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CITY OF PETERBOROUGH



REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1939.

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CITY OF PETERBOROUGH


I.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1939.



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Any report upon the City's health during 1939 must perforce be attenuated as much because a large part of our attention had throughout that year been diverted towards matters of civil defence as to economy in paper which by a fiat of the paper controller (May 1940) has to be restricted as far as possible to subjects pertaining to the prosecution of the War.

Our time and thought during 1939 were seriously side-tracked to those of war effort : conferences with Regional Officers had to be attended and matter for them prepared.

The Medical Officer had to satisfy the appetite for schemes not to one Government department which would in all conscience have been bad enough—but, in point of fact, to two viz. : the Ministry of Health on first aid post affairs, Ambulance (vehicle) establishments and recruiting therefor ; the Home Office on First Aid parties, Ambulance Stations and recruitment and training relative to the former.

Co-evally, the day to day and week to week essential work, the hospital and the schools had to be carried on often under a raking embarrassment which war-clouding preparations brought in their train.

At the outbreak of war on September 3rd. the state of the City's health was the same as at any other year on such date—at its zenith ; exception would, however, fall to be taken in the case of those households which had had unaccompanied school children billeted on them throughout the week previous, consequent upon the evacuation of an area of London—there was nothing to make that difference signalling a change over from uneasy peace, January to August, to open war after September 3rd. Certainly (except as may be hereunder noted) September to December bore little difference in conditions of living from January to August and, in the former work actually became more plentiful postulating, if anything, more prosperity in the community.

It is likely however that there was some heightened tension or else the happenings may have been quite fortuitous, for, during the last five months of 1939 there was a serious rise in both maternal and infant mortality considerably above the normal of corresponding period of a peace year : the case of women dying from causes related to childbirth the like of which had never before been experienced some of it being explainable on pathological grounds, but a proportion which was otherwise quite inexplicable on any probability other than war tension,

In another and quite different realm the advent of the war precipitated two fundamentally disappointing results.

It knocked the bottom largely out of all the good work which had been put in on measures taken for the eradication of overcrowding in the City in attainment of which by co-operation with the Housing Committee (ascertainment) and the Estates Committee (re-housing), the almost complete elimination of this social evil had been achieved by the autumn of 1938 only to witness by the autumn of 1939 the war time measure of billeting "knock on the head" what the 1935 Act had enabled reform to achieve.

In a cognate sphere the advent of war put slum clearance activity out of joint.

Had there been but three or four months ante-date to the whole procedure which, at best, is far too cumbrous, the majority of the slum clearance population would have been capable of being re-housed and the wretched hovels they are still relegated to occupy swept out of existence.

The estimated City population at mid—1939 was 48,020 as against 47,170 at mid—1938, an increase of 850 during this interval—almost entirely accounted for by migration into the City, the natural increase (births over deaths) being only 115.

Based on the former figure the City death-rate was 11.4 and the birth rate 14.4, practically the same figure as the previous year.

Last year the infant mortality was 60 per 1,000 as against 46.9 in 1938—a retrogression already alluded to.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The outstanding feature under this heading was the marked reduction throughout the whole of the year in the incidence of Diphtheria, the number of cases running the whole twelve month being a total of 16 as against 84 during 1938.

The attainment to so wholly exemplary and gratifying reduction, might, on superficial cause—and—result reasoning be attributed to a continuance and intensification during February, March and April of the drive by immunisation of the susceptible age population expanded to invoke the services of the medical practitioners of the city in administration of toxoid (A.P.T.) as a preventative.

Scientifically, however let caution prevail.

With all the propaganda, only some 880 of the City's School age population, out of 5,500 are immunised and although it is true that a good number were "done" during 1937/8, it has to be remembered that diphtheria via population manifests (to use a mathematical term) a certain cyclic order meaning that it has an ebb-and-flow action which can be shown in any congregation of population of any size if trouble is taken to go into the experience of a town over, say 30 years.

