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BOROUGH OF

PONTEFRACT

# ANNUAL REPORT

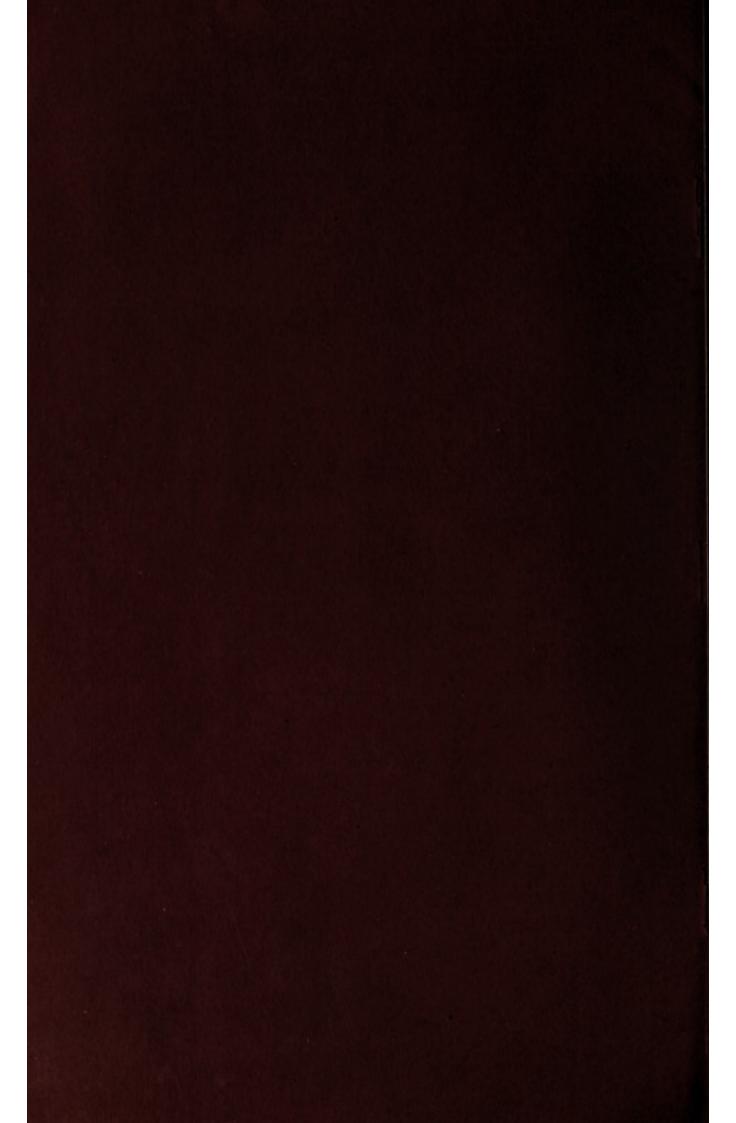
of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR



BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

<u>B Y</u>

J. F. F R A S E R

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

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 1955.

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.

John 7. maser.

. To The More to Toronto of The Settled

#### PONTEFRACT BOROUGH

## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1955.

Chairman: Cr. B. Wood.

Vice-Chairman: Cr. G.E. Poppleton

Ald. J. Rhodes.

Cr. J. Blackburn, O.B.E.

Cr. T.P. Brindley, O.B.E. J.P.

Cr. R. Cunningham.

Cr. J.H. Masterman.

Cr. J. Walton.

Cr. T.W. Hill.

Cr. A.S. Dobson.

Cr. C. Dyer.

Cr. Mrs. V. Pritchard.

Cr. Mrg. V. Grischard

#### PART ONE

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the Borough:

4,865 acres

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population: 24,410.

Number of inhabited houses(end of 1955)according to Rate books:

7,266

Rateable Value: 1955 - £151,814.

Sum Represented by penny rate: 1955 - £584

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

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1954.
BIRTHS.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate Illegitimate	229 (214) 10 (18)	195 (201)	424 (415) 18 (26)
Total	239 (232)	203 (209)	442 (441)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 18.1 (18.8)
Percentage of illegitimate births 4.07 (5.9)

Still Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate Illegitimate	13 (5)	9 (14)	22 (19)
Total	13 (6)	9 (15)	22 (21)

Rate per 1,000 total(live and still) births: 47.4 (45.5)

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 0.90 (0.89)

DEATHS.	Male.	Female.	Total.
All age groups.	127 (149)	97 (96)	245 (224)
Infants under 1 yr.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate Illegitimate Total	7 (7)	5 (8)	12 (15)
TOURT	7 (8)	6 (8)	13 (16)

Maternal Deaths.

NIL (NIL)

#### NHO THAT

#### SECTION CALUES ON SOUTHERN SECTIONS

(SER) GIR

SOF FOR LEGISTER

#### Death Rates.

General rate per 1,000 population All infants per 1,000 live births Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live	9.2 (10.5) 29.4 (36.3)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate	28.3 (34.01)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	55.1 (38.46) NIL (NIL)

The principal causes of death are set out in the following

## TABLE I.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory Malignant Neoplasm Stomach Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus Malignant Neoplasm Breast Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms Leukaemia, aleukaemia Vascular lesions of nervous system Coronary disease, angina Hypertension with heart disease Other heart diseases Other circulatory diseases Pneumonia Influenza Bronchitis Ulcer of stomach and duodenum Nephritis and nephrosis Congenital malformations Other defined and ill-defined diseases Motor vehicle accidents All other accidents All other accidents Suicide Gastritis, enteritis and Diarrhoea Measles Malignant Neoplasm Uterus Diabetes	4 5 8 2 21 22 3 10 3 7 13 3 4 - 11 2 4 2	-217 9-169201211-43 12232-	4 267 17 2 37 31 50 4 9 1 14 38 3 23 4 7 2 1 1 2 1
	127	97	224

TOTAL SESSE CARRESTON CONTRACTOR The local death rate during the past 15 years is shown in the following Table.

