

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Pontefract Borough.

Contributors

Pontefract (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/m8r2rpz3>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library



BOROUGH
OF
PONTFRACT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1953



BOROUGH
OF
PONTEFRACT

PAGE ONE: Statistics and Social Conditions 1

PAGE TWO: Prevalence and Control of
Infectious and Other Diseases 5

PAGE THREE: Maternity and Child Welfare 7

PAGE FOUR: School 8

PAGE FIVE: General 9

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1953.

PAGE EIGHT: Appendix 12

BY

J. F. FRASER

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

REPORT
OF
PROGRESS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE
ARMY FOR THE YEAR
1881

BY
W. H. H. H.
U. S. A., Surgeon-General

Medical Officer's Section,

Health Department,

Magill House,

Wolverhampton,

C O N T E N T S.

	<u>Page.</u>
PART ONE: Statistics and Social Conditions	1
PART TWO: Prevalence and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases	5
PART THREE: Maternity and Child Welfare	7
PART FOUR: School Medical Services	8
PART FIVE: Home Nursing	9
PART SIX: Care and After-Care	9
PART SEVEN: Mental Health	9
PART EIGHT: Ambulance Service	9

C O N T E N T S

Page

1	PART ONE: Statistics and Social Conditions
2	PART TWO: Prevention and Control over Infection and Other Diseases
3	PART THREE: Maternity and Child Welfare
4	PART FOUR: General Medical Services
5	PART FIVE: Home Nursing
6	PART SIX: Care and After-Care
7	PART SEVEN: Mental Health
8	PART EIGHT: Ambulance Services

Medical Officer's Section,
Health Department,
Baghill House,
Walkergate,
Pontefract.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Pontefract.

Lady and Gentlemen,

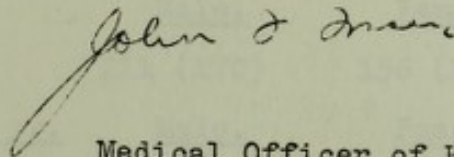
I have the honour to present for your information
and consideration a Report on the Health and Health Services of
the Borough during the year 1953.

The Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough,
Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies,
is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal
health services administered by the County Council are
included.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer's Office,
Health Department,
Rath Hall House,
Wellington,
Ireland.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors
of the Borough of Wellington.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to present for your information
and consideration a Report on the Health and Health Services of
the Borough during the year 1953.

The Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough,
Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Stalls,
is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal
health services administered by the County Council are
included.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

PART ONE

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the Borough: 4, 865 acres

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population: 22,620

Number of inhabited houses(end of 1953)according to
Rate books: 6,798

Rateable Value: 1953 - £138,642.

Sum Represented by penny rate: 1953 - £546.

VITAL STATISTICS. (Registrar-General's - Registered during the year)

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1952.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	190 (172)	198 (203)	388 (375)
Illegitimate	7 (9)	9 (9)	16 (18)
Total	197 (181)	207 (212)	404 (393)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 17.9 (17.0)

Percentage of illegitimate births 3.96. (4.58)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	9 (5)	5 (1)	14 (6)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total	9 (5)	5 (1)	14 (6)

Rate per 1,000 total(live and still) births: 33.5 (15.0)

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 0.62 (0.26)

DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>All age groups.</u>	211 (170)	156 (169)	367 (339)

<u>Infants under 1 yr.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	12 (10)	7 (13)	19 (23)
Illegitimate	- (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
Total	12 (11)	8 (14)	20 (25)

Maternal Deaths. NIL (NIL)

Death Rates.

General rate per 1,000 population	16.2 (14.7)
All infants per 1,000 live births	49.5 (63.6)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.9 (61.7)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	62.5 (111.1)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births:	NIL (2.51)

The principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

The increase in death rate is apparent rather than real and is caused by the inclusion in the figures of deaths at Northgate Lodge and the Headlands Hospital even though the persons concerned may have come from another district. Of the total of 367 deaths shown, 193 occurred in one or other of these institutions and of this 193 only 61 were Pontefract residents, the remaining being from other districts.

T A B L E I.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory	5	3	8
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	3	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	16	11	27
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	2	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	33	21	54
Coronary disease, angina	18	11	29
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart diseases	53	39	92
Other circulatory diseases	2	7	9
Pneumonia	7	14	21
Influenza	-	1	1
Bronchitis	26	11	37
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	16	31
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	6	5	11
Suicide	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	5
	211	156	367

The local death rate during the past 15 years is shown in the following Table.

<u>Years.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>
1938 - 1940	13.1
1941 - 1943	12.2
1944 - 1946	10.8
1947 - 1949	10.0
1950	10.9
1951	10.5
1952	14.7
1953	16.2

Infant Mortality.

The following tables give causes of infant deaths during the year 1953, classified into age groups and months of incidence.

T A B L E II.

Cause of Death.	Age Groups.								All ages under 1 yr.		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	1-3 mth	3-6 mth	6-9 mth	9-12 mth	M.	F.	Tot.
Spina Bifida	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Complete Exomphalos	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Nephritis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Suffocation	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Prematurity	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	8
Broncho pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Haemorrhagic Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Haemolytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<u>Meningitis</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
	13	1	-	-	2	1	2	1	11	8	20

COMPARISON OF PONTEFRACT VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING AREAS, THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY, AND ENGLAND & WALES.

	Ponte- fract Borough	Aggregate West Rid- ing Urban Districts.	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (pr visional figures).
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	17.9	15.4	15.7	15.5
DEATH RATE (per 100 estimated population) All Causes.	16.2	12.5	11.6	11.4
Infective & Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syph. and other V.D.	0.09	0.09	0.08	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory	0.35	0.17	0.16	0.18
Tuberculosis Other	NIL	0.02	0.02	0.02
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.35	0.19	0.18	0.20
Cancer	1.95	1.99	1.88	1.99
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	2.39	1.96	1.76	*
Heart and Circulatory	5.92	4.63	4.26	*
Respiratory Diseases	2.74	1.39	1.30	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1000 live and still births)	NIL	0.38	0.51	0.76
Infant Mortality	49.5	27.6	29.2	26.8
Still Births (per 1000 live and still births)	33.5	25.0	24.7	22.4

* figures not available.

PART TWO

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIVE AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives details of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis).