Contributions supporting this contention have appeared in medical literature and the writer does not need any converting to the high probability for the "god of things as they really are" as Kipling aptly marked the expression—so that, while gratified that immunisation was more exhibited during 1939 than any year in Peterborough's history, it is little to be doubted that diphtheria had an ebb and was "troughing" during 1939 after "cresting" in 1937 and part 1938.

It was to the good that scarlet fever notifications were down to 31, but measles started to rear its head towards the closure of the year and was made a notifiable disease by order of the Ministry of Health as from 1st November 1939. Measles is another infectious disease with a cyclic denouement, in fact it is the cyclic infectious disease par excellence.

The depression in the infectious disease "trade" enabled the Corporation's infectious hospital to devote all the more attention to their new found role (in 1939) of reception station for Appliances, Drugs and Utensils from the Central Government Departments for the 5 fixed and 2 mobile aid posts by the Ministry of Health's civil defence scheme and, as events on and after September 1st, demonstrated, right thoroughly did the staff play their part in orderly allocation and issue intensively (in the short space of some 48 hours) the equipment acutely demanded so that 4 fixed first aid posts and 1 mobile posts were ready to function if Peterborough had been subjected to air attack in the earliest day of this war.

As regards the erection of the new Isolation Hospital at Park Meadows, the war has put the whole scheme into suspense.

This will "short string" Peterborough to face any accession to population of civil as evacuees and any military inhabitants to depend on what is the smallest provision accommodation in England for infectious diseases relative to the size of the population—not made any better by Stamford ceasing to have any space devotable to infectious cases as from the close of 1938.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Unlike a number of other Boroughs and Municipalities we did not supersede the normal peace-time activities in this department by closing down accommodation primarily for ante-natal and child welfare work by total transference of the accommodation over to civil defence essentialities.

We amalgamated both - Why not? The casualty and health services were (and are) under the same chief official.

By wise and suitable combination it did not appear by any means insuperable so to do, and so we did.

Thus, the central child welfare centre had its consulting room made the casualty control room with installation of a bed for night staff, the waiting room had further denizens imposed upon it.

At Walton, Corporation premises Number 3 Child Welfare Centre became also No. 5 F.A.P. and so this disposition still remains a fixed first aid post but did not haul down its flag as an infant welfare centre.

On the child welfare side, not an essential session was abandoned because of the crisis and demands arising therefrom at any welfare centre.

One session was lost (that of September) and had to be foregone on the ante-natal side, but that was because the visiting ante-natal Physician had become engulfed in the Ministry E.M.S. scheme and did not inform us of this in time to enable us to procure a substitute.

The October Session was held as usual, and this work has continued without intermission by the procurement of Dr. Morris Johns in place of Dr. J. D. S. Flew involved in Ministry of War and inspections.

Reflection of these pertinacious attributes is illustrated in the figure of attendances of expectant mothers at the ante-natal (consultant's) sessions standing at 262 ante-natal and 8 post-natal compared with 179 and 10 during 1938, the former being the largest in Peterborough's record.

No woman who attended the City ante-natal clinic died or suffered subsequent intractable morbidity.

During 1939, the Health Visitors and Ante-natal Matron paid 532 visits to expectant mothers—again a record.

416 infants under one year old at date of first attendance made 6348 attendances at the three child welfare centres of the City, and 591 aged between 1 and 5 made 6281 attendances,

The distribution of free milk—both liquid and dried also tipped a record in 1939, for there was delivered 283 gallons of liquid milk to homes compared with 218 during 1938, and 1672 lbs. of dried milk as against 1396 during 1938.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES :

The New Sewage Scheme.

Previous year's reports have given considerable prominence to this very important project.

Some culverts have been installed particularly in relation to the Northern Outfall Main section.

Diversion to prevent the main Oundle Road flooding and past to obviate the worst effects of adequate back pressure on sudden influxes from torrential rain.

For the rest, including the various elements at the Main new treatment works south of Low farm meadows, abeyance became the policy.

What the war has done for it all is to wind it up "for the duration."

Water Supplies.

The war has not hit the extensions of the Water Undertaking to anything like the extent of the new sewage scheme ; in fact practically all the proposals are going forward. Necessity has been compelling.