1941 - 1943		Year	s.	Death	Rate.
1947 - 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955	1	1944 - 1947 -	1946 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954	10. 10. 10. 14. 16.	8 0 9 5 7 2

#### Infant Mortality.

The following table gives causes of infant deaths during the year 1955, classified into age groups.

#### TABLE II.

			1000							
Cause of			400	Grou	ing			All	ages	
Death.	Under	1-2	3-4	1-3	13-6	16.0	19-12	unae	rl	yr.
	1 wk.	wk.	wk.	mth	mth		mth	M.	F.	.Tot.
Prematurity	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	5
Haemorrhagic Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-10	-	1	1
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Diaphragmatic Hernia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Meningitis - Haemolytic Anaemia.	-		-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Convulsion	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Asphyxia - Birth Injury. Rapid Delivery.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Uraemia - Con- genital atrophy of kidney.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Accidental Suffocation.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
	9	-	-	1	3	-	-	7	6	13

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

	Ponte- Aggregate West: England								
	fract	Aggregate West Rid- ing Urban Districts.	West Riding Admin, County	visional					
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	18.1	14.8	15.3	15.0					
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes.	9.2	12.5	11.7	11.7					
Infective & Para. Dis. Excl. Tub. but incl. Syph. and other V.D.	0.04	0.06	0.07	*					
Tuberculosis Respiratory	0.16	0.11	0.11	0.13					
Tuberculosis Other	NIL	0.02	0.01	0.02					
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.16	0.13	0.12	0.15					
Cancer	1.47	2.03	1.90	2.06					
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	1.52	2.09	1.90	*					
Heart and Circulatory	2.87	4.71	4.39	*					
Respiratory Diseases	0.98	1.28	1.21	*					
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births).	NIL	0.45	0.67	0.64					
Infant Mortality	29.4	25.2	26.2	24.9					
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	47.4	26.4	26.4	23.1					

<sup>\*</sup> figures not available.

1.5 30.0

#### 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.

Tankers -	Jan/ Mar	Apl/ Jun	Jul/ Sep	Oct/ Dec	Tot.	Deaths	No. of cases admitted to hospital
Scarlet Fever	5	4	3	3	15	-	12
Whooping Cough	20	14	6	6	46	-	3
Measles	349	95	3	3	450	1	43
Pneumonia	5	2	6	6	19	-	1
Dysentery	-	51	2	2	55	-	35
Erysipelas	3	-	3	3	9	-	_
Chicken-pox	6	4	4	4	18	-	5
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	2	3	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	-	-	2	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	2	2	4	-	4
	389	172	29	31	621	1	107

#### Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

#### Immunisation.

172 children under the age of 5 yrs. and 23 over the age of 5 yrs. received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease. In addition 37 children received a reinforcing injection.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

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

#### TABLE V.

Number of cases in Register:	Respin	ratory F.	Non-Resp	iratory F.	Total in Reg- ister.
At the commencement of 1955.	101	88	17	24	230
Notified for the first time during 1955.	13	5	2	1	21
Transfers - Inward	2	3	1		6
Removed from Register	15	8	3	2	28
At the end of 1955	101	88	17	23	229

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

#### TABLE VI.

Entries relating to:	Respi	ratory F.	Non-Respiratory M. F.		Total.	
Persons who have died	7	_	-		7	
Persons certified by the medical practi- tioner in attendance to have recovered.	1	2	1	2	6	
Transfer to Respiratory	-	-	1	1	2	
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district.	6	6	1	-	13	
	14	8	3	3	28	

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

#### TABLE VII.

Age Periods.	Respin	NEW	CASES		I	DEATHS.			
	M.	F.	Non-Resp. M. F.		Respiratory M. F.		Non-Resp.		
Under 5 Under 15 Under 25 Under 35 Under 45 Under 55 Under 65 Over 65	- 211351	1 1 1	1 - 1	1	1 2 1 3				
Total	13	5	2	1	7		-	-	

The trilled con the comes were shield anisolic's out of the disease,

LIV SUSAL

## B.C.G. Vaccination Against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all children in the year of their 13th birthday. With the consent of the parents a test is performed to see if the child has already encountered the germ of Tuberculosis. If it has done so, no further action is taken, as it is assumed that the child that the child has not encountered tubercle bacillus, then vaccination is carried out.

The age of 13 years has been chosen because at this age the natural resistance to the disease tends to drop and it is hoped to confer protection during the years of increased risk.

During 1955 the following work was undertaken in

No. of Consents Issued.	No. of Consents	Mantoux	Mantoux	Mantoux
	Received.	Test.	Negative	Positive
364	250	237	156	76

B.C.G. Vaccination.

156

## National Assistance Act - Section 47.

It was not found necessary to deal with any patients under the above act.

The state of the s

COUNTY COUNCIL

OF THE

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

DIVISION 12

Pontefract Municipal Borough Featherstone Urban District Knottingley Urban District Osgoldcross Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
1955

BY

J.F. FRASER

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

#### Divisional Medical Officer.

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

## Assistant County Medical Officers & School Medical Officers.

G.M. Mayhall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J.C. White, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

#### Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss E.M. Atkinson
Mrs. P.M. Brice
Mrs. E.A. Goodall
Miss B.N. Kennington
Miss M.H. Osborne
Miss B.K. Porter
Miss H. Theobald
Miss B.N. Walsh

#### Assistand Health Visitors.

Miss L.O.I. Day Mrs. J.K. Smith (Clinic Nurse) Mrs. A. Williams

#### Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

Mrs. E.W. Petch.

