[Report 1960] / Medical Officer of Health, North Witchford R.D.C.

Contributors

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NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

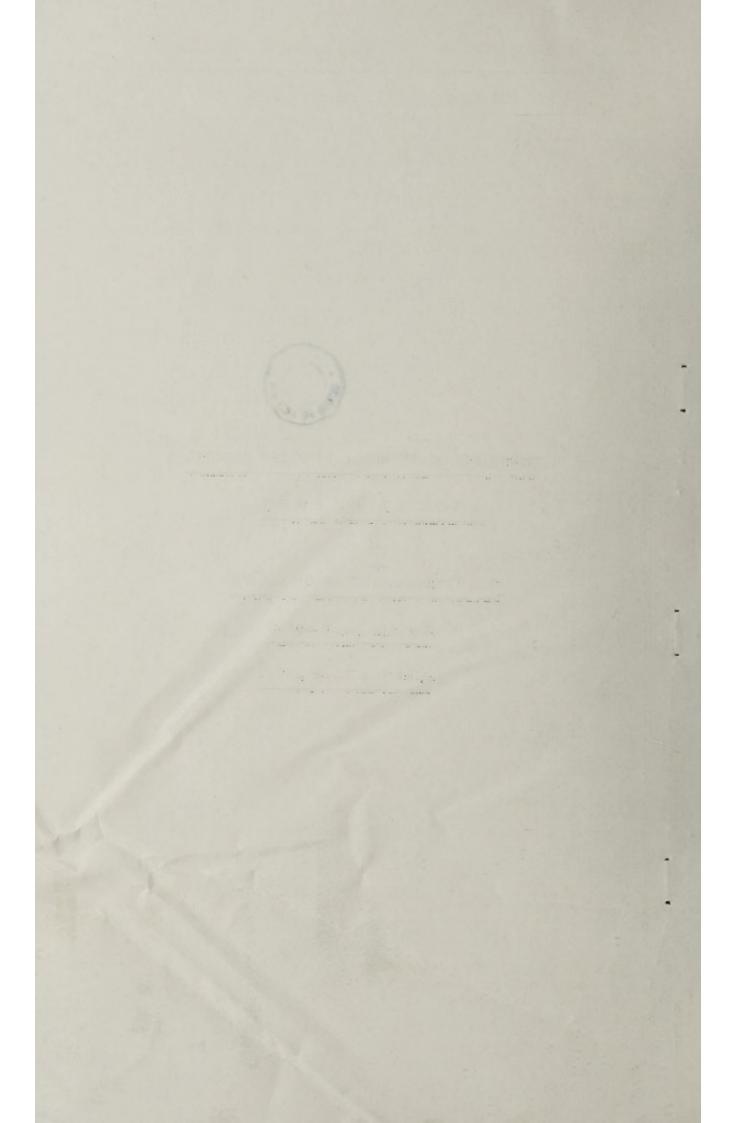
ANNUALREPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

31st December 1960.



for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

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

MR . CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1960 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 PROVISION 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 intire 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 number of adults engaged on agricultural work continues to decrease with the drift towards factory employment in nearby towns. Seasonal employment on farm work is still available for many members of the female adult population.

On 1st April, 1960, the Parish of Welches Dam ceased to exist mainly on account of the fact that the Parish had virtually become depopulated. The portion of the Parish lying south of the Forty Foot river (1,387 acres) was ceded to the Urban District of Chatteris and the remainder of the Parish of Welches Dam (1,001 acres) was taken into the Parish of Manea.

学技术的数据中心 poddington, 2.25. March, 6.25. Tel, poddington, 282. painting fait actual tolateld twoy to coldings within . Sill of the San State Borrows BLEON TO STORY FAREIGN . weits to not a samuel a line (c) · AR CH-ME BLACK SWIM . . Billing It de Court Bond The color of the sports rector absent that he still be still and the sports of the spo The of lower and the forey of falles and the fall the fell in the control of the fell in t

GENERAL STATISTICS.