TABLE IV

	Jan/ Mar	Apr/ Jun	Jul/ Sep	Oct/ Dec	Total	Deaths	No. of cases- admitted to hospital.
Scarlet Fever	21	11	14	9	55	Nil	41
Measles	185	208	3	1	397	Nil	4
Whooping Cough	34	100	54	11	199	Nil	5
Food Poisoning	2	48	4	-	54	Nil	1
Chicken-pox	67	12	9	43	131	Nil	6
Pneumonia	25	8	1	12	46	1	-
Erysipelas	2	2	1	2	7	Nil	-
Dysentery	6	-	-	-	6	Nil	6
Meningitis	-	1	2	1	4	1	4
Malaria	-	1	-	-	1	Nil	-
Polio- encephalitis	-	-	-	1	1	1	Died before removal
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	2	2	Nil	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	2	Nil	-
	342	391	89	83	905	3	69

Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of tuberculous persons.

T A B L E V .

Number of cases in Register:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total in Register
	M	F	M	F	
At the commencement of 1953	89	78	23	27	217
Notified for the first time during 1953	16	8	-	1	25
Transfers	3	-	-	-	3
Removed from Register	10	2	6	3	-
At the end of 1953	98	84	17	25	224

The reasons for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table.

T A B L E VI .

Entries relating to:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total.
	M	F	M	F	
Persons who have died	6	1	-	-	7
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered	3	1	6	3	13
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district	1	-	-	-	1
	10	2	6	3	21

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of the disease.

T A B L E VII .

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Under 45	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Under 55	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Under 65	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Over 65	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total	16	8	-	1	4	3	-	-

National Assistance Act - Section 47.

Only one case was dealt with under the above act during the year, the patient who lived alone being removed compulsorily to hospital because of illness.

P A R T T H R E E

M A T E R N I T Y A N D C H I L D W E L F A R E .

The full establishment of staff of Health Visitors/School Nurses has been maintained during the year. The number of visits paid were as follows:-

	<u>First Visits.</u>	<u>Total Visits.</u>
To expectant mothers	205	342
To children under 1 year	1027	5261
To children 1-5 years	-	8629
Other cases	-	3000

Child Welfare Clinics.

Attendances at these clinics have been maintained, and there is no doubt that the mothers are eager to avail themselves of the various facilities provided.

Full use has been made of the ultra violet light clinic which form part of this service.

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committee for all the work they have done during the year.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

These were held weekly as before and were well attended. Special attention was paid to encouraging the mothers to attend for a post-natal examination when the baby was six weeks old.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price (free in necessitous cases) to all women attending the clinics:-

Ostermilk (Nos. 1 and 2)	Viol
Trufood	Virolax
Cow & Gate	Farex
Ovaltine	Scotts Twin Pack
Glucose 'D'	Robinson's Groats
Horlicks	Colact
Minadex	Robrex
Haemolac	Robsoup
Lactagol	Bovril Weaning Food
Bemax	Nestrovite.

The following were distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets	Viteolin Tablets
Ferrous Sulphate Tablets	A & D Liquid
	Vitamin 'C'

Ante-Natal Exercises.

The class for teaching ante-natal exercises was continued through the year, 108 mothers attended and made a total of 1296 attendances. Patients are accepted at this class not only from our own clinic but also from those of general practitioners.

The following analysis of births occurring during 1953, adjusted by transferred notifications, indicates how the various maternity services and institutions were used.

1. No. of births occurring in the Borough during the year.

(a) Pontefract residents -	
Domiciliary cases	221
(b) Outward transfers	-

2. No. of inward transfers.

Walton Hall Maternity Home	98
Leeds Maternity Hospital	7
Wakefield General Hospital	16
Manygates Maternity Hospital	54
Castleford Maternity Home	31
Falldon Maternity Home, Leeds	1
Seacroft Hospital, Leeds	1
Fairfield Nursing Home, Doncaster	1
St. Mary's Nursing Home, Leeds	1
Total	<hr/> 210 <hr/>

Total number of births in Pontefract: 431

Of these births, 14 were stillbirths.

In general it can be said that the position of maternity home accommodation has eased considerably, and practically all mothers who so desire can now be accommodated.

Care of the Premature Infant.

40 premature infants were notified during the year. In each case a special investigation was made, and help given as required. In hospital cases there was close liaison between hospitals and authorities.

PART FOUR.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Routine school medical inspections were carried out in the Pontefract schools during the year.

The Consultation Clinic for school children was held weekly and the popularity of this clinic is shown by the high average attendance which was 55. These clinics are of special value in dealing with the debilitated child.

Specialist consultations for orthopaedic cases (held monthly), ear, nose and throat cases (held fortnightly), and ophthalmic cases held weekly, were also carried out.

The Ultra Violet Ray Clinic, which was held twice weekly in winter and once weekly in summer was well attended.

Minor ailment clinics, in the charge of the school nurse, were held daily with an average attendance of 30 school children.

P A R T F I V E .

H O M E N U R S I N G .

The demand for the services of the home nurses has been maintained during the year. In the divisional area 19,218 visits have been made to patients.

P A R T S I X .

C A R E A N D A F T E R C A R E .

Much good work has been done under this heading during the year. A Health Visitor has visited the hospital daily. On the one hand she has furnished background histories of patients where such information was of importance, and on the other hand she has obtained early information of the discharge of patients from hospital whom the personal health services would assist.

H o m e H e l p s .

The demand for the Home Help Service has steadily increased and even with the increased establishment of Home Helps now permitted, it is proving difficult to cope with the demand.

P A R T S E V E N .

M E N T A L H E A L T H .

Mental Health is a responsibility of a sub-committee of the County Council. Work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 and 1930, has been undertaken by a Duly Authorised Officer living in Pontefract, he is Mr. R.S.H. Battye, of 27 Grove Lea Crescent, Pontefract; his telephone number is Pontefract 813. We have had one Mental Deficiency Social Worker, Miss E.T. Simons, for work under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

P A R T E I G H T .

A M B U L A N C E S E R V I C E S .

The Ambulance Service of the Borough is now operated by the County Council, and its administration is the responsibility of the County Ambulance Officer.

The Home Relief Committee, which was held weekly in winter and once weekly in summer was well attended. Much attention is given to the needs of the school children, with special reference to the attendance of the children.

PART FIVE

HOME RELIEF

The demand for the services of the Home Relief Committee during the year in the division was 12,000 cases, which has been made to pay for.

PART SIX

CASES AND AFTER CARE

Such work has been done under this heading during the year. A Home Relief Committee has been formed in the division and has been instructed to investigate cases of persons who are in need of help, and to provide them with the necessary relief. The demand for the Home Relief Committee has increased and it is provided with the necessary funds.

