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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF PICKERING

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

**1955**

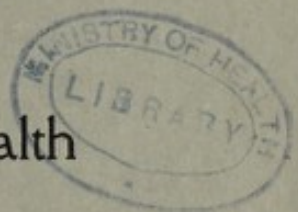
W. R. M. COUPER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

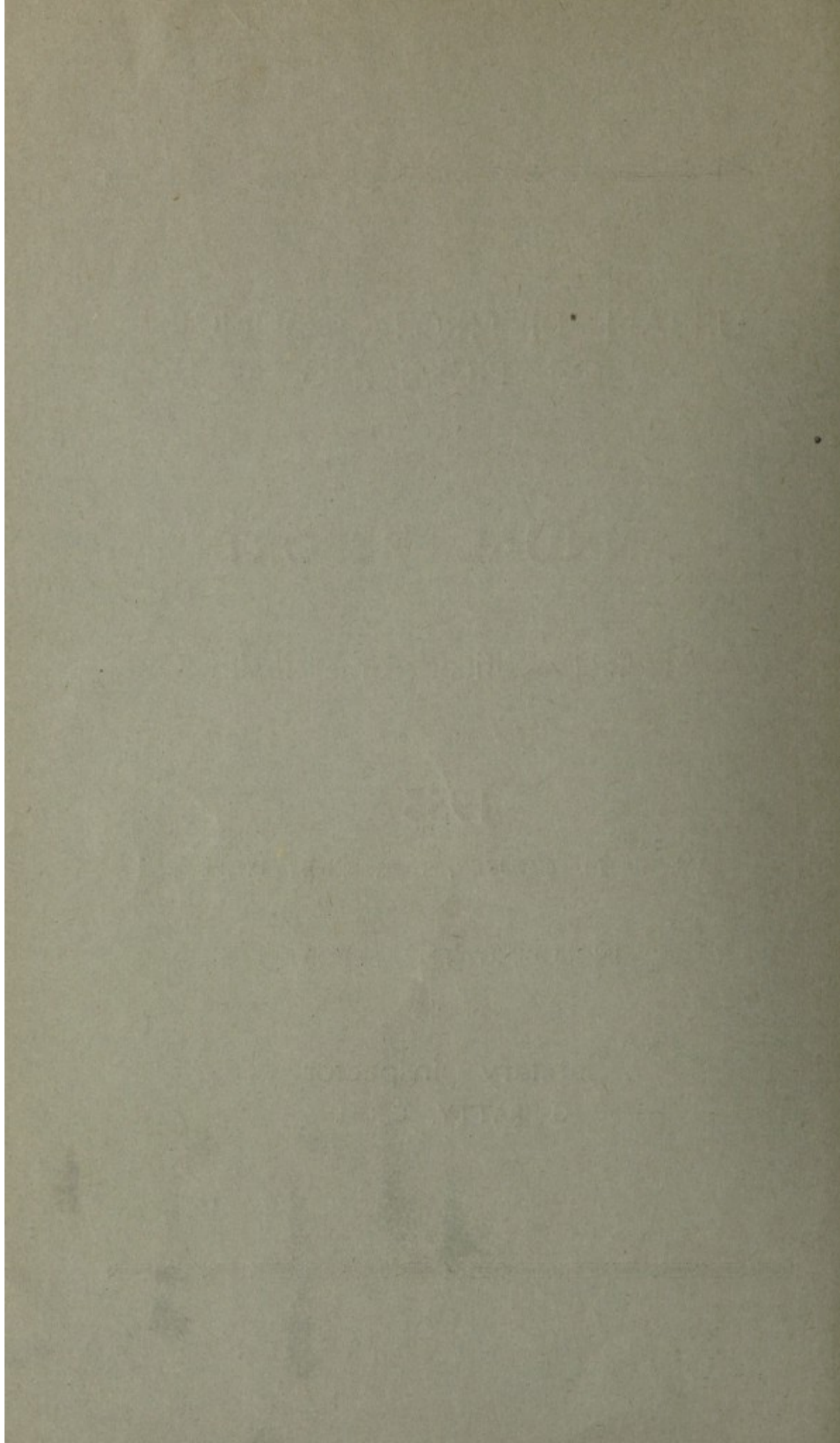
INCLUDING THE REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

G. BATTY, C.R.S.I.







URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF PICKERING

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Pickering Urban District for the year 1955.

