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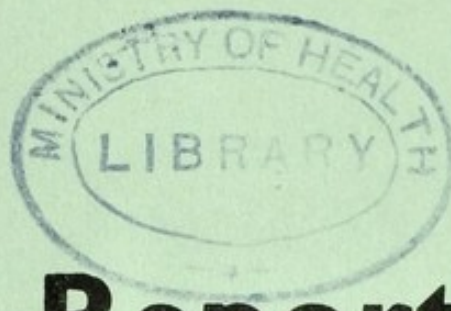
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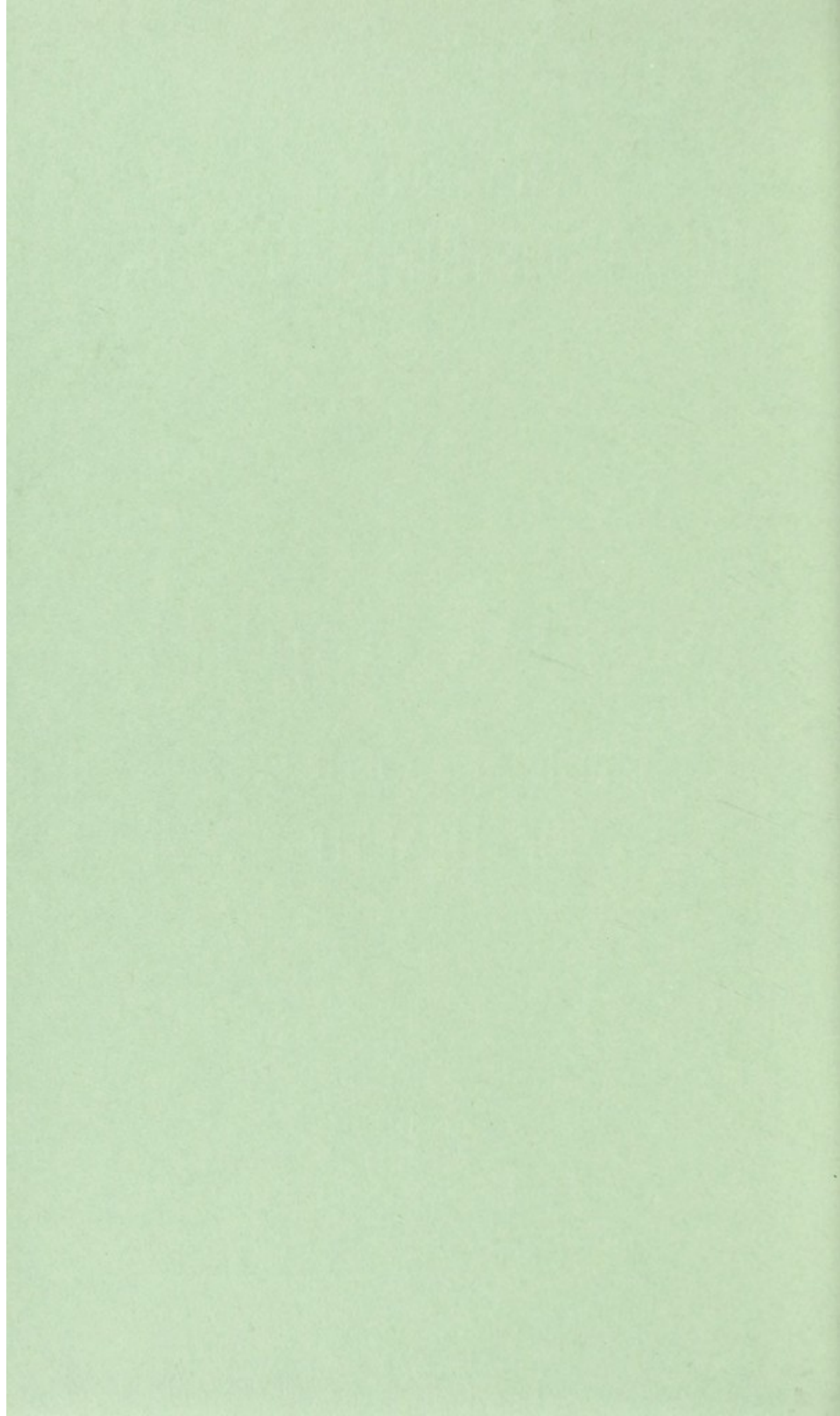
RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

UPON THE
Sanitary Conditions of the District
during the Year 1954.