#### Midwives.

Miss K. Ault
Mrs. A. Atack
Mrs. I. Bushell
Mrs. E. Glover (rel)
Mrs. B. Lister
Miss C. Norton
Mrs. A. Pritchard
Mrs. A.M. Randall
Miss C.A. Roberts
Mrs. W. Tame
Mrs. J.R. Wilford
Miss M. Wright

#### Home Nurses.

Mrs. F.M. Ashworth
Mrs. R.L. Copestake
Miss E. Leach (relief)
Miss A. Elsley
Mrs. A. Moiser
Mrs. F. Green

#### Home Nurse-Midwives.

Miss B.M. Butterworth Miss J. Redfearn

#### Mental Health Social Worker.

Mrs. A. Stell (Temporary)

#### Mental Health Home Teacher.

Mrs. G.J. Argile

#### Speech Therapist.

Mrs. Z. Statman

#### Duly Authorised Officer.

Mr. R.F.H. Battye

#### Senior Clerk.

Mr. W. Carver.

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Services Act.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Births.

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1955 was 1015 (520 males and 495 females), an increase of 52 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 17.8 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 17.3 for the previous year was well abov the West Riding Administrative County rate of 15.3 and the England and Wales birth rate of 15.0.

#### Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 529 (289 males and 240 females), a decrease of 6 compared with 1954.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 9.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 9.6 for the previous year. Here again the death rate compares favourably with that for the West Riding Administrative Area which is 11.7 and for England and Wales, 11.7

#### Infant Mortality.

In 1955 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 30, a decrease of three compared with the previous year. The infant mortality rate was 29.6 as against 34.3 in the previous year.

#### Maternal Mortality.

It was pleasing to note that once again there were no maternal deaths in the Divisional area.

#### MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

#### Domiciliary Midwifery.

Of the 1016 notified live births, 501 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 57 of these cases.

#### Notifications.

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the division:

Death of Child 4
Still Births 7
Artificial Feeding 104
Liability to be a 4
Source of Infection

#### Medical Assistance.

Medical aid notices sent in by midwives during 1955 numbered 115, all of these being domiciliary.

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#### Gas and Air Analgesia.

All the domiciliary midwives held the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Gas and air analgesia only was given in 54 cases. Pethidine only was given in 67 cases, and gas and air and pethidine was given in 275 cases.

#### Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are four Ante-Natal Clinics in the division which are held at Pontefract, Featherstone, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and during the year 569 patients attended, of which 405 were new patients. The total number of attendances was 2,317.

At all of these clinics post-natal examinations are carried out and 147 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

#### Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at the Pontefract and Featherstone Clinics.

These have continued to be well attended and it has been found necessary to increase the number of sessions at the Pontefract Clinic. The number of attendances at these clinics during the year was 599.

#### Institutional Midwifery.

Patients from this division are admitted either to the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

No difficulty has been experienced regarding maternity accommodation, although it has not always been possible to secure admission to the hospital of the patient's choice. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

#### CHILD WELFARE.

There are in the division seven Infant Welfare Centres, the clinics at Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley being held in county-owned premises, whilst the ones at Carleton, Ferrybridge, Streethouse and Beal are held in hired premises.

The clinic at Loscoe was closed at the end of the year due to the small number of patients attending.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price to all women attending the clinics:

Ostermilk Trufood Cow & Gate Ovaltine Glucose 'D' Horlicks Minadex Lactagol Bemax Cerex Trufood Cereal

Virol Maltoline Farex Scotts Twin Pack Robinson's Groats Robinson's Patent Barley Colact Robrex Robsoup Boyril Weaning Food Roboleine

The following were distributed free of charge:-

Viteolin Tablets Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Vitamin 'C' Ferrous Sulphate Tablets

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

#### Premature Babies.

During the year 96 babies weighing 5½lbs or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the division and 27 were born at home.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

#### Medical Inspections.

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. entrants (5 years +) second age group (7 years +) intermediates (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at the 54 schools in the division.

Re-examinations of children who at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 3,415 periodic inspections were carried out. In addition 1,731 special inspections and re-examinations were made. When it is considered that the school population is 10,000 it will be realised over half of all children at school were examined at one time or another during the year.

#### General Condition of Children.

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and are classified as follows: (a) those better than normal, (b) normal (c) below normal. In this area 52.7% were classified (a), 43.72% (b), and only 3.51% (c).

#### Uncleanliness.

During the year Health Visitors and School Nurses made 17,608 examinations of children in schools. Of these 581 individual children were found to be infested.

Dellinate ore erelinate the file of the fi anend American

#### SPECIAL CLINICS

#### Ophthalmic Clinics.

Mr. S.K. Sledge holds one session per week at the Pontefract Clinic at which children from all areas of the division attend. Due to the large numbers of children awaiting examination it has been necessary on occasions to hold additional sessions which have been held by Dr. J.V. Kirkwood, and during the year 1,183 children were examined. Of these, 460 were prescribed glasses.

#### Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.

Mr. K.M. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Headlands Road Clinic for children from this division. Due to the large waiting list Mr. Mayall has very kindly undertaken additional sessions during the year and in all 25 sessions have been held. The total number of children seen by Mr. Mayall during the year was 188 and the total number of attendances made was 294.

#### Orthopaedic Clinics.

Mr. A.J.S. Bell-Tawse, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon holds a monthly clinic at the Headlands Road Clinic, and during the year 10 sessions were held. 137 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 180.