PART SEVEN

GENERAL SERVICES

Home Relief is a responsibility of a sub-committee of the County Council. It has been instructed to investigate cases of persons who are in need of help, and to provide them with the necessary relief. The demand for the Home Relief Committee has increased and it is provided with the necessary funds.

PART EIGHT

GENERAL SERVICES

The Home Relief Committee of the Council is now operated by the County Council, and the administration is the responsibility of the County Council. The demand for the Home Relief Committee has increased and it is provided with the necessary funds.

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year Ended the Thirty-First December, 1953

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

and including Information for the use of
the Medical Officer of Health pursuant
to the requirements of the Sanitary
Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Municipal Offices,
Pontefract.

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I Preface to the Report	3
II Text of the Report -	
Part A. Sanitary Circumstances:	
Water Supplies	4
Swimming Baths - Sanitary	
Condition of Water	6
General Sanitation	6
Offensive Trades	6
Welfare of Workers in Factories, Workplaces and Shops	7
Atmospheric Pollution	8
Part B. Housing:	
General Conditions and Overcrowding	9
Inspection, Repair and Clearance of Unfit Houses	11
Improvement of Accommodation under the Housing Act, 1949	12
Eradication of Verminous Conditions	12
Part C. Food Inspection and Supervision:	
Meat Supply	12
Milk Supply	14
Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream	15
Food Premises and Hygiene	15
Registration of Food Hawkers and Premises	16
Part D. Miscellaneous Duties:	
Rodent Control Service	17
Control of Pet Animal Shops	18
Filling Materials for Upholstered Articles	18
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers	18
III Tabular Statement of Inspections made and Notices Served:	
A. Nature and Number of Inspections Made	19
B. Number of Notices Served and Results	21

Borough of Pontefract

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, 1953

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you this my Sixteenth Annual Report in which are given facts and figures relating to the several activities of my Department during 1953. Much of the information has been prepared to meet the requirements of Government Departments concerned, and a Table of Contents is given to enable reference to particular aspects of the work to be made. In this preface I comment briefly on some of the more salient features of the Report to give to any who may be unable to peruse closely the more detailed information some idea of the year's main activities.

The Department's housing activities comprise the inspection of property for defects; its repair, improvement, closing or demolition, according to condition. During the year 256 houses were repaired and 9 were demolished. No application was made for Improvement Grant under the Housing Act, 1949. The apparent failure of this Act to secure improvement of sound property without modern amenities is commented upon and reference is made to the need for a comprehensive housing survey at the earliest opportune time. The 308 new houses erected in the Borough during 1953 enabled many people living in unhealthy and trying circumstances to improve their environment; for although there are few known cases of statutory overcrowding it is clear that overcrowding statistics related to the legal standard of overcrowding do not give the true picture. The majority of complaints received by the Department related to some housing problem or other, in particular, the disrepair of houses, and it is certain that but for the activities of the Department in this connection some houses would have fallen into a state of complete unfitness.

Food inspection and supervision have claimed almost one half of the Department's time. The foods most likely to be a source of trouble to public health authorities - meat and milk and certain of their products - were again given routine attention. All animals slaughtered in the Borough were given post mortem examination, resulting in some 13 tons of ration meat being condemned as unfit for food. Meat products manufacture, ice-cream manufacture and sale, milk distribution - all these activities and the premises concerned are registered with the Authority, and periodic visitation was made to ensure compliance with the relevant enactments. A comprehensive sampling programme was maintained for ice-cream, milks of various designations and milk direct from herds.

The hygienic handling of food in shops and factories has been given as much time as practicable. Some of the foodstuffs handled in Pontefract - that in the liquorice factories - is distributed throughout the country and to many parts of the world: every effort is made by the firms concerned to produce their goods under the best possible conditions. Many shops in the Borough operate at the highest practicable level of cleanliness: others need frequent visitation, and, as the Report points out, this has not been possible on the scale required. The Health Committee have threatened legal proceedings where conditions have been bad, but in no case has it been considered necessary to resort to actual proceedings. Food hygiene work among personnel employed in the food trades is largely a matter of Health Education and much more time - if it were available - could be spent in the factories and shops on this subject.

The Report deals at some length with Atmospheric Pollution, both regarding offensive trades and smoke prevention. So far as the latter is concerned little can be done immediately to minimise smoke pollution from domestic sources other than by publicising the dangers

of smoke and the advantages of a pure atmosphere. Pollution can be minimised by turning increasing quantities of coal into gas, electricity or solid smokeless fuel, and by manufacturing in increasing numbers the modern appliances capable of burning fuel efficiently. Progress is largely dependent on activity at national level, but local interest in the subject must be aroused if advantage is to be taken of progress made.

So far as industrial smoke in Pontefract is concerned the plant installed at all our factories, given suitable fuel and competent operation is capable of performing as efficiently as necessary to comply with local byelaws; but during the year it has become apparent that increased trade at some of our factories has resulted in greater demands on steam-raising plant, in consequence of which the margin between satisfactory and unsatisfactory performance has been narrowed. It is not always appreciated, however, that within a working day of eight hours an industrial chimney can send out an aggregate of half an hour's dense black smoke - providing it is spaced at less than two minutes in each half hour - and still not violate the local byelaw.

Laboratory facilities continue to be used in an increasing number of ways. During 1953, 378 specimens or samples were submitted to bacteriological or chemical laboratories in the course of the Department's duties, an increase of 145 on the previous year; these involved public water supplies for chemical composition and bacterial condition, swimming bath waters for bacterial condition, deposit gauge contents and lead peroxide candles for atmospheric pollution investigation, sewage effluents, milks for presence of tuberculosis, heat-treated milks - pasteurised and sterilised - for efficiency of treatment, milks for cleanliness, ice-cream for bacterial grading, specimens for confirmation of meat inspection opinions, food for poisoning organisms and samples of filling materials taken under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. The available laboratory facilities are used to the full: they are an essential component in the control of the matters mentioned.

Welfare in shops and factories is divided between H.M. Factory Department, the local Shops Authority and the Sanitary Authority. The duties placed on the last named by the Factories Act, 1937, and the Shops Act, 1950, have been carried out as usual during the year.

No major legislation affecting the Department was introduced in 1953, but byelaws were made (a) controlling hygiene in barbers' and hairdressers' establishments, (b) with respect to building, and (c) requiring the sterilisation of animal feeding meat. The last-named byelaws made under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, provide that no person in the Borough shall sell animal feeding meat unless it has been reduced to portions not exceeding two pounds in weight and sterilised by boiling for not less than one hour. This measure will safeguard human health and the health of animals consuming such meat. The dangers of handling raw meat of this class are not always appreciated by those purchasing it, and a wider adoption of the byelaw is most desirable.

