | ... | ... | 260. |

|                                  |     |     |     |      |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Interviews and Meetings attended | ... | ... | ... | 949. |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|





## HOUSING.

No new Council houses were erected in 1958 and owing to the absence of main drainage facilities in Benwick, it was not possible to make any progress with the development of the land already acquired for additional houses as part of the Council's slum clearance.

The Council's contribution to housing requirements in their area is 197 post war (1939-45) dwellings and 84 pre-war houses.

Eleven new dwellings were completed by private enterprise in 1958 including 3 second hand prefabricated bungalows on 10 year permits under Section 53 of the Public Health Act, 1936; all the bungalows were provided with new pitched roofs and in one case the walls were encased with  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " brickwork. 8 more dwellings were under construction at the end of the year, including two bungalows by the Isle of Ely County Council Smallholdings Department.

Altogether since 1945, 107 new dwellings have been erected in the District by private enterprise, plus one conversion. 4 new dwellings have been erected by various County Councils on small holdings and 3 by Drainage Authorities.

Some progress was made on Slum Clearance as can be seen from the following figures:-

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Demolition Orders made in 1958. ....   | 4.  |
| Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders<br>or voluntarily by owners ....                              | 11. |
| Undertakings not to relet houses until made fit<br>for human habitation.. ....                                 | 1.  |
| Undertakings rescinded after houses made fit ...   | 3.  |
| Closing Orders revoked after houses made fit ...   | 2.  |
| Houses made fit and houses in which defects<br>were remedied<br>(1) after informal action by District Council. | 21. |
| (2) after formal notice by District Council...   | 5.  |

As in previous years, a considerable amount of time is taken up in dealing with repairs and maintenance (including external repainting) of Council houses and 717 calls at such houses were made during the year for this purpose.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Eight applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year, involving 9 dwellings. One application was withdrawn by the applicant before presentation to the Council; all the others were approved and the total value of the grants amounted to £1,443. 12s. 10d. Two of the dwellings concerned were farm cottages. Eight improvement schemes (including four approved before 1958) were completed and a total sum of £1,218. 16s. 10d. was paid out to applicants. 37 inspections (including re-inspections) were made at premises in connection with improvement grants.

No applications were received for Grant under Section 3 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.



No new financial statements for 1955 and 1956 are being submitted to the Commission of the European Communities. It is not possible to make any statement on the financial position of the Commission at present.

The Commission's contribution to the European Communities is being paid in 1955 and 1956 (1955-56) and in 1957 (1956-57).

During the 1955-56 period, the Commission's contribution to the European Communities was 1,000 million units of account. This was paid in 1955 and 1956. The Commission's contribution to the European Communities for 1956-57 is 1,000 million units of account. This will be paid in 1956 and 1957.

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### Financial Statements

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### BUILDING BYELAWS.

83 plans were deposited with the Council under their Building Byelaws, all of which were approved. 347 inspections were made of premises in course of erection or alteration, etc. under the Byelaws. 59 inspections were made of new drains under construction, including smoke testing drains at 37 premises. The Building Byelaws operating in the Council's area are similar to the Model issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and came into operation on the 7th November, 1953.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The Statutory Water Authority for the area is the Wisbech & District Water Board. 8 dwellings on the outskirts of the Rural District are served by Water Undertakings from other areas.

The following information is supplied at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:-

(i) Once again it is gratifying to report that there has been a plentiful supply of water throughout the area served by Board's mains and there have been no complaints as to quality of the water supplied by the Board, other than one instance on a post war housing estate where the trouble was caused by rust accumulating in galvanised iron tubing used for internal plumbing in conjunction with copper service pipe.

(ii) Normally routine independent sampling of piped water supplies is not carried out by the Council, as the Water Board's Chemist carries out frequent bacteriological examinations of the mains water at selected sampling points.

(iii) No action by the Council was necessary in respect of contamination.

(iv) The local supply of water is not plumbe-solvent.