#### Child Guidance Treatment.

Dr. M.M. MacTaggart, Educational Psychologist holds Child Guidance Clinics at the County Health Department, Wakefield for children from this area, and during the year 7 new cases were seen, whilst 13 children continued attendance from the previous year. The total number of attendances made was 47.

#### Ultra Violet Ray Treatment.

During the winter months Ultra Violet Ray treatment sessions are held twice weekly at the Headlands Road Clinic, Pontefract and these are well attended.

#### Speech Therapy.

Mrs. Z. Statman was appointed Speech Therapist in this division on the 19th September, 1955, and from that date until the end of the year held 42 sessions. 12 new cases were treated, together with 30 children from the previous year.

#### Handicapped Pupils.

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary, recommendations were made for placement in Special Schools.

## Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College.

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the year 35 candidates were examined and where necessary x-ray examination arranged.

In the case of entrants to the teaching profession, 6 examinations were made.

### HEALTH VISITING.

During the year the following number of visits were made by Health Visitors in the Division:

No. of Children under 5 years of age visited	
during the year.	3708
Total visits made to expectant mothers	61
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age	6862
Total visits to children aged 1 and under 2 years	4140
Total visits to children aged 2 but under 5 years	5465
Total visits to tuberculous households	1900
Total families or households visited	3288
Other cases visited	
	5099

nezessions were node,

## MEMBER VISITING.

tary to reduce an the Division of vist

## HOME NURSING.

During the year 21,604 visits were paid by Home Nurses compared with 24,218 in the previous year. This despite the fact that during the larger part of the year the service was under-staffed. The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below:-

Classification.	No. of cases attended by Home Nurses during the	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year.
(1) Medical	9ear. 603	21604
(2) Surgical	224	4977
(3) Infectious Diseases.	3	8
(4) Tuberculosis	48	1125
(5) Maternal complications	4	17
TOTALS.	882	27731
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year.	376	16358
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	58	608
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year	161	11413

## HOME HELP SERVICE.

The home help service is provided under the National Health Act 1946. Section 29 of the act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows:

(a) Ill

- (d) Expectant Mother
- (b) Lying-in
- (e) Mental Defective

(c) Aged

(f) A child not over compulsory school age.

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service, or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council Scheme.

----25.5 . 25

Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of Home Helps in this division was decreased from 23 to 22 on the 1st May, 1955, and during the year the following assistance was given:-

## Authorised Divisional Establishment.

(i)	Basic	23/22
		63/66

(ii) From Reserve Pool \_

(iii) TOTAL 23/22

## No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December.

(i) Whole-time	Nil
----------------	-----

(ii) Part-time 40

(iii) Total 40

## Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended 31st December.

		No. of Cases.	Hours Employed
	Maternity (including expectant mothers)	58	5,388
	Tuberculosis	4	836
(iii)	Chronic sick - (a) Aged 65+ (b) Under 65	155 58	36634 6862
(iv)	Others	-	_
	TOTALS.	275	49720

Number of Home Helps that could have been employed full-time. 21.3

### MENTAL HEALTH.

The mental health work in the division consists mainly of the supervision of defectives under Voluntary and Statutory Supervision, and in the provision of reports on home conditions to Hospital Management Committees. The nearest Occupation Centre to this area is at Castleford and at the end of the year 15 children from this area were attending there. For the children who are considered unsuitable for the Occupation Centre, group training classes are held twice weekly at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics, where the Home Teacher, Mrs. Argile provides training in handicrafts of various sorts.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES.

New entrants to the County Council Service are required to undergo a medical examination to see if they are suitable for admission to the Superannuation Scheme, and during the year I examined 70 candidates. In addition 5 members of the County Staff resident in the Divisional area who had been off duty through sickness for a considerable period were examined to ascertain whether or not they were incapable of continuing employment by reason of permanent ill-health.

## BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

#### EIGHTEENTH

## ANNUALREPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year Ended the Thirty-First December, 1955

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

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## Borough of Pontefract

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, 1955

Mrs. Pritchard and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you this my Eighteenth Annual Report in which are given facts and figures relating to the several activities of the Department during 1955. A Table of Contents is given to enable reference to particular aspects of the work to be made, and in this Preface I comment briefly on some of the more salient features of the Report.

Under all the main headings of the Report - Housing, Control of Food Supplies, and Air Pollution - much routine work has been done. In Housing the Department has been engaged on the collection of information and the preparation of plans for the resumption of slum clearance; but, as statistics in the Report will show, this has not prevented progress in the Department's routine housing activities to secure repair and maintenance. The rate at which the repair and maintenance of existing property can proceed, no less than the provision of new houses, depends ultimately on the availability of building resources; and the difficulties attending much of the work that has been done suggest that had more activity been possible, no greater result could have been obtained.

Food inspection and supervision have claimed much of the Department's time. 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 food animals slaughtered in the Borough were given post mortem examination; meat products manufacture, ice-cream and 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, to ensure the strictest bacterial control.

In my last Report I referred to the Council's decision to set up a public slaughterhouse in July of that year and disallow private slaughtering, as the most important feature under the heading of Food Supervision. The present year has given the opportunity to expand the slaughtering service thus set up, and it is gratifying to note that, so soon after the inauguration of the service, it is being used to 86% of its capacity, and on a self-supporting basis. Centralisation of slaughtering has many advantages, not least that it facilitates efficient meat inspection. Some three tons of diseased meat was condemned as unfit for food, and suitably disposed of.