PART A

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

A sufficient and constant supply of wholesome water was distributed throughout the district by the Corporation during the year, the supply for domestic use being of the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

The supply was sampled regularly for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. 48 samples of chlorinated water going into supply were submitted to bacteriological examination, and 46 were reported upon as Class 1 waters. In 2 isolated cases the waters fell to Classes 2 and 3 respectively; investigations showed no apparent cause for this, and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

Forty samples of waters taken from source, before chlorination, were classified as indicated in Table 1.

Table. Bacteriological Classification of Water Samples

Source of raw water	No. of Samples falling into the Classes named:				Total samples taken
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	
Heck	14	-	1	-	15
Roall	8	2	2	-	12
Eggborough	10	1	-	-	11
Tanshelf	2	-	-	-	2

It is some years since this report referred in greater detail to the classification of water supplies and the following may be of interest to members. The result of bacteriological examination of a water is given as the number of coliform organisms per 100 millilitre of the water, and the standard set down by the Ministry of Health for non-chlorinated piped supplies is as follows:-

Class No.	Presumptive coli count	Description
1	Less than 1	Highly satisfactory
2	1 - 2	Satisfactory
3	3 - 10	Suspicious
4	More than 10	Unsatisfactory

Throughout the year 50% of the samples taken should fall into Class 1, 80% should not fall below Class 2, and the remainder should not fall below Class 3. The following Table sets out the standard reached by unchlorinated waters sampled from the respective sources, as given in Table 1.

Table 2. Comparison of Waters with Prescribed Standard

% of Samples falling into -	Prescribed Standard %	Sources of Supply			
		Heck %	Roall %	Eggborough %	Tanshelf %
Class 1	Not less than 50	93	67	99	100
Classes 1 and 2	Not less than 80	93	83	100	100
Class 3	Not more than 20	7	17	-	-
Class 4	0	-	-	-	-

Twenty-four samples (including four taken direct from each of the principal sources) were submitted to chemical analysis and reported upon as satisfactory, the waters being of good organic quality.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the public supply. Only five houses are served by outside stand-pipes, and these properties are scheduled for clearance under the appropriate provisions of the Housing Acts.

Swimming Baths - Sanitary Condition of Water

The polluted water of swimming baths would seem to be only a rare source of infection, but it is nevertheless necessary to ensure that adequate and continuous measures are being taken to secure the destruction of polluting organisms which one must expect to encounter in such waters. Weekly samples were taken from inlet and outlet ends of both large and small baths, and 78 of the 107 samples subjected to bacteriological examination were shown to be sterile. In 20 samples from the large bath and 9 from the small, coliform organisms were present. These fall principally into two groups: (a) samples taken during April, i.e. in the early weeks of the season, when the bathing load was uncertain, and (b) during July when peak loads were being encountered.

Marginal chlorination was the sterilising process used throughout the season. On five sampling occasions the residual at the inlet of the large bath reached 1.0 parts per million, 0.5 on four and 0.75 on the remaining 20 occasions, and the residual at the inlet end on no occasion fell to 0.2. It would appear, however, in view of the bacteriological sampling results obtained, that at the commencement of the season and at peak periods a higher dosage is desirable.

The Ministry of Health recommend that the alkalinity of the water be maintained within an operating range of 7.2 to 8.0 units of the pH scale. The pH value of the water was noted on each occasion on which the water was sampled and in all cases was satisfactory, the minimum reading being 7.7, the maximum 8.0 and the average 7.8.

General Sanitation

All built up areas in the Borough are sewered, and records indicate that only 37 houses are not connected to sewers. Sanitary accommodation is almost entirely water-carriage: the 22 conveniences of other types represent only a fraction of one per cent of the total. In these isolated cases there are practical difficulties preventing conversion.

Although the Borough has modern sewerage, the drainage systems connecting buildings with the sewers are in many cases obsolete in design. Improvements are being effected gradually and figures relating to inspections made, and notices served, are to be found in Part III of the Report.

With the exception of nine properties still served by privy-middens all premises in the Borough where domestic refuse is produced are served by metal dustbins of approved specification. The nine properties referred to are in isolated places where no sewer is available. The Corporation have not adopted a Municipal Bin Scheme of the type envisaged by Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936. When new bins are required notice pursuant to sub-section 1 of this section is served on the owner or occupier of property following consideration of the facts known to the Corporation.

Offensive Trades

There are two premises in the Borough on which offensive trades are carried out. Great care is necessary at such premises if nuisance is to be avoided, for, as will be realised, they are largely dealing with materials which when received on the premises are already in some stage of decomposition. The control of this type of business involves

three main factors: (a) hygienic reception and storage of raw materials, (b) processing under conditions which permit of the satisfactory despatch of the offensive gases generated, and (c) ready disposal of any finished product which itself is likely to decompose if stored for any length of time.

Regarding the reception of raw material it will be appreciated that the quantities brought in fluctuate considerably, and that at exceptional peak periods it may not be practicable to work up this material immediately upon receipt. Effluvia nuisances have arisen from this source, and the management concerned have been urged to take all practicable steps open to them to minimise nuisance of this kind. In connection with the process itself elaborate and expensive plant has been installed to destroy noxious gases; in one case by combustion, and in the other by condensation and chlorination. I have personally noted little nuisance from actual processing although it may be said, particularly in the case of the latter method of treatment, that nuisance can readily arise if the plant is not operated with continuous care and attention.

The accumulation of processed material at one factory has given rise to nuisance. Here economic factors are involved: if processed material is not sold it can become a serious problem to the Management. Such material which has consolidated over a considerable period can give rise to severe nuisance when disturbed for subsequent removal either to waste or for re-treatment.

The Health Committee have considered all these factors; they appointed a sub-committee to visit the plants concerned, and received their report that all reasonably necessary steps were being taken, often in difficult circumstances, to operate these trades with a minimum of nuisance.

Factories, Workplaces and Shops

Arrangements for the health and comfort of workers in their places of employment have again received attention during the year. The routine inspection of factories and shops has been continued and although the Corporation on no occasion resorted to statutory action to secure improvements, the failure of some factory occupiers to respond promptly to informal notices did not encourage the extension of this courtesy.