	GENERAL STATISTICS.	
	Population (estimated mid year by Registrar	24,701
	Number of inhabited houses	4,770 1,627 36,954 £134
	The estimated population is slightly below the figure calculated for the previous year. The Census return in was 5,023.	re 1951
	VITAL STATISTICS.	
	Live Births.	
	Number Rate per 1000 population	64 13.41
	Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	3.125
-	Still Births.	
	Number Rate per 1000 total live and still births	30.30
	Total Live and Still Births	66
	Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	3
	Infant Mortality Rates.	
	Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births Legitimate " " " legitimate live births Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "	46.87 48.38 Nil
	Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	31.25
	Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	31.25
	Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	60.60
	Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
	Number of deaths Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil Nil
	Deaths in Area and Causes:	
	<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u>	Total.
	Malignant neoplasm stomach Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus Malignant neoplasm breast Malignant neoplasm uterus Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms l Diabetes Vascular lesions of nervous system Vascular lesions of nervous system Hypertension with heart disease Other heart disease Other circulatory disease Pneumonia Bronchitis Other diseases of respiratory system Nephritis & nephrosis Carried Forward 26 26	1 4 1 2 10 6 2 9 2 4 4 1 2
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Total Allos to the bold bold bold to the bold to THE SE the state of the product of a pearly rest. ----.... The same of the sa and the angle of the state of t at the first of the sales of the sales of the sales TOTAL AND THE STATE STATE OF TOOL SOT, AND THE STATE OF T opol'seq esem & tobes estate) of the college of the and the first the second and the second seco DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF 1 4. . . . de

Brought Forward	M. 26	F. 26	Total.
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	1	-	1
	35	29	64
	222		-

The death rate for the Rural District in 1960 was 13.41 per 1,000 population, compared with 10.64 for the previous year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

		Total Notified.
Tubercular Pleurisy		2
Scarlet Fever		3
Sonne Dysentery		7
Meningococcal Meningitis		1
Influenzal Pneumonia		1
Whooping Cough		2
Pneumonia		4
Measles		28
Tuberculosis of Lungs		4
Tubercular Meningitis		1
		53
		=

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the Rural District during 1960.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1960.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers of visits and inspections carried out during 1960.

	Water Supply	36.
	Drainage	13.
	Fried Fish Shops	7.
	Vans and Sheds	23.
	Factory Acts Inspections	50.
	Bakehouses	5.
	Sanitary Accommodation	35.
	Refuse Dumps	20.
	Ruts and Mice (including promises visited by Rodent	
	Operator)	35.
	Manure and Refuse Accumulations	8.
	201 22 2 2 11	16.
	97 1 4 13 m/	7.
		137.
		79.
	Dykes	
	Building Byelass	310.
	New Drain and sewer inspections including tests	62.
	Petroleum Installations	6.
	Poultry Farms and pig/eries	7.
121	INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.	
(1)	Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts and Housing Consolidated Regulations (excluding Council	d
	Houses)	19.
(2)	Number of houses surveyed for Slum Clearance	
, ,	(Not included in (1))	7.
(3)	Number of Inspections for the above purpose	
(0)	(1) and (2) (including re-inspections)	52.
(4)	Number of Dwellings inspected under Rent Act, 1957	Nil.
(5)	Number of Inspections and Visits to houses in connection	
(0)		56.
(6)	with Improvement Grants	50.
(0)	Number of Visits to Council Houses - Repairs, maintenance, and complaints, etc	832.
	maintenance, and complaints, etc	002.
	MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.	
	MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.	
	Butchers' Shops	11.
	Grooers' Shops	17.
		13.
	Ice Cream Premises (Retail)	10.
	Interviews and Meetings attended	1074.
	The state of the s	20.1.
	HOUSING.	

During 1960, the Council erected 12 one bedroom type bungalows for occupation by old people (six at Wimblington and six at Manea) and there were 5 similar bungalows in course of erection at Benwick.

The Council's contribution towards housing requirements is now 209 post war dwellings and 84 pre-war houses.

Seven new dwellings were completed in 1960 by private enterprise, plus 2 new houses erected at Doddington Hospital by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board. Seven more dwellings were in course of erection at the end of the year, including one bungalow for a Drainage Authority. Since 1945 the following new dwellings have been erected in the Council's area:-

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Rural District Council	209
County Council Departments	6
Drainage Boards	3
Hospital Board	2
Private Enterprise	121
Private Enterprise (Conversions)	_1
Total new dwellings	342

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

Demolition Orders made	• • •	3.	
Closing Orders made		3.	
Closing Orders Revoked and Demolition Oders made		3.	
Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders or voluntarily by owners		12.	
Closing Orders Revoked or Undertakings rescinded after houses made fit		1.	
Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied (1) after informal action by District Council.		32.	
(2) after formal notice by District Council			
Total number of dwellings demolished or closed du the period from 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1960		85.	