It is mentioned in the Report that all milk sold in the Borough is bottled. This was a target fixed many years ago, and the bottling of milk is doubtless a great improvement on the sale of loose milk. But when one sees the condition in which empty bottles are often returned to the dairies, one realises the considerable responsibility placed on milk bottlers and their employees to ensure cleanliness of bottles before re-use. The

time has come when milk distributors should give urgent consideration to the use of non-returnable cartons. The advantages would greatly outweigh any slight increase in cost which such a changeover would be likely to involve.

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 - are widely distributed, and every effort is made by the firms concerned to produce their goods under the best possible conditions. Many shops in the Borough operate at a high level of cleanliness: others need frequent visitation. The Health Committee have intervened when necessary, but in no case has it been considered necessary to resort to legal proceedings. Food hygiene work among personnel employed in the food trades is largely a matter of Health Education and too much time cannot be devoted to this. The new Food Regulations, operative from the 1st January, 1956, will be a further stimulus to activity in this field.

The Report makes a briefer reference than usual to Air Pollution. New legislation is expected in 1956 which will put much stronger weapons in the hands of local authorities; and to reiterate the present problems - they have been dealt with at some length in previous reports - would at this stage have mere historical significance. The Clean Air Bill has a new look which augers well for the future; but more of this in next year's Report.

Laboratory facilities continue to be used to the fullest extent. During 1955, 442 specimens or samples were submitted to bacteriological or chemical laboratories in the course of the Department's duties, an increase of 48 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 Reg Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

## 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 29 gallons per head per day.

The supply was sampled regularly both for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. 43 samples of chlorinated water going into supply were submitted to bacteriological examination, and 42 were reported upon as Class 1 waters. In an isolated case the water fell to Class 2.

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

Table 1. Bacteriological Classification of Water Samples

Source of raw water	No	Total			
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	taken
Heck	12	-	-	-	12
Roall	18	2	1	200	21
Eggborough	12	1	-		13
Tanshelf	7	3	-	-	10

The result of the bacteriological examination of a water is given as the number of coliform organisms per 100 millilitres of the water, and the standard set down by the Ministry of Health for non-chlorinated pipes supplies is as follows:-

Class No.	Presumptive coli count	Description
1 2 3 4	Less than 1 1 - 2 3 - 10 Nore than 10	Highly satisfactory Satisfactory Suspicious 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	Prescribed		Sour	ources of Supply		
falling into -	Standard %	Heck %	Roall	Eggborough %	Tanshelf	
Class 1	Not less than 50	100	86	92	70	
Classes 1 and 2	Not less than 80	100	95	100	100	
Class 3	Not more than 20	-	5	-	-	
Class 4	0	-	-		_	

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

All houses in the Borough are connected to the puplic 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

Continuous measures were 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 117 of the 128 samples subjected to bacteriological examination were shown to be sterile. In 5 samples from the large bath and 6 from the small, coliform organisms were present in 100 mls. of water. Despite these occasional less satisfactory results, this is a high standard.

Chlorination was the starilising process used throughout the season. Of the 32 sampling occasions the free chlorine content fell below the prescribed minimum standard only once - at the outlet end of the bath.

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.

## General Senitation

All built up areas in the Borough are sewered: records indicate that less than 40 houses are not connected to sewers; these being in isolated places where the sewer is not available. Sanitary accommodation is almost entirely water-carriage: the 22 conveniences of other types represent only a fraction of one per cent of the total.

Although the Borough has modern main sewerage, the drainage systems connecting buildings with sewers are often 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 this Report.

With the exception of seven properties still served by privymiddens all premises in the Borough where domestic refuse is
produced are served by metal dustbins of approved specification. The
seven 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 sut-section 1 of this
section as amended by Section 69 of the West Riding County Council
(General Powers) Act, 1951, is served on the owner or the occupier
of the property following consideration of the facts known to the
Corporation.

## Offensive Trades

There are two premises in the Borough at which offensive trades are carried out. The materials being processed are often in an advanced stage of decay when received on the premises, and continual care is necessary if nuisance is to be avoided.

It is my own view that these trades were again operated with less nuisance than in some recent years. Schemes for the further improvement of plant are at an advanced stage, but however modern and effective plant may be, it is the occasional lapse on the part of those responsible for operating plant and for taking routine hygiene measures, that most often gives rise to 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 on no occasion was it necessary to resort to statutory action to secure improvements.

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 Baking Barley processing Beer bottling Boot repairing Box and packing material Milk pasteurisation Monumental masonry Brush making Building Burling and mending Saddlery Clothes Menufacture Sawmill Coal-gas distribution Fat refining, etc. Fellmongering, etc. Founding Furniture manufacture Wire goods manufacture and polishing

Grain and seed processing Laundering Liquorice confectionery manufacture and packing Malting, etc. Photography Printing Saddlery Tailoring Tinsmith Upholstering Whitesmith

There are 98 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, and the occupiers of all factories to which the provisions of this section apply hold the appropriate certificate.

Table 3. Factories Records, 1955

	Number	Committee of the Commit	Number of Written	De	fects
	Register			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) (2) Factories with mechanical		0	0	-	-
power (in which section 'is enforced by local authorities)	91	26	4	30	23 *
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by local authorities	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	98	26	4	30	23 *

<sup>\*</sup> Including defects outstanding from previous year.

The term 'workplace' as used in the Public Health Act, 1936, comprises offices, restaurant kitchens and some 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 378 shop premises on the Register, and the Shops Act, 1950, applies to some two-thirds of these. 55 visits for the investigation of welfare arrangements were made in 1955. In no case was it necessary to resort to statutory procedure to secure the remedy of defects.

## 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 are members 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 industrial chimneys were observed from time to time during the year, and the number of formal 30-minute observations made was Ill. Your Smoke Byelaws allow a total emission of up to two minutes black smoke from industrial chimneys within a continuous period of thirty minutes; any emission in excess of this is presumed to be a nuisance, and on this standard 3 nuisances were noted during the aggregate observation period of 55% hours.