The term 'factory' as used in the Factories Act, 1937, includes all premises where articles are made, altered or repaired for purposes of gain and I append a list of the different trades carried on in the premises registered as factories:-

Automobile engineering	Grain and seed processing
Baking	Laundering
Barley processing	Liquorice confectionery
Beer bottling	manufacture and pecking
Boot repairing	Malting, etc.
Box and packing material	Milk pasteurisation
manufacture	Monumental masonry
Brush making	Photography
Building	Printing
Burling and mending	Saddlery
Clothes manufacture	Sawmill
Coal-gas distribution	Tailoring
Fat refining, etc.	Tinsmith
Fellmongering, etc.	Upholstering
Founding	Whitesmith
Furniture manufacture	Wire goods manufacture
and polishing	

There are 102 premises on the Factory Register, and Table 3 gives particulars relating to inspections, notices and defects found and remedied. The provisions of section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to means of escape in case of fire are administered by the Department: 18 certificates were amended and one new certificate issued during the course of the year.

Table 3. Factories Records, 1953

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections made	Number of Written Notices	Defects	
				Found	Remedied
(1) Factories without mechanical power (in which sections 1 to 4 and 6 and 7 of the Act are enforced by local authorities)	10	12	1	9	5
(2) Factories with mechanical power (in which section 7 is enforced by local authorities)	92	73	8	74	56
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by local authorities	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	102	85	9	83	61

The term 'workplace' as used in the Public Health Act, 1936, comprises offices, restaurant kitchens and most other premises in which persons are employed; but excludes domestic premises, factories and (except for 'overcrowding' purposes) shops to which the Shops Act, 1950, applies. A routine inspection of these premises was not made, but when unsatisfactory conditions came to my notice in the course of other duties, the requisite remedial measures were taken.

The term 'shop' includes warehouses used in connection with wholesale or retail trade, refreshment houses, lending libraries and hairdressing establishments. There are 386 shop premises on the Register, and the Shops Act, 1950, applies to some two-thirds of these. 75 visits for the investigation of welfare arrangements were made in 1953. 7 violations of the Shops Act were found and 5 remedied; in all other cases conditions were satisfactory.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council have maintained their active interest in this subject. They are represented on the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and on its Executive Committee, and sent a representative to the Annual Conference of the National Smoke Abatement Society. Pursuant to their powers under section 105 of the Public Health Act, 1936, they participate in the investigation of problems relating to atmospheric pollution: a standard deposit gauge, a lead peroxide instrument for the measurement of sulphur dioxide and a smoke filter for the measurement of suspended impurity have been operated throughout the year. Monthly returns were sent to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research.

Eighteen different chimneys were observed from time to time during the year, and the number of formal 30-minute observations was 82. Your Smoke Byelaws allow a total emission of up to two minutes black smoke within a continuous period of thirty minutes; any emission in excess of this is presumed to be a nuisance, and

on this standard 6 nuisances were noted during the aggregate observation period of 41 hours. Once again the principal offender was the local colliery: but measures which had been in hand several months for the improvement of the steam-raising plant on these premises were in progress at the end of the year, and at the time of writing the whole of the extensive plant at the Colliery has been converted to automatic mechanical stoking with a consequent abatement of the smoke nuisance. There is evidence that increased output at other factories in the Borough has resulted in an increased steam demand on plant which is already working near capacity. I am hoping that improvement in these cases will be reported in my next Annual Report.

During the year under review the problem of pollution of the atmosphere from the imperfect combustion of fuels received at National level greater publicity than ever before. The London fog disaster at the end of 1952, responsible for 4000 deaths, focused public attention on the dangers of smoke, and in a completely different direction the appeal for £1 million to restore Westminster Abbey from the ravages of smoke must have given many people food for thought. In July 1953 the Beaver Committee were appointed to examine the nature, causes and effects of air pollution and the efficacy of present preventive measures; to consider what further preventive measures were practicable; and to make recommendations.

In November this Committee issued an interim report in which they stated that the causes and remedies of pollution were known; the problem was one of practicability and economics, and of the education of the whole community. They estimated the cost of smoke, so far as it was measurable in money, and apart from the cost in wasted fuel which smoke itself represented, at more than £100 million a year. They further noted that the domestic fire was the biggest single smoke producer: in ratio to the coal burnt it produced twice as much smoke as industry, and discharged it at a lower level. It seemed to the Committee that the increased use of approved modern appliances and the provision of smokeless fuels were the best means at present of reducing smoke from domestic chimneys, and they proposed to investigate how progress in this direction could be accelerated. In industry saving could be achieved by improved boiler-house operation and supervision, better maintenance of plant, and by replacing obsolete equipment. In this latter respect there had been little response to the Government loan scheme, introduced in June 1953, whereby capital for approved improvement schemes could be obtained on favourable terms.

PART B

HOUSING

General Conditions and Overcrowding

Since post-war house building began, 1262 houses have been erected in the Borough, 308 of these during the year under review, as detailed in Table 4, overleaf.

In the absence of data which could be obtained only from a survey conducted on the lines of the Overcrowding Survey of 1936, any estimate of total housing need in the Borough can only be made with some hesitation; but it has been the practice in earlier reports to measure this position roughly by taking the number of outstanding applicants for Corporation houses who are living in lodgings, and to consider this figure as the number of housing units below minimum requirements. At the end of 1953 this figure was 752, 14 less than at the beginning of the year. During recent years the number of outstanding applications in the class mentioned has increased at the average rate of 54 per year. This year's decrease, however, may be largely accounted for by the allocation

of some Coal Industry Housing Association accommodation to Corporation applicants, and does not necessarily indicate a significant trend.

Table 4. New Housing Progress 1946 - 1953

Year	No. of houses erected -					
	By the Corporation			By Private Enterprise	By Housing Association	Total
	Permanent	Temporary	Total			
1946	0	60	60	23		83
1947	164		164	29		193
1948	169		169	25		194
1949	137		137	15		152
1950	104		104	13		117
1951	86		86	10		96
1952	106		106	13		119
1953	107		107	23	178	308
Totals	873	60	933	151	178	1262

When the term 'overcrowding' is used in any particular context it is well to define it. In this report 'statutory overcrowding' is used to signify the gross state of overcrowding when an offence against the Housing Act, 1936, is committed unless the tenant and landlord take steps prescribed by the Act to secure abatement. Such overcrowding occurs when the number of persons sleeping in a house exceeds the permitted number of persons as given in the rent book.

The number of known cases of statutory overcrowding has risen slightly during the year: 6 new cases of overcrowding were added to the register and 3 were removed consequent upon abatement. The number of cases found and abated during the past five years are given in Table 5: it is shown that during this period 93 cases of statutory overcrowding were abated, 53 of these as a result of Corporation rehousing.