During December 1954 and January and February 1955 an outbreak of Typhoid Fever occurred in the district. On 22nd. January the laboratory examination of a blood specimen of a patient admitted to Scarborough Hospital from Pickering gave rise to the suspicion that he might be suffering from enteric fever. Investigation locally revealed that 20 people at home and 3 others in hospital had a similar illness and the laboratory examination of specimens of blood and faeces from some of them resulted in a diagnosis of Typhoid Fever on January 29th. Further laboratory investigation later proved that all of these people were, in fact, suffering from the same disease.

That the disease had not been water-borne was evident because of the distribution of affected persons throughout the whole population and it was also obvious that some food, other than milk, had spread the infection. There had been one instance of mass infection during December 1954 followed by isolated cases of illness among direct household contacts of those originally infected. The primary source had become inactive and there was evidence to suggest that the contaminated food had been sold in one shop in Pickering. The danger at this stage was not the continued spread from the original source but secondary spread, by means of water, milk or other food, from a known or unknown case or carrier who had been infected during the epidemic. Measures were therefore taken to protect food and water supplies.

When all investigations were completed it was found that altogether 25 people from the Urban District were suffering or had recently recovered from typhoid fever. In addition an elderly couple died early in the outbreak from what, in retrospect, would appear to have been typhoid fever and 3 people, who had no illness, were found to have been infected. 3 other cases from places outside the district were found to be directly connected with the epidemic. Altogether 33 people, 21 females and 12 males from 17 households were affected and, if one includes the elderly couple above mentioned, there were 4 deaths.

The primary source in Pickering is presumed to have been a 6 lb. can of ox tongue. This can was opened and all the contents sold sliced on Saturday, 11th. December, 1954. It was the only sliced tongue sold in the shop on that day. 17 families who purchased this article of food were traced and in 15 of these there was one or more cases of typhoid fever among members of the households. After complete investigation no evidence was found to suggest that the tongue could have become contaminated after the can was opened in the shop. The only possible conclusion that could be reached was that the contents were already contaminated before the can was opened in Pickering.

The Public Health Laboratory Service made further enquiries in order to ascertain if there was any possibility of the tongue having become contaminated before arrival in Pickering. Although one can never produce absolute proof that an article, entirely disposed of more than a month before any investigation started, did or did not contain a particular germ, there is strong circumstantial evidence, particularly when combined with the negative findings in Pickering, to indicate the possibility that Salmonella Typhi could have entered the can. The factory, in which this particular tongue was canned, drew two separate water supplies from a river downstream from a point where the effluent from a sewage treatment plant entered. One supply was chlorinated but the other, which was used for cooling cans after processing, was not. Even when using the very best type of can, a few in



a large consignment may leak. This is usually discovered when the cans are incubated after processing, but if the only organism to enter the can through a self sealing leak, were Salmonella Typhi, no noticeable change would take place in the contents and it would pass inspection. The use of unchlorinated water from a river, particularly a river which was known to receive the discharge from a sewage works, gives rise to the suspicion that the contents of the can were contaminated during the cooling process.

The delay in the discovery of the outbreak was due to several factors. It so happened that the typhoid outbreak coincided with an epidemic of influenza which affected a considerable number of children and some adults. The more severe cases of influenza were treated with Chloramphenicol and almost without exception those people, who were in fact suffering from typhoid fever, were given this drug. Typhoid Fever, even when not modified by the administration of antibiotics, is by no means easy of diagnosis clinically. Historically Typhoid Fever is water borne and there are few recorded incidents where it affected a particular group of people as it did on this occasion. Diagnosis in the end came from the laboratory and fuller use of the facilities provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service would certainly have resulted in earlier diagnosis. The Hospital, General Practitioner and Public Health Services tend to work independently of one another and the closer integration of the services would result in much greater efficiency.

W. R. M. COUPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

Medical Officer of Health: W. R. M. Couper, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: G. Batty, C.R.S.I.

SECTION 'A'

STATISTICS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

TABLE I

District	Estimated Mid-Year Population	Area in Acres	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value	Product of Penny Rate		
					£.	s.	d.
Helmsley Rural	5,400	67,750	1,422	23,176	90.	11.	3
Kirbymoorside Rural	4,850	51,000	1,507	18,869	71.	12.	8
Malton Rural	5,580	47,078	1,823	20,342	80.	0.	0
Malton Urban	4,130	4,016	1,315	31,182	123.	15.	7
Pickering Rural	5,120	76,685	1,747	19,406	74.	10.	5
Pickering Urban	4,170	15,652	1,422	22,852	90.	0.	0
All Districts	29,250	262,181	9,236	135,827	530.	9.	11