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 832 calls at such houses were made during the year for this purpose.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Only 3 applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants were received during 1960, of which two were approved for a total grant of £346. Seven schemes approved prior to 1960 were completed and grants were paid during 1960 to a total value of £1,853. 15. 2d.

During the same period 18 applications were received and approved by the Council for Standard Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. The total value of the grants approved amounted to £2,105. 1. Od. Eleven of these schemes, plus twelve earlier schemes were completed during the year and grants paid totalling £2,764. 12. 8d. No less than 16 farm cottages were included in the 23 completed schemes.

The amenities provided under Standard Grant schemes were as follows:-

Baths	20
Wash Basins	20
Hot Water Systems	22
Water Closets	19
Larders	11

56 inspections (including reinspections) were made at premises in respect of improvement schemes.

No applications were received for Grant under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

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BUILDING BYELAWS.

97 plans were deposited with the Council under their Building Byelaws, all of which were approved with the exception of one on grounds of unsatisfactory provision for drainage. 310 inspections were made of premises in course of erection or alteration, etc. under the Byelaws. 62 inspections were made of new drains under construction, including smoke testing drains at 58 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.
- (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 plumbo-solvent.
- (v) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:-

Parish.	No.of Occupied Houses.	Mo.with mains water.	No.without mains water.
Benwick	229	222	7
Doddington	459	434	25
Munea (including Welches De	486 m)	471	15
Wimblington (including Stones	455	437	16
,	1627	1564	63

For the following schedule of work carried out in North Witchford Rural District during 1960, and Water Analyses, I ap indebted to Mr.J.K.Dawson, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer and Mr.J.C.Collins, Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wiebech and District Water Board:-

Mains extensions carried out in the North Witchford area during the year 1960.

Toll Drove, Manea 920 yards 3" A.C.
l No. Fire Hydrant Fixed.

Ransonmoor, Doddington 980 yards 3" A.C.

Manea Fifties Scheme 1,827 yards 3" A.C.
l No. Fire Hydrant Fixed 516 yards 2" A.C.

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Additional premises connected during the year 1960.

Wimblington	17
Manea	14
Doddington	10
Benwick	7
	48

Water Analyses 1960. North Witchford Rural District.

In order to maintain a pure and wholesome supply to the district frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1960, on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this and adjoining areas. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Bacteriological Samples taken in the North Witchford Rural District and adjoining areas.

Place of Sampling	Total Tests Taken	No.of Tests Negative	No.of Tests Postive.	% Negative Tests.
March	87	87		100
Doddington	52	51	1	98.1
Chatteris	105	105	-	100
Manea	48	48	-	100
Totals	292	291	1	, 99.7

With regard to the new water mains laid during the year, the usual time lag in connecting properties resulted in only 5 occupied dwellings taking a mains supply at The Colony district off the Manea Fifties Scheme, and no houses had been connected by the end of the year to the Toll Road (Manea) and Ransonmoor (Doddington) extensions. One house was connected to the Forty Foot Bank main laid in 1959 despite special efforts to persuade a group of owners to operate a combined service main to other houses situated a considerable distance from the water main.

The Council agreed to go ahead with the joint scheme with March U.D.C. to serve Horsemoor in Wimblington Parish, and also made no objection to the issue of a 'Fringe Order' to St. Ives R.D.C. to supply water to Highside Farm, Acre Fen, in Doddington Parish.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Most of the houses in the oldest built-up areas of Doddington, Wimblington and Manea are served by old combined storm and foul sewers, all of which discharge into obsolete works or catchpits, and thence to dykes. It is inevitable that some pollution by sewage matter occurs in these 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.

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Further delays occurred in the progress with the new sewerage scheme for Benwick owing to withdrawal of the contractor whose tender had been accepted. The Council re-advertised for new tenders and on this occasion the Contractor who submitted the lowest tender discovered that he had not made provision for dewatering and despite efforts to negotiate for a satisfactory settlement, the Council were left with no alternative other than to advertise for a third time.

The post-war housing estates at Wimblington and Manea 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.

The majority of houses which are situated in the unsewered areas of the District are provided with desspool or septic tank drainage, and the Council operates an emptying service through a Contractor, one free emptying per annum being allowed. There is still a considerable number of houses equipped with pail closets at Benwick and Manea.