Table 5. Incidence and Abatement of Overcrowding

No. of cases -	Year				
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
On register at beginning of year	58	39	20	12	9
Added to register during the year	22	13	2	4	6
Abated during the year:					
By Corporation rehousing	36	9	6	1	1
By other means	5	23	4	6	2
Total	41	32	10	7	3 *
On register at end of year	39	20	12	9	12 **

* No. of persons concerned 31
 ** No. of families living in these dwellings 18
 ** No. of persons concerned 103

The term 'overcrowding' as generally used by the public means something quite different from statutory overcrowding. Complaints of overcrowding frequently arise in cases where, although there is no lack of space, the number of bedrooms in the house does not permit of the segregation of children of different sexes. It is not uncommon to find among applicants for Corporation houses cases of this kind in which conditions are most unsatisfactory; but as they do not constitute 'statutory overcrowding' such applicants receive no priority consideration.

One looks forward to the time when a revision of the legal definition of overcrowding will become practicable, and so allow a more realistic approach to this matter.

Inspection, Repair and Clearance of Unfit Houses

1060 inspections were made specifically for housing defects during the year. 268 houses were rendered fit and 9 were demolished.

The position regarding slum clearance remains much the same as last year although it is anticipated that new legislation will be available in 1954 to expedite treatment of this class of property. There are some 70 houses which are considered to be totally unfit for habitation and not worth reconditioning; a further 250 old houses call for a more detailed examination before their remaining life can be estimated, but none is expected to serve much more than 15 years, and some considerably less. A programme for the gradual clearance of these should be prepared as soon as the house building situation allows. The modernisation of soundly constructed older houses not within the above class is dealt with in a later paragraph, but it is convenient to refer at this point to the need for a comprehensive programme for clearance, repair, reconditioning or improvement of house property as the circumstances demand. The integration of these various activities in this way may not be possible immediately, but the opportune time should not be too far distant.

Further statistics relating to housing activities:

No. of houses inspected for housing defects and found to need further attention:

(a) considered incapable of repair	8
(b) considered capable of repair	328

No. of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action 255

No. of reports made to the local authority with a view to:

(a) The service of notices requiring the execution of works	
(i) under Housing Act	7
(ii) under Public Health Act	17
(b) The making of demolition or closing orders	4

No. of formal notices served requiring the execution of works -

(a) under Housing Act	1
(b) under Public Health Act	15

No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices -

(a) under Housing Act	1
(b) under Public Health Act	12

No. of demolition orders made	0
No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the house closed	0
No. of houses demolished -	
(a) in pursuance of demolition orders	3
(b) informally or following undertakings	6

Improvement of Accommodation under the Housing Act, 1949

During the year under review no applications for grant towards housing improvements have been made, although in a few cases enquiries have been made by owners contemplating improvements.

Throughout the country Part II of this Act appears to have failed in its purpose of encouraging owners of older houses to provide them with modern amenities. In Pontefract the owners of 250 suitable houses were circularised but none took advantage of the scheme. It is regrettable that such houses, soundly constructed and with a remaining life of many years, should not be modernised. The grant is a generous one - half the cost of improvement, and one would have expected owner-occupiers in particular to seize the opportunity. Steps are being taken by the Government to widen the scope of the scheme and make it more attractive. This is a matter to which all owners of older houses should give earnest consideration. The Department will give all assistance and information possible.

The Corporation's Halfpenny Lane Estate Improvement Scheme prepared in 1952, was commenced in 1953 and during the year 22 houses were provided with modern amenities. Plans for a further instalment of 25 houses were prepared but work had not started at the end of the year.

Eradication of Verminous Conditions

The Housing Committee has continued its practice of giving disinfection treatment to furniture which is verminous or likely to be verminous, before allowing otherwise suitable applicants to take up occupation of Corporation houses. The Corporation's Contractors carry out the removal and disinfect with hydrogen cyanide before unloading. 3 such cases were dealt with in 1953.

Verminous conditions were found at 26 houses during 1953: 25 Corporation and 1 privately-owned: appropriate action was taken.

PART C

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

Meat Supply

The Ministry of Food continued to use the Abattoir at Newtown for the preparation of meat for distribution to retailers in the Borough and surrounding districts, covering a population of 55,000. The whole of the meat dressed at the Abattoir was inspected, the total number of carcasses examined during the year being 15,274.

Table 6. Record of Meat Inspection and Incidence of Disease

Class of Animal	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,995	533	307	9,283	3,156
Number inspected	1,995	533	307	9,283	3,156
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	2	4	9	9	9
(ii) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	425	202	4	327	806
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	21.4	38.3	4.2	3.6	25.8
Tuberculosis only:					
(iii) Whole carcasses condemned	9	22	5	-	3
(iv) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	219	171	2	-	153
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.4	36.2	2.3	-	4.9

A total of 72 carcasses, 282 part carcasses and 3,446 organs and parts were condemned, the total weight being 30 tons, 1 cwt., 3 qtrs., 26 lbs. Of this quantity 13 tons., 5 cwts., 2 qtrs., 1 lb., was ration meat. It should be stated that whilst every precaution is taken to prevent unfit meat from reaching the consumer, equal care is taken to ensure that no meat is unnecessarily condemned.

In carcasses the principal cause of condemnation was tuberculosis, 75.3% of the total weight of meat condemned from all causes being due to this infection. In organs the principal cause of condemnation was cirrhosis caused by liver fluke (*distoma hepaticum*): 643 bovine livers, i.e. 25.4% examined, showed lesions of invasion by this parasite, resulting in 6,489 lbs. of liver, some 18.3% of the total weight examined, being condemned as unfit for human consumption.

During the year 43 beast carcasses were found to be affected with *cysticercus bovis*, giving a percentage incidence of 1.7. In all cases the invasion was localised and before being released for human consumption associated carcasses and organs were subjected to refrigeration.

The figures for the last four years are given for comparison:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>% Incidence</u>
1950	24	0.93
1951	32	1.16
1952	28	1.22
1953	43	1.70

The statistics given in Table 6 include the following numbers of animals which arrived at the Centre for casualty slaughter:-

Cattle	55,	Calves	31
Sheep and Lambs	33,	Pigs	393

The higher incidence of disease in this class of animal is illustrated by the following figures relating to cattle; of the 55 carcasses examined, 9 whole carcasses and all organs were condemned, i.e. 16.3% against a figure for non-casualty cattle of 1.1%.