VITAL STATISTICS

TABLE II - LIVE BIRTHS MALE AND FEMALE

District	Male	Live Births	
		Female	Male and Female
Helmsley Rural	30	30	60
Kirbymoorside Rural	29	27	56
Malton Rural	28	35	63
Malton Urban	29	32	61
Pickering Rural	35	32	67
Pickering Urban	36	29	65
All Districts	187	185	372

TABLE III - STILL BIRTHS MALE AND FEMALE

District	Male	Still Births	
		Female	Male and Female
Helmsley Rural	-	1	1
Kirbymoorside Rural	2	-	2
Malton Rural	-	-	-
Malton Urban	1	-	1
Pickering Rural	1	-	1
Pickering Urban	1	-	1
All Districts	5	1	6

TABLE IV - ALL BIRTHS LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE, MALE AND FEMALE

District	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Total
	Male	Female	Male and Female	Male	Female	Male and Female	Male and Female
Helmsley Rural	30	30	60	-	1	1	61
Kirbymoorside Rural	31	26	57	-	1	1	58
Malton Rural	27	32	59	1	3	4	63
Malton Urban	29	32	61	1	-	1	62
Pickering Rural	32	30	62	4	2	6	68
Pickering Urban	36	25	61	1	4	5	66
All Districts	185	175	360	7	11	18	378



TABLE V

Crude Live Birth Rate (i.e. live births per 1,000 estimated population), and Still Birth Rate (i.e. still births per 1,000 total live and still births), and Illegitimate Rate (i.e. percentage of illegitimate births of total births).

District	Crude Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Illegitimate Rate
Helmsley Rural	11.1	16.4	1.6%
Kirbymoorside Rural	11.5	34.5	1.7%
Malton Rural	11.3	Nil	6.3%
Malton Urban	14.8	16.1	1.6%
Pickering Rural	13.1	14.7	8.8%
Pickering Urban	15.6	15.2	7.6%
All Districts	12.7	15.9	4.7%

TABLE VI

Deaths of infants under 1 year and under 1 month by sexes.

District	Number of Deaths						All infant
	Under 1 Year			Under 1 Month			Deaths
	Male	Female	Male and Female	Male	Female	Male and Female	Male and Female
Helmsley Rural	-	1	1	-	1	1	1
Kirbymoorside Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malton Rural	1	1	2	1	1	2	2
Malton Urban	-	1	1	-	1	1	1
Pickering Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pickering Urban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Districts	1	3	4	1	3	4	4

TABLE VII

Maternal Deaths i.e. deaths attributable to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion, and Maternal Mortality Rate i.e. Number of deaths per 1,000 live and still births.

District	Number of Deaths	Maternal Mortality Rate
Helmsley Rural	-	Nil
Kirbymoorside Rural	-	Nil
Malton Rural	2	31.6
Malton Urban	-	Nil
Pickering Rural	-	Nil
Pickering Urban	1	15.2
All Districts	3	7.9



DEATHS

TABLE VIII -- CAUSES OF DEATH BY DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

[illegible]



**TABLE IX**

Infant Mortality (i.e. number of deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births), Neonatal Mortality (i.e. number of deaths under 1 month per 1,000 live births), Maternal Mortality (i.e. number of maternal deaths per 1,000 total births) and Crude Death Rate (i.e. number of deaths per 1,000 of estimated population).

District	Rates			
	Infant Mortality	Neonatal Mortality	Maternal Mortality	Death Rate
Helmsley Rural	16.7	16.7	Nil	8.3
Kirbymoorside Rural	Nil	Nil	Nil	10.7
Malton Rural	31.7	31.7	31.6	11.1
Malton Urban	16.4	16.4	Nil	12.8
Pickering Rural	Nil	Nil	Nil	11.1
Pickering Urban	Nil	Nil	15.2	14.9
All Districts	10.8	10.8	7.9	11.3

**TABLE X - COMPARISON OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES**

The Crude Birth and Death Rates of any district are not directly comparable with those of any other district or those of England and Wales. To make approximate allowance for the way in which sex and age distribution differs from that of England and Wales as a whole the crude rates are multiplied by a comparability factor. The resultant figures can then be compared with those of any other district and England and Wales.