(v) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:-

| <u>Parish.</u> | <u>No. of Houses as<br/>per rate book.</u> | <u>No. with<br/>mains water.</u> | <u>No. without<br/>mains water.</u> |
|----------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Benwick        | 240  | 210                              | 30                                  |
| Doddington     | 475  | 416                              | 59                                  |
| Manea          | 501  | 470                              | 31                                  |
| Welches Dam    | 17   | 5                                | 12                                  |
| Wimblington    | 451  | 420                              | 31                                  |
|                | <u>1684</u>                                | <u>1521</u>                      | <u>163</u>                          |

For the following schedule of work carried out in North Witchford Rural District during 1958, and Water Analyses, I am indebted to Mr. J. K. Dawson, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, and Mr. William D. Brighton, B.Sc. (Dunelm) Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech & District Water Board:-

### New Mains Laid.

North Witchford Agricultural Extension Schemes:

Scheme NW.1. Floods Ferry to Copalder Corner  
Benwick 4" S.I. 2,442 yards.





|              |   |         |             |
|--------------|---|---------|-------------|
| Scheme NW.2. | Parson Land Drove, Doddington                       | 3" S.I. | 1,878 yards |
|              |   | 2" A.C. | 187 "       |
| NW.3.        | Coneywood Fen, Doddington                           | 3" S.I. | 1,939 "     |
| NW.5.        | Fodder Fen, Manca                                   | 3" A.C. | 1,866 "     |
| NW.6.        | Fifty Drove & Wisbech Road,<br>Manca                | 4" A.C. | 3,683 "     |
| NW.7.        | Fallow Corner Drove and Purls<br>Bridge Road, Manca | 3" A.C. | 3,725 "     |
| G.1.         | Beets Bridge to N.W.R.D.C.<br>Boundary              | 9" S.I. | 2,496 "     |
|              | Firelots Drove, Wimblington                         | 2" A.C. | 133 "       |

Number of Premises Connected.

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Benwick     | 1           |
| Doddington  | 18          |
| Manca       | 54          |
| Stonca      | 8           |
| Wimblington | 11          |
|             | <u>92</u>   |
|             | <u>    </u> |

Water Analyses 1958, North Witchford Rural District.

"Frequent bacteriological examinations have again been made from samples taken in March, Doddington, Chatteris and Manca, of the piped supply to the parishes of Benwick, Doddington, Wimblington and Manca.

No contamination occurred during the year and all samples taken gave negative results for the test organism B Coli Type I.

Bacteriological examinations were made of every new length of main laid, and none was put into service until examination of water from the main showed negative result.

Many chemical analyses were performed on samples from source works and the distribution system."

|                                | Number<br>Taken | Number giving<br>positive results | Number giving<br>negative results | %<br>Negative |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Bact. samples<br>at March      | 81              | Nil                               | 81                                | 100%          |
| Bact. samples<br>at Doddington | 52              | Nil                               | 52                                | 100%          |
| Bact. samples<br>at Chatteris  | 108             | Nil                               | 108                               | 100%          |
| Bact. samples<br>at Manca      | 32              | Nil                               | 32                                | 100%          |
| Totals                         | 273             | Nil                               | 273                               | 100%          |



|                |       |       |       |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bohemia No. 1  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 2  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 3  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 4  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 5  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 6  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 7  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 8  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 9  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 10 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |

Report of the Board of Directors

|                |       |       |       |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bohemia No. 1  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 2  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 3  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 4  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 5  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 6  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 7  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 8  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 9  | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Bohemia No. 10 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |

Water Analysis Report, 1900-1901

The water analysis was made by the State of New York, Department of Health, Bureau of Sanitation, and the results are as follows:

The water is of good quality and is suitable for drinking purposes. The analysis shows that the water is free from all harmful bacteria and is of a high degree of purity.

The water is of a soft character and is of a high degree of purity. The analysis shows that the water is free from all harmful bacteria and is of a high degree of purity.

The water is of a soft character and is of a high degree of purity. The analysis shows that the water is free from all harmful bacteria and is of a high degree of purity.

| Water Analysis | Water Analysis | Water Analysis | Water Analysis |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bohemia No. 1  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 2  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 3  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 4  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 5  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 6  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 7  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 8  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 9  | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bohemia No. 10 | 1,500          | 1,500          | 1,500          |

As will be seen from details of new mains laid, the Wisbech and District Water Board completed all the agricultural extension schemes in North Witchford Rural District with the exception of Scheme No. 4 (Eastalls Lane, Doddington). This has not only enabled many more properties to be connected to the water mains but has paved the way for other improvements, such as the provision of sinks, W.C's., drainage systems, and in some cases bathrooms.

During the year the Council prepared and submitted for Ministry approval a scheme for laying a water main along the Forty Foot Bank to serve properties in the Parishes of Doddington and Benwick, the estimated cost being £7,112. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government notified approval of the scheme and intimated that a grant of £1,350. would be made towards the cost. It was also resolved that a scheme for extending the new water main at Fifties Road, Manca, to serve premises in the Colony area be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for determining the amount of grant aid likely to be forthcoming. In addition, another short extension of water main to serve properties in Toll (New) Road, Manca, was proposed.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Most of the houses in the oldest built-up areas of Doddington, Wimblington and Manca are served by old combined storm and foul sewers, all of which discharge into obsolete works or catchpits, and thence to dykes. It is not surprising therefore that considerable pollution by sewage matter occurs in such dykes, and in turn in the main drains forming part of the extensive land drainage system in the area, resulting in complaints from occupiers of the land, Drainage Boards and the River Boards.