Transport and Handling of Meat

No violation of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, occurred which could not be dealt with informally and conditions were satisfactory.

Slaughtering Facilities

This Report deals with the position at the end of 1953. At the time of writing, however, a date has been given for the decontrol of slaughtering and the derationing of meat. It would seem unnecessary, therefore, to comment at length on the subject of slaughtering accommodation: many changes are likely to occur in 1954 and any discussion of the present position would doubtless be purely a matter of record. It can be said that the situation outlined in previous Reports continued during the year under review. The slaughterhouse at Newtown was too small for the large throughput of over 15,000 animals, representing 6,000 cattle units. The next Annual Report will include a comprehensive report on developments in this section of the Department's activities, and I will, therefore, make no further comment at the present time.

Milk Supply

There are 58 distributors on the Register, which figure includes 38 distributors who sell only 'Sterilised' milk from shops. Very little milk is now sold unbottled, and most is heat-treated.

Under the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 85 licences were issued during the year authorising the sale of graded milks. 17 of these were in respect of 'Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)', 20 in respect of 'Pasteurised' and 48 in respect of 'Sterilised' milk.

Table 7. Graded Milks: Sampling Records

Grade of Milk	Test applied		
	Methylene Blue	Phosphatase	Turbidity
Pasteurised	30	30	-
Sterilised	-	-	10
T.T. Pasteurised	4	4	-

All samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

Five samples were taken for biological examination for the detection of tuberculosis: negative results were recorded in each case.

The number of cows condemned for generalised tuberculosis at the Abattoir again represented a high proportion of the total number inspected: in all, 21 whole carcasses were condemned out of a total of 533 cows inspected. No animals were sent to the Abattoir under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

At the end of the year there were 3 registered dairies in the Borough. Conditions were satisfactory.

Generally, the standard of distribution is satisfactory. Minor violations of the Milk and Dairies Regulations have been noted, but formal action has been unnecessary. All shops from which milk is sold comply with the relevant provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, Regulations and Byelaws.

Ice-Cream

The places where ice-cream is manufactured, stored and sold have been visited as necessary and 101 samples of ice-cream have been submitted for bacteriological examination. The bulk of ice-cream sold in the Borough is not manufactured here. Two factories are registered, although one of these has been used for storage only. At the other the 'complete cold mix' method was used. 58 other premises are registered for sale and storage only. A high standard of hygiene has been maintained.

There is no test for the bacteriological grading of ice-cream which is considered satisfactory for use as a statutory test, but on the provisional grading as present practised the 101 samples of ice-cream taken during the year may be grouped as follows:-

79	fell into	Grade 1
11	" "	Grade 2
6	" "	Grade 3
5	" "	Grade 4

No sample should fall into Grade 4: the offending samples had not been manufactured in the Borough and the matter was taken up with the outside authority. Regarding other grades it is interesting to compare these with (1) the official standard, (2) the position in 1947, when the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into operation; (3) the position in 1948 and, (4) with the figures for the present year.

Table 8. Ice-Cream Grading

Grade	Official Standard %	Figures for -		
		1947 %	1948 %	1953 * %
1	Not less than 50	37	70	78
1 and 2	Not less than 80	63	83	89
3	Not more than 20	37	13	6

* Figures almost identical with those for 1952.

Food Premises

The conditions under which food for sale is prepared and handled in factories, warehouses, shops, etc., in the Borough, have again received attention from the Department, although, due to a change in personnel, the Department worked one Inspector short for a period of ten weeks, and this resulted in a decrease in activity

in food hygiene work. Of the 243 premises in the Borough on which food for sale is manufactured, stored or sold, only 19 were inspected more than twice in the year, 30 were inspected twice, 103 only once, and 91 were not inspected at all. Table 9 below, shows that although only two-thirds of the food rooms inspected in 1952 were inspected in the year under review 57 more offences were noted. This would appear to call for more rather than less attention in the future to food hygiene work in shops and factories, and I hope it will prove possible to do this in 1954.

Referring to Ministry of Food Circular MF 12/49 on the subject of Clean Food Campaigns the Department has continued to concentrate on its statutory responsibilities under the Food and Drugs Acts and Regulations and Byelaws made thereunder, rather than on the organising of Exhibitions and Clean Food Guilds. Such activities are time consuming when the staff is already fully occupied on essential services. Much time has been spent with food handlers at the place of employment, stressing the fundamentals of hygienic handling.

The following Table gives some figures indicative of the Department's activities in this field, but it will be realised in work of this type figures have a limited significance.

Table 9. Inspection of Food Premises

Year	1951	1952	1953
No. of visits paid to food premises (excluding Markets)	195	352	225
No. of food rooms inspected	506	902	588
No. of section 13 offences noted	80	102	140
No. of section 13 offences outstanding at end of year	22	38	86
No. of offences against the byelaws	111	85	104
No. of byelaw offences outstanding at end of year	26	21	47

Registration of Hawkers of Food and their Storage Premises

Section 76 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, became operative in the Borough during 1952. This section provides for the registration of food hawkers and their storage premises.

If it appears to the local authority that the public health is likely to be endangered by any act or default (relating to the quality, storage or distribution of food) of a person who has applied for registration, or, in the case of his premises, they do not satisfy a prescribed standard, an applicant may be refused registration.

During the year application was made by one food hawker for registration. Registration was accorded, bringing the total number registered to 35.

PART D

MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

Rodent Control Service

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, so far as this relates to rodent infestation. Regular measures are taken to ensure as far as practicable the freedom from infestation of all premises under their control; owners and occupiers of infested properties are reminded of their responsibilities under the Act, and a Rodent Control Service is maintained by the Corporation, available to householders free of charge and to others at a charge which just covers the cost of treatment. The Act places on local authorities a specific duty to inspect their district for infestation, and roughly one half of the senior rodent operative's time is spent on the discovery of infestations.

The menace of rats and mice to the public health and to our national economy is not fully realised. Plague, typhus, Weils disease, trichinosis and dysentery are some of the diseases associated with rat infestation; whilst from the economic aspect the damage done by rodent pests is estimated at not less than £50 million. Occupiers of business premises which are vulnerable to infestation are showing increasing concern, but many infestations are still not notified to the Department. Total eradication should be aimed at, but it will be appreciated that in an ancient Borough with many old buildings which it is impracticable to make rat proof, and with it's location at the centre of a considerable agricultural belt, recurrent infestation is unavoidable. In consequence much work is being done over and over again.