These include new raising plant Diesel engines and centrif-pumps at Braceborough, a reserve reservoir, new borings at Etton and duplication of certain lengths of mains—These works, are of course, vital, having regard to the extended areas of supplies taken chiefly in districts southward of the City if the undertaking was not to be in any jeopardy in its paramount and more focussed duty of providing an undoubted and good-pressured supply to the City's inhabitants.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1939.

Area of Borough in Acres (from 1st April, 1929)	....	....	10,022
Population (Census 1931)	....	....	43,551
Population Estimated (R.G.) Mid. 1939	....	....	48,020
No. of Inhabited Houses, 1931, Census	....	....	11,018
Rateable Value £344,268.			

Sum represented by a penny rate (£1,350).

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	14.5
General Death Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	11.4
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	....	....	60.1

II.—EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS : Legitimate	634	325	309
Illegitimate	31	16	15
	<hr/> 665	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still-births	25		
	<hr/> 690		
	Birth rate 14.4 per 1,000 pop.		
DEATHS	Total	M.	F.
	550	286	264
		Death rate 11.4*	

* England and Wales : 12.1.

Deaths of Infants (under one year old)—40.

(1) Legitimate, 37. (2) Illegitimate, 3.

Total infant mortality, per 1,000 live births	....	....	60.1†
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	3

† England and Wales : 50.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR, 1939.

England and Wales and 148 Smaller Towns.

The Registrar General's are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and
Quarterly Returns; the local are for the Calendar Year (1939).

				England and Wales.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census.)
Peterborough.					
Actual Nos				Rates per 1,000 population.	
Births :—					
Live	....	....	665	14.4	15.0
Still	....	....	25	—	0.59
Deaths :—					
All Causes	....	....	550	11.4	12.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	....	....	—	—	0.00
Smallpox	....	....	—	—	0.00
Measles	....	....	—	—	0.01
Scarlet fever	....	....	—	—	0.01
Whooping Cough	....	....	3	.06	0.03
Diphtheria	....	....	2	.04	0.05
Influenza	....	....	8	—	0.21
Notifications :—					
Smallpox	....	....	—	—	0.00
Scarlet fever	....	....	31	.06	1.89
Diphtheria	....	....	16	0.03	1.14
Enteric fever	....	....	—	—	0.04
Erysipelas	....	....	14	0.02	0.34
Pneumonia	....	....	40	.08	1.02
				Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
Deaths under 1 year of age			40	60	50
					51

2.—CAUSES OF DEATHS IN PETERBOROUGH, M.B., 1939.

(Registrar General's Figures).

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Civilians only, All Causes	286	264	550
1. Enteric Fever	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	2	3
5. Diphtheria	1	1	2
6. Influenza	5	3	8
7. Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
8. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	15	4	19
10. Other tuberculosis disease	—	2	2
11. Syphilis	1	1	2
12. General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	1	—	1
13. Cancer, malignant disease	43	38	81
14. Diabetes	1	5	6
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	14	18	32
16. Heart disease	73	67	140
17. Aneurysm	—	—	—
18. Other circulatory diseases	21	21	42
19. Bronchitis	18	11	29
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	10	7	17
21. Other respiratory diseases	4	—	4
22. Ulcer Peptic	3	3	6
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	2	3
24. Appendicitis and typhlitis	—	3	3
25. Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—
26. Other diseases of the liver, etc.	2	—	2
27. Other digestive diseases	5	6	11
28. Acute and chronic nephritis	6	7	13
29. Puerperal sepsis	—	1	1
30. Other puerperal causes	—	6	6
31. Congenital debility and malfor- mation, premature birth	15	9	24
32. Senility	5	13	18
33. Suicide	2	4	6
34. Other deaths from violence	20	8	28
35. Other defined diseases	18	22	40
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

II.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1939

(J. L. SEDEN, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. I.)