During the year 90 yards of 6" glazed stoneware sewer were laid in Benwick Road, Doddington, together with the construction of 2 manholes, to serve a pair of new houses erected by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board. The total cost was £238. 13. 9d. towards which the Board made a contribution of £75. 0. 0d.

At the request of the 6 residents living at Chapel Corner, Wimblington, satisfactory facilities for drainage were provided by laying 52 yards of 6" and 4" glazed stoneware sewer and constructing one large catchpit and 4 inspection chambers for a total cost of £116. 10. Od., towards which the residents concerned each made a contribution of £5. 0. Od. This small scheme enabled the occupiers to instal W.C's. in an area too restricted for the construction of individual cesspools.

The dyke receiving the sewage effluent from one of the outfalls in Wimblington Parish was cleaned by dragline during the year and the Council also made a £15. contribution to the Curff Drainge Board for cleaning a main drain in Doddington Parish.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Nightsoil, which is collected by contractors, is composted with straw for use as manure on arable land. The contracts provide for three collections of closet pails per fortnight; the number of closets being dealt with at the end of the year was 321. 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 in the table below.

Closet Conversions 1960.

Village	Improvement Grant	Others	Conversions.
Benwick	18	2	20
Doddington	2	-	2
Manea (including Welches Dam)	2	9	11
Wimblington	1	10	11
(including Stonea)	23	21	44

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Twenty five of these closet conversions were made at "tied" farm cottages situated in areas outside villages.

Cesspools and vaults are emptied upon request from occupiers by one of the Contractors, who uses two cesspool emptiers 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. Disposal is effected in disused gravel pits, where the refuse is periodically covered with soil. Unfortunately one of these sites is 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. Fire broke out at one tip, but this was sealed off with earth applied with the aid of a dragline. 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 1960 under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 - 1954.

Pasteurised			2
Tuberculin Tested			2
Tuberculin Tested	(Pa	steurised)	1
Sterilised			2
Dealer's Licence	for	Pasteurised	1
Dealer's Licence	for	Tuberculin	
		Tested	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the Rural District, the seven butchers who have shops in the Area have the animals they purchase slaughtered in the neighbouring Urban Districts of March and Chatteris. This arrangement, which was described in the Report on Staughterhouse Facilities prepared under the Staughterhouses Act, 1958, has operated satisfactorily for several years and the Council came to the conclusion that there was no necessity for a Public Staughterhouse to be provided in the Rural District.

6 lbs. of corned beef and 12 lbs of cooked ham which were unfit for human consumption were voluntary surrendered by shop keepers and condemnation certificates issued.

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

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- (ii). 18 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 Deiries in the District.
- (iii). 21 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 carcases 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.

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. Two new sites were licensed during the year and three sites were vacated which had been licensed previously.

Representatives of the Council attended a joint meeting of local authorities held at the Town Hall, March, in October, 1960, and the Council agreed to adopt the recommendations made at this joint meeting as to various conditions to be attached to licenses for sites occupied by one caravan only so as to ensure uniformity in the standards throughout the County. It was agreed that the conditions should apply to all new sites and so far as possible to existing sites.

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 early part of the year an inspection was made of 36 manholes on sewerage systems throughout the area and in company with the Pest Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and it is gratifying to report that there were no signs of rat infestation to be seen in the sewers.

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. Good liaison is maintained with the local officials of the Pest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises		Number on Register (2)	Number of			
			Inspections.	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)	
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	9	_		
(11)	i) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	16	-	-	
(111)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	16	25	-	-	
	Total	45	50	-	-	

2 - Cuses in which DEFECTS were found

	Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in whic prosecutions were
	(1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)		red By H.M Inspecto (5)	
1 (ant of cleanliness	2	2	_	_	_
t	vercrowding (S.2) nreasonable emperature (S.3)	-		-	-	-
	nadequate entilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)			(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	_	_	-	-	-
Carried Forward	-	- 11 -	-	-	-

The sorthest restriction of the land restriction of the 32. 7.000 0 0 32.000 4.1 The post of the last 1020 0

Brought Forward		1 - 1	-	-	-
(S.7) (a) Insufficient	_	-		-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes		-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	_	-	-	-	_
Total	1	1	-	-	-

PART VILL OF THE ACT. Outwork. (Sections 110 and 111)

There are no outworkers in the district.

J.METCALFE,

Public Health Inspector.

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