District	Death Rate			Birth Rate		
	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Death Rate	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Birth Rate
Helmsley Rural	8.3	1.01	8.4	11.1	1.35	12.8
Kirbymoorside Rural	10.7	0.83	8.9	11.5	1.15	13.2
Malton Rural	11.1	0.89	9.9	11.3	1.15	13.0
Malton Urban	12.8	0.90	11.5	14.8	1.10	16.3
Pickering Rural	11.1	0.77	8.5	13.1	1.21	15.9
Pickering Urban	14.9	0.85	12.7	15.6	1.15	17.9
All Districts	11.3		9.9	12.7		14.0
England and Wales	11.7		11.7	15.0		15.0

TABLE XI - PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF DEATHS

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths by Districts					
	Helmsley Rural	Kirbymoorside Rural	Malton Rural	Malton Urban	Pickering Rural	Pickering Urban
Diseases of circulatory system	30	41	34	29	33	38
Diseases of respiratory system (ex. T.B.)	1	2	2	1	6	5
Diseases of digestive system (ex. cancer)	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1
Malignant Diseases	7	4	10	10	8	10
Tuberculosis	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	2
Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	1
Other accidents	1	Nil	1	1	3	Nil
All other diseases	6	4	14	9	7	5
All diseases	45	52	62	53	57	62
						331

TABLE XII - PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF DEATH EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS

Cause of Death	Percentage of total Deaths by Districts					
	Helmsley Rural	Kirbymoorside Rural	Malton Rural	Malton Urban	Pickering Rural	Pickering Urban
Diseases of circulatory system	66.7%	78.8%	54.8%	54.7%	57.9%	61.3%
Diseases of respiratory system	2.2%	3.8%	3.2%	1.9%	10.5%	8.0%
Diseases of digestive system	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.9%	Nil	1.6%
Malignant Diseases	15.6%	7.7%	16.1%	19.0%	14.0%	16.1%
Tuberculosis	Nil	1.9%	Nil	1.9%	Nil	3.2%
Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	1.6%	1.9%	Nil	1.6%
All other accidents	2.2%	Nil	1.6%	1.9%	5.3%	Nil
Other diseases	13.3%	7.7%	22.6%	17.0%	12.5%	9.0%
						13.6%



# SECTION 'B'

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE I - NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1955

District	Cases Notified									
	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Primary Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Typhoid Fever	Encephalitis
Helmsley Rural	1	-	86	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Kirbymoorside Rural	-	18	141	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malton Rural	-	3	25	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malton Urban	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pickering Rural	-	10	37	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Pickering Urban	-	9	13	-	1	-	-	-	25	-
All Districts	1	40	306	2	2	1	1	1	26	1

Where necessary patients suffering from infectious diseases are admitted to Cross Lane Hospital, Scarborough, and Yearsley Bridge Hospital, York.

# TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE II - NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1955

District	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Helmsley Rural	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirbymoorside Rural	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malton Rural	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malton Urban	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pickering Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pickering Urban	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
All Districts	1	3	-	1	3	1	-	-

# SECTION 'C'

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

### (i) Laboratory Facilities

Samples for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton. A van calls once a week to collect specimens.

### (ii) Local Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946

The day-to-day administration of the following services is carried out by the Ryedale Local Health Sub-Committee in the urban districts of Malton and Pickering, and the rural districts of Helmsley, Kirbymoorside, Malton and Pickering.

(a) Care of mothers and young children

Child welfare and ante-natal clinics are held at centres in the Ryedale area.

In places where no clinic is held ante-natal and child welfare services are carried out by health visitors in the home.

(b) Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing

Combined duty nurses serving 16 districts are resident in the area.

(c) Ambulance Service

Ambulance stations at Malton and Kirbymoorside provide this service.

(d) Immunisation and Vaccination

Provision is made for primary vaccination against diphtheria at child welfare centres but the greater part of this service is carried out by general practitioners in their surgeries and in the home.

(e) Domestic Help Service

This service provides domestic help, at a charge dependent on the income of the household, in homes where there has been a confinement or ill-health of the mother, and to the aged and infirm.

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## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report on the sanitary circumstances in the district for the year 1955.

There are no matters of importance to bring to your notice since the question of water supply and sewerage of the district are now being considered in the current year. Both these subjects are of major importance at the moment and every effort should be made to carry both schemes to an early and successful conclusion.

It will be noted from the report that work on rodent control, particularly survey work is limited by the widespread nature of the area and the lack of transport facilities. These remarks also apply to inspections to be carried out to knacker's yards and to sampling of water supplies in the area outside the town.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant.

G. BATTY.

Sanitary Inspector.

### Water Supply

Water continues to be supplied to the town area from the Keld Head Springs which are under the management of the North Eastern Gas Board and throughout the year the supply has been plentiful.