STAFF.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

†*J. L. SEDEN, M.S.I.A., *Cert.R.San.I., Cert. Meat & Food Insp., etc.*

SANITARY INSPECTORS—

†*J. CATLOW, M.S.I.A., *Cert.San.Insp.B., Cert. Meat & Food Insp.*

†*D. G. PATERSON, M.S.I.A., *Cert.San.Insp.B., Cert. Meat & Food Insp'*

†Sampling Officers under the Food and Drugs Act. Meat & Food Inspectors etc.

ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A. N. VENTERS.

CLERKS.

Miss M. HAWTHORNE.

Mr. A. MORTON (On Military Service from September).

Miss J. WOLLEN (from September).

*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1939.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall,
1940.

To the

Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
City of Peterborough.

Madam Mayor, Mrs. Councillor Wood and Gentlemen,

Herewith I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report
for 1939, being my Twenty-ninth Annual Report.

The outbreak of War in September naturally had the effect
of curtailing the usual routine work of the Department though
every effort was made to maintain all the essential services and
particularly that of Meat and Food Inspection ; also all members
of the Department assist in certain A.R.P. Services.

Under the Government Evacuation Scheme a number of
unaccompanied school children and mothers and children were
received in the City in September. Practically all the billets
were inspected and action taken where such was found to be
necessary.

Mr. A. Morton, Clerk, a member of the Territorial Army, was
called up for service on the outbreak of War and his place was
taken by Miss J. Wollen.

In the early months of the year inspections of the Theatres
and Cinemas, Ice-cream Manufacturing Premises, and Offices,
were made. Smoke Abatement also received attention, and a
special inspection was made of the few Van dwellings in the City—
necessary action being taken in certain cases.

INSPECTIONS, COMPLAINTS, NOTICES.

Inspections—6149, Re-visits—1635. Complaints (Formal)—151. Action was necessary in 130 cases. Notices—60 Informal and 5 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Total—1211—Covering similar matters referred to in previous Reports.

HOUSE INSPECTION.

1,070 Houses were inspected and a total of 1,527 visits were made for this purpose. The number inspected included 39 House to House Inspections.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

51 visits of enquiry were made respecting various notifiable disease cases and 18 re-visits. The usual enquiries as to the possible source of infection were made for the information of the Medical Officer of Health. Library books in circulation were removed for disinfection or destruction.

Printed instruction particulars were left at each house.

DISINFECTION.

The number of rooms disinfected is as follows :—

Infectious Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	56
Phthisis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Non-notifiable	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
							<hr/> 95

Bedding was removed to the Isolation Hospital to be disinfected from :—

47 Houses (after Infectious Disease)	.....	.....	448	articles
6 Houses (after non-notifiable Diseases)	.....	.....	68	„
6 Houses (after Phthisis)	.....	.....	74	„
			<hr/> 590	„

83 articles of bedding were removed on request from various houses in the City for disinfection after certain diseases, and for which payment has been made; also 421 articles from Military Camps and 182 from Evacuee Billets.

The following is a list of all the articles removed and disinfected :—

	Military.	Evacuees	Houses.	Total.
Beds	—	—	37	37
Blankets	386	180	176	742
Pillows	9	1	161	171
Bolsters	—	—	37	37
Mattresses	—	1	28	29
Counterpanes, etc.	—	—	66	66
Carpets	—	—	3	3
Clothing	9	—	22	31
Miscellaneous	17	—	143	160
	421	182	673	1276

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

17 Houses have been disinfested by private Owners for the eradication of the Bed Bug. Cimex Blocks were used in ten cases, Thermatox in one, and sulphur in the six others where the trouble was slight. One Council House also was dealt with by the Council's Works Department, Cimex Blocks being used.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Details of the work done in connection with above are as follows :—

Fried Fish Shops on Register	41
Closed during the year	2
Visits paid	84
Changes in occupation	6
Premises subject to Annual approval	6
Verbal cautions	4
Notices sent	1
Letters Sent	2
Work Done.	
Limewashing	1
Yard re-paved	1
Other defaults remedied	3

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

42 visits were paid to the 4 Registered Common Lodging Houses—two of which are small and not extensively used.