The village of Benwick has no proper foul sewers, although parts of the village are served by old surface water sewers, to which branch drains from yards of properties have been connected. A certain amount of domestic waste water is discharged untreated with surface water into the outfall dykes. Until a proper sewerage system is provided it is not possible to forge ahead with the Slum Clearance work or modernisation of existing properties in congested parts of the village. In addition, considerable embarrassment is being experienced with cesspool drainage at the post-war housing estate at Benwick and various land drainage schemes to alleviate the trouble were under consideration at the close of the year.

With regard to the revised sewerage scheme for Benwick which has been forwarded for Ministry approval, notification was received during the year intimating that a grant would be forthcoming at the rate of £1,500 per annum for 30 years towards the estimated cost of £70,000 and arrangements were made for the holding of a Public Inquiry for the compulsory purchase of a plot of land for a proposed pumping station. Negotiations were also commenced for the purchase by agreement of land required for the sewage disposal works.

The post-war housing estates at Wimblington and Manca have been equipped with modern sewage disposal plants, whilst the new housing estate at Doddington has a septic tank outfall connected with the filter beds forming part of the old sewage disposal works in the village.

Drainage disposal to such other houses as are provided with drainage systems is, in the main, by use of septic tanks, cesspools and soakwells, which function with varying degrees of success. A large number of houses particularly in Manca and Benwick, are provided with pail closets, and there are still a few houses equipped with vault closets.



At the same time, the Government has been asked to consider the possibility of providing a grant to the local authority to enable it to carry out the work of the drainage system. The Government has agreed to consider this proposal, and has asked the local authority to submit a detailed estimate of the cost of the work.

The local authority has submitted an estimate of the cost of the work, and the Government has agreed to provide a grant of £1,000 towards the cost. The local authority has also agreed to carry out the work of the drainage system, and to maintain it in good order. The Government has also agreed to provide a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of the drainage system, and to provide a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of the drainage system.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The drainage system in the village of Brixton is a very old system, and it is in a very poor state of repair. The system is a very old system, and it is in a very poor state of repair. The system is a very old system, and it is in a very poor state of repair.

The drainage system in the village of Brixton is a very old system, and it is in a very poor state of repair. The system is a very old system, and it is in a very poor state of repair. The system is a very old system, and it is in a very poor state of repair.

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A report by the newly engaged part time Engineer on the existing sewerage arrangements at Manca was considered by the Council, together with his proposals for the construction of new sewers and proper sewage disposal works for the purpose of abating the nuisances caused by the discharge of unsatisfactory effluents to various outfalls, coupled to the nuisance from discharge of crude sewage into ditches in areas where no sewers exist. The Council approved the proposed scheme estimated to cost £63,802. and forwarded the same to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the purposes of obtaining loan consent together with a grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944 - 55. Negotiations were commenced for the purchase by agreement of the necessary land for the sewage disposal works.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Nightsoil is collected by contractors, and in some cases composted with straw for use as manure on arable land, but some difficulty is experienced in finding satisfactory tipping points owing to the offensive smell. The contracts provide for three collections of closet pails per fortnight; the approximate number of closets being dealt with at the end of the year was 391. The cost of this service is heavy, which is easily understood considering the unpleasant nature of the task. Further progress was made in the year in the conversion of pail and vault closets to water closets, as will be seen by the table below, and in the case of Manca a substantial reduction was made in the number of houses with pail and vault closets, including 24 pre-war Council houses.

However, until the provision of modern sewers and proper sewage disposal works makes it possible for the Council to press for further conversions with a view to ceasing emptying pails in built-up areas, it is unlikely that some owners will make any attempt to install water closets.

#### Closet conversions 1958.

| <u>Village</u> | <u>Improvement<br/>Grant<br/>Schemes.</u> | <u>Others.</u> | <u>Total<br/>Conversions.</u> |
|----------------|---|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Benwick        | 1   | 1              | 2                             |
| Doddington     | 1   | 3              | 4                             |
| Manca          | 3   | 38             | 41                            |
| Stonea         | 1   | 1              | 2                             |
| Wimblington    | -   | 1              | 1                             |
|                | <u>6</u>                                  | <u>44</u>      | <u>50</u>                     |

Cesspools and vaults are emptied upon request from occupiers by one of the Contractors, who uses a cesspool emptier for this purpose. The contents are either discharged over arable land or disposed at the nightsoil tipping points.