Those properties which are not within the area of this supply still have an urgent need for an adequate and wholesome supply but during the year negotiations have taken place between the Council, the North Eastern Gas Board and the Ryedale Joint Water Board which will eventually result in most parts of the Council's district being adequately supplied with water from the Ryedale Joint Water Board's supply.

### RESULTS OF PARTIAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY FOR 1955

Type of sample	Samples taken by Local Authority.		Samples taken by N. E. Gas Board.	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Town supply before chlorination	14	4	7	5
Town supply after chlorination	98	-	12	-
Private supplies	4	15	-	-



The following table shows the number of dwelling houses and the population supplied by public water mains and other private sources.

Total No. of dwellings.	Total Popu- lation.	Supplied direct to houses		Other private sources	
		No. of houses	Population	No. of houses	Population
1422	4170	1314	3807	108	363

#### Refuse Disposal

Refuse is collected weekly from most of the area with the exception of Bean Sheaf, Stape etc. where a three monthly collection operates. In the case of certain food preparing premises a collection is made twice per week.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping and the limited labour force prevents any proper controlled tipping being practised.

#### Sewage Disposal

The inflow to the works continues to be excessive and on a number of occasions the effluent was unsatisfactory.

The only remedy is, as was suggested in my report for 1954, to effect improvements to the sewerage system and to the works themselves.

There still exists in the town area a number of closets on the conservancy system and a determined effort is now being made to convert these to water carriage.

#### Food

Three slaughter-houses are in use in the district and the majority of meat for consumption in the surrounding district is slaughtered in one or other of these three premises.

The system adopted appears to be the slaughter of small quantities of meat on each occasion which means that slaughtering takes place, in one slaughter-house or another, on most days of the week and the demands upon my time in consequence of this arrangement are heavy.

During the year 268 visits were made to slaughter-houses when 1,292 lbs. of meat and offal were found to be unfit for human consumption. The figures show that, in some way or another, some part of 3.49% of all animals inspected was found to be unfit.

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	159	2	5	867	256
Number inspected	159	2	5	867	256
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
(a) Whole carcase condemned	-	-	1	4	-
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	-	-	4	8
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	7.55%	-	20%	0.46%	3.125%

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	12
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.52%	-	-	-	4.69%

Other foodstuffs found to be unfit were :-

Tinned milk	2	Tinned vegetables	18
Tinned fruit	10	Tinned meat	2

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

267 visits and revisits of inspection or survey were made during the year when 15 treatments were given by the Local Authority. Four other properties were treated by the occupiers who purchased their material from the Council.

Work of this nature is prejudiced by the limited time the operator is used on rodent control work and by the lack of transport to carry out surveys of outlying areas.

#### Shops Acts, 1934-36

93 visits of inspection were made during the year and in one case instructions had to be given to repair the drainage to a food store.

#### Camping Sites

There are no properly established camping sites in the district.

#### Offensive Trades

There are three licensed knacker's yards in the district and one tripe dresser and gut scraper.

24 visits of inspection have been made of these premises which were found to be satisfactory although great difficulty is experienced in visiting these premises since most of them are sited some considerable distance from the town.

#### Slaughterhouses

Four private slaughterhouses were relicensed during the year of which three are in regular use. In each case the siting is bad although the arrangements are fairly satisfactory for the number of animals slaughtered.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs

No cases of infestation have been found.

#### Housing

The housing programme has continued steadily during the year with the following results.

No. of houses erected during the year :-

By Local Authority	30
By Private Enterprise	3



The number of houses inspected during the year has been few due to the demands made upon my department for other purposes. Action was taken in respect of two dwellings under section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1954, one of these dwellings has since been reconstructed to form an attractive cottage, the other is still not in use.

10 applications were received under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 from which 9 grants were made and the remaining one was pending a decision at the close of the year.

#### Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948

There are 37 factories in the district, 120 visits of inspection have been made and it has not been necessary to bring any matter to the notice of the Committee.

#### Inspections of the District.

Water supply	135	Ice cream premises	16
Drainage	51	Food preparing premises	113
Milk	14	Petroleum licences	28
Offensive trades	24	Works in progress	89
Houses let in lodgings	7	Nuisances	55
Tents, vans and sheds	7	Refuse Collection	15
Factories	120	Refuse Disposal	7
Public Conveniences	25	Building Byelaws	126
Theatres and Places of	13	Meat Inspection	268
Entertainment		Slaughterhouses	301
Rodent Control	267	Miscellaneous	32
Shops	93		