On the whole the premises have been kept in a satisfactory manner—only 5 verbal cautions for minor matters being necessary.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

AND

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

1,586 formal visits were paid at irregular times to the 21 licensed Slaughterhouses. 28 verbal cautions were given respecting minor defaults and one letter of caution was sent.

After September, owing to Staff depletion, several of the butchers found it necessary to slaughter on Sundays which necessitated one or other of your Inspectors being on duty. It will be noted that a total of 26 beasts and all edible offal were condemned and destroyed for tuberculosis 16 of which were covered by the Indemnity Fund of the local Meat Traders' Association, and several of the others condemned were also of insurable standard, but the owners were not in the scheme. A similar case again occurred this year as reported in 1938 where a member—a small butcher—had 2 beasts cut down and destroyed in one day; a case of misfortune as both beasts were from the Market and alive gave no indication of disease.

The usual supervision was given to the Market Stalls, Butchers' Shops, Making-up Premises, and Vans in the Street from which food is sold.

In May a circular letter was sent to all occupiers of Meat Stalls in the Market requesting improvement regarding the covering of the back and sides of their Stalls. They were also asked to take steps to prevent customers from contaminating meat exposed at the front edge of the Stall. The City Engineer kindly assisted by having a permanent edging board fixed to the front stall board.

KNACKERS' PREMISES.—2 licensed to which a number of visits have been paid.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.—4 new licences were granted in addition to those already operative.

FOOD SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

The following have been surrendered and destroyed, after condemnation, as unfit for human food.

For Tuberculosis :—

1314½ stones of beef (included is the whole carcase of 10 Cows, 10 Ox Beasts and 6 Heifers).

Also :—

1 Ox Beast (Extensive Bruising) 30 stones.

1 Ditto (fore and hind quarters) (Extensive Bruising)
20 stones.

1 Cow (Broken Aitches and General Inflammation) 43 stones.

9 Pigs (Erysipelas) 72½ stones.

1 Pig (Generalised Tuberculosis) 16 stones.

6 Pigs (Fevered) 40 stones.

2 Sheep (General and Deep Bruising).

116 lbs. Chilled Beef.

94½ lbs. Cooked Ham.

62 lbs. Tinned Beef (6 tins).

50 lbs. Imported Lambs' Livers (5 tins).

62 Stones Dried Fish (62 boxes).

A large number of pigs' heads (localised tuberculosis) and a quantity of beasts', pigs' and sheeps' edible offal (various causes).

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.
SCHEDULE OF DETAILS REQUIRED.

	Cattle. excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed (approximately).	4,446	234	100	11,492	14,404
Number inspected	1,680	88	59	3,180	3,867
ALL DISEASES <i>EXCEPT</i> TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	—	2	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	—	—	3	23
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis (* See Note below)	1.3	1.13	—	0.15	0.98
TUBERCULOSIS <i>ONLY</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	16	10	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	53	2	—	—	72
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis (* See Note below)	4.1	13.63	—	—	1.88

As far as is practicable Memo 62 Foods is followed as the Standard of Condemnation and condemned carcasses are destroyed, under supervision, at one of the local Knackers' Premises.

* Clause 9 of the Meat Regulations, which requires that Notice be given if, on the Slaughter of an animal for human consumption, the carcase or internal organs is, or may be, diseased or unsound, is carefully observed by the Butchers. The condemnations therefore should be considered as covering the total killing.

BAKEHOUSES.

40 Bakehouses are on the Register at the end of the year—one being discontinued during the year and one other business having changed hands. 81 visits were paid and, speaking generally, the premises were found to be satisfactory, only 4 verbal cautions respecting minor matters being found necessary.

Work done :—

Cleaning of walls and ceilings	....	....	....	....	2
Improvement to W.C.	....	....	....	....	1
New Floor	....	....	....	....	1
Improvements	....	....	....	....	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD REGULATIONS.