In my last Annual Report I referred to plans for new boiler and mechanical stoking plant at a factory in the Borough which had been the course of considerable smoke nuisance. After many delays, largely due to difficulties encountered in obtaining delivery of plant, an ambitious new scheme was completed and put into operation in May. I have received no complaint since from these living in the vicinity.

During the year under review the Health Committee considered the Final Report of the Beaver Committee, issued in November, 1954. This Report deals in much detail with the nature, causes and effects of pollution, and makes recommendations - including proposed new legislation - the implementation of which would go far to clean up the atmosphere. The following extract from the report is of particular interest: "We must emphasise that the problem is not one which can be solved overnight. Real improvement can be secured only by a continuous programme urgently and insistently carried out over a number of years. The objective of our recommendations is that by the end of ten to fifteen years the total smoke in all heavily populated areas would be reduced to something of the order of 80 per cent."

To secure an improvement of this order in Pontefract would involve a considerable effort on the domestic front. Local authorities await promised legislation with unusual interest.

## General Conditions and Overcrowding

Since post-war house building began, 2003 houses have been erected in the Borough, 88 of these during the year under review, as detailed in Table 4.

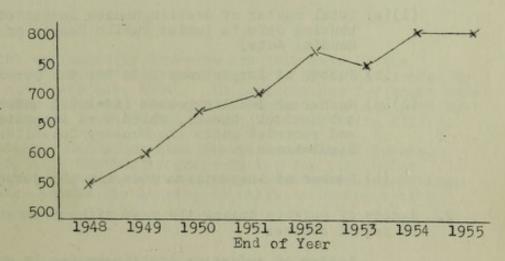
Table 4. New Housing Progress 1946 - 1955

	No. of houses erected -							
Year	By t	By the Corporation			By Housing			
	Permanent	Temporary	Total	interprise	Association	Total		
1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955	0 164 169 137 104 86 106 107 75 31	60	60 164 169 137 104 86 106 107 75 31	23 29 25 15 13 10 13 23 42 57	178 536	83 193 194 152 117 96 119 308 653 88		
Totals	979	60	1,039	250 .	714	2,003		

If one divides the number of dwellings in the Borough into the population a figure of three persons per house is the result. The Corporation's Housing List shows, however, that at the end of 1955, 800 applicants were still living in lodgings; for these purposes, the same as last year. In the absence of more reliable information (such as could only be obtained by a detailed Overcrowding Survey) this figure of 800 gives a rough numerical indication of housing need, excluding Slum Clearance considerations.

The following graph shows the steady increase up to the end of 1952 in the number of such applicants, and more recent fluctuations, which indicate a steadier position: this despite the fact that Corporation house building during 1953 and 1954 was only 50% of the post-war average.

'Housing Need' as measured by the No. of lodgers' applications on the Housing List



The number of known cases of statutory overcrowding has fallen slightly during the year: 3 new cases of overcrowding were added to the register and 6 were removed consequent upon abatement. The numbers of cases found and abated during the past five years are given in Table 5: it is shown that during this period 35 cases of statutory overcrowding were abated, 20 of these as a result of Corporation rehousing.

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 as 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.

Table 5. Incidence and Abatement of Overcrowding

No. of cases -	Year					
NO. 112 00000	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
On register at beginning of year	20	12	9	12	10	
Added to register during the year	2	4	6	7	3	
Abated during the year. By Corporation rehousing	6	1	1	9	3	
By other means	4	6	2	0	3	
Total	10	7	3	9	6	
on register at end of year	12	9	12	10	7	

\* No. of persons concerned

\*\* No. of families living in these dwellings

\*\* No. of persons concerned

53

## Inspection, Repair and Clearance of Unfit Houses

The inspection of houses for defects was intensified during the year, particularly the inspection of older property for consideration under slum clearance proposals. The following statistics give an indication of the Department's housing activities:

- 1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year
  - (1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

513

- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,265
- (2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations

329

329

- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose
- 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied as the result of informal action by the Chief Sanitary Inspector

142

- 3. Action under statutory powers during the year
  - (1) Proceedings under sections 9,10,16 Housing Act, 1936
    - (a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs 10
    - (b) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 12
  - (2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
    - (b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices 11
  - (3)(a) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation
    - (b) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
    - (c) Number of dwellinghouses closed

## Slum Clearance Programme

Subsection (1) of section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required local authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by 30th August, 1955, proposals for dealing with houses which appeared to be unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Act.

The Council's proposals were duly submitted, and gave 200 as the estimated number of unfit houses. The rate at which demolition could proceed was dependent upon the rate at which houses could be made available to rehouse the families displaced from the slum property; and taking into consideration the average rate of house building over recent years and the Council's housing commitments other than the rehousing of slum dwellers, a period of 10 years was given as the time in which the 200 houses were to be cleared. The Council aimed to devote annually 25% of their new construction for slum clearance purposes.

## Improvement Grants

More interest was shown by house-owners this year in the Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, as amended by Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. 18 applications for grant were approved, and 4 were refused. The actual number of grants paid by the end of the year was 3, the total amount involved being £317.

The Corporation's Halfpenny Lane Estate Improvement Scheme, commenced in 1953, made further progress during the year under review, when another 27 houses were provided with modern amenities. The total completed is now 74, leaving 23 still to be dealt with.