The following Table gives statistics relating to the incidence of infestation and to disinfection measures taken:-

Table 10. Rodent Control Statistics

	Class of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling-houses	Agricultural	Business and Industrial	
Total number of properties in district	33	6558	35	1006	7632
No. of properties inspected as a result of -					
(a) notification	2	32	0	21	55
(b) otherwise	31	26	17	123	197
No. of properties found to be infested					
(a) major	2	0	1	1	4
(b) minor	13	58	3	82	156
No. of properties treated by local authority	15	58	4	83	160

The total number of treatments given during the year was 389. The term 'treatment' used in this connection comprises prebaiting with unpoisoned bait on four successive days, poisoning on the fifth day, and post-baiting on three successive days a fortnight later to test the effectiveness of the treatment and to assess the need for further treatment. The use of the new slow-acting poison, 'Warfarin', was developed during the year, and some 13% of the above infestations were dealt with in this way.

The Council have continued their membership of the Rodent Control Planning and Advisory Committee (Group No.11) which comprises representatives of seven local authorities in this area, and whose functions include those of stimulating and maintaining interest and activity throughout the area in rodent control administration.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act provides for the licensing of pet animal shops by the local authority, who, before granting a licence, must be satisfied that -

- (a) Animals will at all times be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness;
- (b) Animals will be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals;
- (c) Mammals will not be sold at too early an age;
- (d) All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread among animals of infectious diseases;
- (e) Appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

During the year 5 applications were made for renewal of licences. In all cases licences were granted subject to prescribed conditions.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles. Regulations have been issued prescribing the standards of cleanliness applicable for the purpose of the Act in relation to the various kinds of filling materials used.

The Act provides for the registration with the local authority of premises where filling materials of types specified in the Act are used in manufacturing articles of upholstery, and creates a number of offences including the use of prescribed filling materials on unregistered premises and the presence of unclean filling materials on registered premises.

Two premises are registered with the Corporation, and the two samples of filling materials taken in 1953 satisfied the statutory standards of cleanliness as indicated by prescribed tests.

Hairdressers and Barbers

Section 120 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, provides that no person shall carry on the business of a hairdresser or barber on any premises in the district unless he and those premises are registered. 23 such premises have been registered with the Council.

Byelaws made under sub-section (3) of this section of the Act became operative on the 1st January, 1953. These provide for -

- (a) the cleanliness of premises registered under this section and of the instruments, towels, materials and equipment used therein; and
- (b) the cleanliness of persons employed in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

All premises were visited during the year. 29 offences were noted, but all were remedied consequent upon informal action.

TABULAR STATEMENT

Complying with Article 27 of the Sanitary
Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935

A. Nature and Number of Inspections made by the Corporation's Sanitary Inspectors and assistant staff during 1953.

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Public Health Act, 1936</u>	
Regulated Premises Inspections:	
Moveable dwellings and sites	40
Offensive trades	36
Workplaces (not factories)	5
Statutory Nuisance Inspections:	
Dwellinghouses	498
Others	107
Atmospheric Pollution:	
Industrial Smoke observations	82
Visits to boiler plant	21
Pollution investigations (deposit and sulphur oxides sampling, etc.)	328
Verminous Infestation Inspections (including visits to prospective tenants of Corporation houses):	409
Infectious Disease, etc., Enquiries:	50
General Sanitation and Drainage Inspections:	
Dwellinghouses	453
Other premises	50
Water Supplies	
Sampling - Public Supplies	113
Swimming Bath waters	108
Inspections	5
Refuse Collection and Disposal Enquiries and Inspections:	141
<u>Factories Act, 1937</u>	
Inspections for Sanitary Condition:	
Factories with mechanical power	73
Factories without mechanical power	12
Inspections of means of escape in case of fire	34
Outworkers premises	1
<u>Shops Act, 1950</u>	
Total shops investigated	138
Inspections of shops to which Act was found to apply	75

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949</u>	
Housing Conditions:	
Inspections for housing defects and works in progress (excluding Public Health Act inspections)	95
Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	14
Overcrowding:	
Case investigations	53
Dwellinghouses measured up for 'permitted number' data	7
Improvement Grant Inspections:	76
<u>Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 and 1950</u>	
Meat Inspection:	
Visits to Abattoir for meat inspection	478
Number of carcasses examined at Abattoir	15,274
Knackers Yard:	5
Milk Supplies:	
Investigations under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	63
Investigations under Special Designations Regulations, 1949	72
Sampling	49
Ice-Cream:	
Investigations under Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations -	
Manufacture	2
Retailing	97
Sampling	101
Other Foods:	
Visits to shops, etc., for food inspection	138
Food Premises Inspections:	
Pasteurising plant and dairies	9
Abattoir and other premises under Public Health (Meat) Regulations	25
Rooms under section 13	588
Premises under section 14 -	
Ice-cream and preserved food, etc.	57
Investigations under Food Handling Byelaws:	228
Food Poisoning Enquiries:	5
<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949</u>	
Inspections of premises for infestation, hygiene, proofing, etc. (including inspections made by senior rodent operative)	721
Inspections under Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations	13
Sewer manholes tested for infestation	84
<u>Reg Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951</u>	
Sampling and inspection of records	2

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Inspection of premises and investigations following applications for licences: 6

West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951

Registration of Hawkers and Storage Premises:
 Inspection of premises and investigations following application for licence 11
 Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers:
 Inspection of premises 45

Nature	No. of Informal Notices					No. of Statutory Notices				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(k)	(l)
Public Health Act, 1936: Section 39, 44 and 45	18	114	132	112	7	13	7	7	5	2
	6	245	251	222	9	20	9	9	9	3
" " 75	15	71	86	55	10	21	10	7		
Miscellaneous 93		3	3	3						
Housing Act, 1936: Section 9	18	23	41	30	1	10	13	1		13
Factories Act, 1937: Part One	7	9	16	9		7				
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: Section 4	6	106	112	102		10				
Section 6	10	10	10	10						

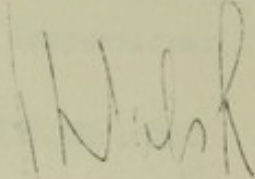
Act and Section under which, or, in the case of informal notices, preliminary to which, notice was served.

Not complied with

B. Number of Notices Served and the Result of Service

In conclusion may I thank the Health Committee for the keen interest they have evinced throughout the year in the activities of the Department; Officials of the Council for their help and co-operation, and members of the Department's staff for their continued zeal in the performance of duties which were not always congenial.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Municipal Offices,
Pontefract.

July, 1954.