The following articles have been purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst for Analysis :—

Milk 37, Skimmed Milk 1, Butter 4, Salmon and Shrimp Paste 1, Shredded Beef Suet 1, Sausage 3, Turkey and Tongue Paste 1, Potted Meat 3, Salmon Paste 1, Self-Raising Flour 1, Margarine 1, Lard 1, Pickles 1, Jam 1, Lemon Cheese 1, Honey 1, Sauce (Tomato) 1, Seidlitz Powder 1, Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine 1, Paregoric 1, Brandy 2, Rum 1, Whisky 1, Boracic Ointment 1, Coffee 3, Malt Vinegar 1, Non Alcoholic Wine 1.
Total—73.

40 of the above samples were taken Formally and 33 Informally. Certain of the samples were examined under the Preservatives in Food Regulations with negative results. 2 samples of sausage contained Sulphur Dioxide preservative within the prescribed limit, the presence of which was declared at the time of purchase.

One Informal sample of milk was reported against. Following-up samples were reported genuine.

One Formal sample of milk was reported against—slight “added water.” Further samples were taken and the Vendor was cautioned by the Town Clerk at the request of the Committee,

A sample of milk taken "in course of delivery" from the Producer to the Vendor was reported against—slight "added water." Several other "in course of delivery" samples were taken and two "appeal to the cow" samples. Some of these were reported genuine and others—seven in all—were reported against. The case being somewhat involved the matter was fully considered by the Public Health Committee and the Town Clerk was requested to caution the Producer and Vendor.

PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DRIED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923.

Following investigations no contraventions under the above Regulations have been noted.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Following are the particulars of the Register for the year :—

(1) Retail Purveyors having Registered Premises in the City	36
(2) Retail Purveyors whose Premises are situate outside the City	19
(3) Producers (Retail) in the City with Registered Cowsheds (Included in No. 1 above)	19
(4) Producers (Wholesale) in the City with Registered Cowsheds	10
(5) Shopkeepers selling Bottled Milk only	129

Registered during the year :—

Retail Producer and Premises	1
Wholesale Producer and Premises	1
Shopkeepers selling Bottled Milk	36

Discontinued :—

Retail Purveyors	2
Retail Producers	1

213 visits were paid respecting the above and the following work has been done :—

Improvement to Sheds	3
----------------------------	---

New Dairy with wash-up provided	.....	.....	.....	1
Improvement to Dairy	.....	.....	.....	1
Corporation water laid on	.....	.....	.....	6
Limewashing, on request	.....	.....	.....	3
Letters and Notices sent	.....	.....	.....	8

Following results given in certain cases by the "Trustmun" Sediment Tests of milk on sale retail, plate counts were also taken to ascertain the bacterial standard of the milk. Various samples were also taken of pasteurised milk and submitted to the phosphatase test and also the plate count test.

16 samples of milk on sale retail were taken for microscopic and biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli, one of which was returned as positive. The necessary action, in accordance with the provision of the Act, was forthwith taken by the Medical Officer of Health, and subsequently a Report was received that the offending animals (two) had been traced and slaughtered.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Following are particulars of the number of Factories Registered (excluding Bakehouses) and work done in connection therewith during the year.

Mechanical Factories on Register (at the commencement of the year)	.....	.....	.....	.....	169
Non-Mechanical Factories (ditto)	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
New Mechanical Factories Registered during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
New Non-Mechanical Factories Registered during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Total					250
Mechanical Factories discontinued during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Non-Mechanical Factories (ditto)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total on Register at end of year					245

Number of visits paid	.....	.....	.....	.....	239
Notices from H.M. Inspector of Factories :—					
Re New Workshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Re defaults	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Notices sent	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Letters sent	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Defaults remedied :—					
Want of cleanliness	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Defective or unsuitable sanitary conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Other defaults	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Total					15
Outworkers' Lists received	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

CANAL BOATS.

Very few Canal Boats ply on the river locally, of the 47 Boats on the Register only a very few are met, at irregular intervals, in the District. 2 visits were paid and no new Registrations have been applied for during the year.

PLEASURE BOATS.

Boats licensed, 25. (Inspections connected therewith 115). Boatmen, 3. Letters sent, 3. Visits paid, 43.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. SEDEN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.