Section 26(1) of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, provides that the tenant of any house which is subject to a repairs increase may apply to the local authority for a certificate that the following conditions justifying an increase of rent are not fulfilled:

(a) that the dwellinghouse is in good repair, and
(b) that it is reasonably suitable for occupation having regard to stability, freedom from damp, natural lighting, ventilation, water supply, drainage and sanitary conveniences, facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of water;

and the local authority, if satisfied that the dwellinghouse fails to fulfil either or both of these conditions, must certify accordingly.

Eleven applications for certificates were made during 1955, 6 of which were granted. 4 certificates were revoked, the necessary repairs having been completed during 1956.

# PART C FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

## Meat Supply

All animals slaughtered in the Borough for food were slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse, the Council haveing resolved in October 1954 that private slaughtering should not be carried on in the Borough. Not all the meat sold in Pontefract was, however, slaughtered in the district; and in addition, therefore, to the routine inspection of meat at the Public Slaughterhouse, inspections were made from time to time of meat from outside sources exposed for sale in shops in the Borough. On no occasion was it necessary to seize and condemn as unfit meat so exposed.

The Public Slaughterhouse was operated on a self-supporting basis, and Table 6 gives particulars of throughput during the period under review, from which it will be noted that the slaughterhouse was used on the average to the extent of 86% of its nominal aspacity.

Table 6. Throughput at Public Slaughterhouse

Four Weeks		Thr	roughput	Mean weekly	% of nominal		
Ended 1955	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total	cattle units	
29th January	36	2	10	246	314	41	68
26th February	38	5	21	203	267	36	60
26th March	60	4	10	307	381	54	90
23rd April	62	4	26	233	330	47	- 78
21st May	76	1	28	265	370	54	90
18th June	32	0	29	231	292	38	64
16th July	42	4 .	80	180	306	38	64
13th August	32	3	68	174	277	34	56
10th September		3	96	198	329	54	90
8th October	33	4	108	260	405	48	77
5th November	45	4	180	258	487	53	38
3rd December	55	10	248	268	581	61	102
31st December	41	6	199	395	641	71	118
Near Average	45	3	35	248	331	52	86

<sup>\*</sup> One cattle unit equivalent to three calves, five sheep or two pigs.

A total of 5 carcases, 17 part carcases and 333 organs and parts were condemned, the total weight being 2 tons, 17 cwts., 3 qtrs., 25 lbs. 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. Table 7 gives particulars of the various classes of animals inspected and condemned.

Table 7. Record of Meat Inspection and Incidence of Disease

Class of Animal (	Cattle excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	590	43	46	1111	3206	0
Number inspected	590	43	46	1111	3206	0
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases			11111	o eterii Toobias		
condemned	1	1	0	0	0	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	2	0	14	57	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.3	7.0		1.3	i.3	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	1	1	0	1	0	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	6	0	0	66	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.3	16.3	-	0.1	2.1	-
Cysticerci Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	0	0		-	100 m
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	9			-		-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	25/02/5	71.12	-	-

In carcases the principal cause of condemnation was tuberculosis, 60% of the total weight of meat condemned from all causes being due to this infection. During the year 9 beast carcases were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, giving a percentage incidence of 1.53. In all cases the invasion was localised, and before being released for human consumption associated carcases and organs were subjected to refrigeration.

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

Year	No. of cases	5 Incidence
1952 1953	28 43	1.22
1954	37	2.48
1955	9	1.53

## Milk Supply

There are 65 distributors on the Register, which figure includes 45 distributors who sell only 'Sterilised' milk from shops. I have no record of milk being sold unbottled, and records indicate that all is either heat-treated and/or tuberculin tested.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 1953, 101 licences were issued during the year authorising the sale of graded milks. 21 of these were in respect of 'Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)', 22 in respect of 'Pasteurised' and 58 in respect of 'Sterilised' milk.

Table	Graded Milks: Sampling Records						
Onest of Walls	Test applied						
Grade of Wilk	Methylene Blue	Phosphatase	Turbidity				
Pasteurised	34	34	1000-				
Sterilised	-	-	4				
T.T. Pasteurised	9	9	0290 -				

All samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

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

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 75 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. 64 other premises are registered for sale and storage only. A high standard of hygiene has been maintained.

There is still no test for the bacteriological grading of ice-creat which is considered satisfactory for use as a statutory test, but on the Provisional Grading at present practised, the 75 semples of ice-cream taken during the year may be grouped as follows:-

57 fell into Grade 1 11 " " Grade 2 5 " " Grade 3 2 " " 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 authorities concerned. Regarding other grades it is interesting to compare: (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 1954, and (4) figures for the present year:-

Table Ice-Cream Grading

	Official	Figures for -			
Grade	Standard %	1947	1954	1955	
1	Not less than 50	37	71	77	
1 and 2	Not less than 80	63	93	90	
3	Not more than 20	37	2	9	

## 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 the additional attention given to housing matters has resulted in less time being devoted to routine food hygiene work. The concentrated effort made to improve conditions among food hawkers also detracted from the routine inspection of food premises.

The Department has again concentrated 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. The staff is already fully occupied on essential services, and as much time as possible has been spent with food handlers at the place of employment, stressing the fundamentals of hygienic processing and 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 Inspection of Food Premises

Year	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of visits paid to food premises	352	225	221	123
No. of food rooms inspected	902	588	537	180
No. of section 13 offences noted	102	140	152	78
No. of section 13 offences outstanding at end of year	38	86	12	32
No. of offences against the byelaws	85	104	74	21
No. of byelaw offences outstanding at end of year	21	47	3	10

## Registration of Hawkers of Food and their Storage Premises

Section 76 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, which became operative in the Borough during 1952, 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 34 persons for registration with the Council as food hawkers. Registration was granted to all these after the Council's standard had been attained. 5 names were removed from the Register; the total number on the Register at the end of the year being 67.