Tins and indestructible household refuse are collected in built-up areas at monthly intervals by contract, employing the kerbside method. Collection of refuse was extended over two outlying areas of the District by giving a quarterly kerbside collection of tins, etc. Disposal is effected in disused gravel pits, where the refuse is periodically covered with soil specially carted to the site. Unfortunately these sites are open to all-comers and a certain amount of indiscriminate tipping occurs which makes it difficult and expensive to cover the entire tipping face with soil. The refuse contractors carried out their duties very satisfactorily during the year under review.





### MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the Council's district is within a "designated area" for the supply of milk, which in the main is distributed by two firms operating from dairies situated outside the Council's area. There are two other milk retailers distributing milk in the area, one being a producer holding a Tuberculin Tested licence and the other holds a Dealer's licence.

The following supplementary licences were issued during 1958 under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 - 1954.

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Pasteurised                      | 2 |
| Tuberculin Tested                | 2 |
| Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)  | 1 |
| Sterilised                       | 1 |
| Dealer's Licence for Pasteurised | 1 |

Seventeen samples of milk were purchased in the course of delivery in the District and submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. All the samples satisfied the prescribed statutory tests with the exception of one sample of Tuberculin Tested (farm bottled) milk produced outside the Council's area.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

There is only one slaughterhouse licensed in the Rural District under Section 63 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the license expiring on 31st July, 1959. One beast was slaughtered for sale for human consumption during the year in this slaughterhouse. The seven butchers with shops in the Rural District either buy "off the hook" or have the animals slaughtered in the neighbouring urban districts. Part of one hindquarter of beef weighing 32 lbs. was condemned in one butcher's shop, the beef being "heated".

### FOOD PREMISES.

(i). The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

|                                     |     |     |    |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Grocer and general provision stores | ... | ... | 20 |
| Confectioners only                  | ... | ... | 3  |
| Butchers...                         | ... | ... | 7  |
| Bakers                              | ... | ... | 4  |
| Fried Fish Shops.                   | ... | ... | 6  |
| Cafes                               | ... | ... | 2  |

(ii). 16 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the area and all the retailers sell prepacked ice cream, which in every case is stored in proper refrigerator cabinets. There are no Dairies in the District.

(iii). 15 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year.

(iv). No new educational activity was undertaken during the year.

(v). Condemned tinstuffs are normally disposed of by burial at the refuse dumps. Rejected meat is either removed for disposal by burial or in the case of whole carcasses coloured with appropriate dye prior to removal by Knacker man.

(vi). No examination of whole consignments of food was necessary.

(vii). There are no ice cream manufacturers in the area.





(viii). An abstract of the provisions of the new Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/1956 has been distributed to all food premises in the district. 41 visits were made to food premises during the year. Byelaws for handling food were adopted by the Council in 1951 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

7 samples of ice cream were purchased during 1958 and submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. All samples proved satisfactory, being placed in Grade 1 category.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no large caravan sites in the area. Eleven licences were issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of caravans for a period of 12 months on individual sites. Three new sites were licensed during the year and 2 other sites were vacated which had been licensed previously. Periodical inspections are made to ensure observance of sanitary requirements.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

Only a few complaints have been received regarding rats and mice and in the main the rodent destruction work carried out by the Council's workman has been confined to various sewage dykes and refuse tips.

During the year notification was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the effect that the rodent destruction service operated by the Pest Dept. of the Isle of Ely County Agricultural Executive Committee would terminate on 31st March, 1959. The work of this Department has been of great benefit to the District Councils, who have not the same resources of finance and manpower, and in the past with co-operation it has been possible to avoid duplication of work. The Pest Department have had approximately 100 servicing contracts in the Council's area. Due to calls of other multifarious duties it is not possible to devote much time to rodent control work, but all complaints are investigated and the opportunity to check for the presence of vermin is taken when premises are visited in connection with other matters.

#### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

##### 1. Inspections

|   | Number<br>on<br>Register. | Number of    |                     |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|   |                           | Inspections. | Written<br>Notices. |
| (i) Factories in which<br>Sections 1, 2, 3, 4<br>and 6 are enforced by<br>the Local Authority     | 6                         | 5            | -                   |
| (ii) Factories not included<br>in (i) in which<br>Section 7 is enforced<br>by the Local Authority | 21                        | 14           | 1                   |
| Total   | 27                        | 19           | 1                   |

The written notice was in respect of unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at one factory. No outworkers are employed in the area.

J. METCALFE,

Public Health Inspector.