## PART D

#### MISCELLAN EOUS DUTIES

## Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles, and 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 five samples of filling materials taken from them in 1955 satisfied the statutory standards of cleanliness as indicated by prescribed tests.

#### 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 of diseases among animals
- (e) Appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency

During the year 4 applications were made for renewal of licences, and in all cases licences were granted subject to prescribed conditions An application for a licence to use a stall in the Open Market as a pet animal shop was refused.

## 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 two-thirds of the senior rodent operative's time is spent on the discovery of infestations, and allied duties.

The following Table gives statistics relating to the incidence of infestation and to disinfestation measures taken during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1956.

Table Rodent Control Statistics

171		Clas	ss of Prope	erty	
The state of the s	Local Authority	Dwelling- houses	Agricul- tural	Business and Industrial	Total
Number of Properties in Local Authority's Distr	rict 35	7256	37	1097	8435
inspected as a result of - (a) Notificati	on 3	63	1	32	99
(b) Survey und	er 30	78	25	210	343
(c) Otherwise	0	41	1	124	166
No. of properties inspected which w found to be infes	ere	A TOTAL OF	pent has a	A AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN	
by - (a) Rats: Maj		0 55	0 8	1 28	107
(b) Wice: Waj		0 40	0	1 78	125
No. of infested properties treate by Local Authorit		93	8	107	229
Total treatments carried out inclu- ing re-treatments		126	8	124	306
No, of 'Block' control schemes carried out	The Colonia	The state of	constitution and to the total and to	Cantaros. Forgani	14

The Council have continued their membership of the Rodent Control Planning and Advisory Committee which comprises representatives of several local authorities in this area, and whose functions include those of stimulating and maintaining interest and activity throughout the area in rodent control administration.

## 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 1955.

Nature Nature	Number
Public Health Act, 1936	
Regulated Premises Inspections Moveable dwellings and sites Offensive trades Workplaces (not factories)	64 56 11
Statutory Nuisance Inspections: Initial inspections Other inspections	103 245
Atmospheric Pollution: Industrial smoke observations Pollution investigations (deposit and sulphur oxides sampling, etc.)	111 297
Verminous Infestation Inspections (including visits to prospective tenants of Corporation houses)	279
Infectious Disease, etc., Enquiries	37
General Sanitation and Drainage Inspections: Dwellinghouses Other premises	456 42
Water supplies: Sampling - Public supplies Swimming bath waters	138 128
Refuse Collection and Disposal Enquiries and Inspections	130
Factories Act, 1937	
Inspections for Sanitary Condition Outworkers premises	26 2
Shops Act, 1950	
Shops inspected for welfare provisions	75
Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	
Housing Conditions: Inspections for housing defects and works in progress (excluding Public Health Act inspections) Houses inspected and recorded under Housing	525
Consolidated Regulations (included in above figure)	329
Inspections made following application for Certificate of Disrepair	10

Nature	Numbe:
Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949 and Housing Repairs	
and Rents Act, 1954, (continued)	
Overcrowding:	
Case investigations	36
Dwellinghouses measured up for permitted number data	28
Towns of Court Towns	13.716 935
Improvement Grant Inspections.	17
Read and Davis Asta 2070 - 1 2070	E36 55
Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 and 1950	
Meat Inspection:	
Visits to Abattoir for meat inspection Number of carcases examined at Abattoir	4,996
	1,550
Milk Supplies: Investigations under Milk and Dairies	
Regulations, 1949	20
Investigations under Special Designations Regulations, 1949 - 1954	26
Sampling	55
Ice-Cream:	
Investigations under Ice-Cream (Heat	
Treatment, etc.) Regulations - Manufacture	1
Retailing	1 5
Sampling	75
Other Foods:	
Visits to shops, etc., for food inspection	3
Food Premises Inspections:	
Pasteurising plant and dairies Rooms under section 13	10 180
Premises under section 14 -	
Ice-cream and preserved food, etc.	29
Investigations under Food Handling Byelaws:	267
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	
Inspections of premises for infestation, hygi	ene.
proofing, etc., (including inspections made	by
Senior Rodent Operative) Inspections under Threshing and Dismantling o	1,214
Ricks Regulations	27
Sewer manholes tested for infestation	79
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951	
Sampling and inspection of records	2
Pet Animals Act, 1951	
Inspection of premises and investigations following applications for licences	4

B. Number of Notices Served and the Result of Service

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: Section 4	Factories Act, 1937: Part One	Section 9	Section 39 .(G.P.) Act, 195	(b) Other promises	Public Health Act, 1936: (a) Dwellinghouses - Section 39, 44 and 45	Act and Section under which, or, in the case of informal notices, preliminary to which, notice was served
u	u	H		56+	- =	© Outstanding from 1954
15	4	13	51	34	96	© Served in 1955
93	9	24	51	75	107	Total of (a) and (b)
15	7	11	4	74		© Complied with
		10	٢	9	7	- Statutory notice
4	2	13	н	10	12	Subsequently served in 1955  Outstanding at end of 1955
		8		1	H04	© Outstanding from 1954
		10	15	91	7	Served in 1955
		18	15	10	10	F Total of (g) and (h)
	19.1	15	15	7	17	L. 03
	15					Complied with cart ut ory
		v	1	W	P-3	Outstanding at end of 1955
1						

## Staffing

The staff of Sanitary Inspectors remains, as fixed in 1938: two Inspectors in addition to myself. A vacancy occurred in July, and an interval of three months elapsed before it could be filled. I would pay tribute to the hard work of the staff - technical and clerical - throughout the year.

I am Mrs. Pritchard and Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

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

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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

July, 1956.