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TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. R. TANNER, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Resigned 10th June, 1954.

G. O. MARCH, A.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

Commenced 28th June, 1954.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1954)	...					5,690
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1954					}	1,764
Rateable Value	...	...	...			£22,375
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...			£93 : 4 : 7

The health of the district remains very good.

In spite of a relatively high birth rate, the population shows no tendency to increase since, in this almost entirely agricultural area, there is no substantial alternative means of livelihood.

For yet another year no case of diphtheria occurred, but in spite of this, the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children are immunised before their first birthday (by their own doctor or at a County Council clinic) remains, for freedom from this dread disease depends on a high all-round level of immunity. No case of poliomyelitis either was notified, and it seems not too much to hope that the future holds out a promise that this disease may also be controlled.

In the field of environmental hygiene, considerable progress was made in advancing the Council's comprehensive sewerage scheme for the town area. This scheme will eliminate many nuisances of which the necessity for a night soil collection and the gross pollution at the High Lode rank as the most important.

In the matter of water supply, very great satisfaction is felt that the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board have been able to make arrangements to augment, and possibly ultimately replace, their present supply by their agreement with the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company. This water, when received, will enable the austerity measures to be relaxed and will improve the quality of the present supply as regards "hardness." However, the question as to whether Ramsey need a larger measure of water storage, in view of the anticipated increase in consumption together with the length of the trunk main, will need careful consideration in the near future.

Slaughtering for human consumption locally is throwing a great strain on the work of the single Sanitary Inspector, who is also the single Surveyor, as this area is concerned in slaughter for the wholesale pig trade. The number of slaughter-house licences granted were rather in excess of those anticipated, or even desired by the Council, and this in some way was due to the necessity for making adequate arrangements in advance of covering legislation.

Owing to the pressure of work, no progress had been made at the end of the year with the Housing Survey, but it is apparent that the present rate of building must be kept up to the current annual allocation and that this allocation must also be increased if the Council are to make headway with slum clearance and deal with the list of normal housing applicants. In the term "slum clearance" are included the 31 families at present occupying the Military Camp at Wood Lane and which the Council is being urged to evacuate.

During the year a number of applications were made and approved for Improvement Grants. There are indications that this number should show a substantial increase as knowledge of the provisions of the grant spreads since there are quite a considerable number of properties in the district which could be dealt with in this way.

In conclusion, I should like to say how much I value the ready co-operation which I have continued to experience from all Members of the Council and all their officers and staff.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Birth Rate per 1000 population 19.0

Still Births.

Rate per 1000 total births Nil

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population 10.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total }
(live and still) births Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 18.5

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 19.0

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Actual No. of Deaths	1	2	7	3	3	2
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	9.6	21.5	62.5	27.8	25.6	18.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil

RATES.

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Std'izd Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Ramsey U. D. ...	19.0	Nil	10.5	10.7	18.5
England & Wales ...	15.2	0.36	11.3	11.3	25.5

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

						M.	F.	Total
Causes of Death.						30	30	60
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	-	5	5
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	...	...	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Peterborough at present.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances are provided by the Huntingdon County Council from their depot at Huntingdon.

(c) Nursing in the Home :

Nursing in the home is carried out by three qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres :

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Health Clinic on the 2nd and last Wednesday every month from 2—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :-

School Clinic
(Minor Ailment)

Health Clinic 3rd Thursday
of the month, 10—12 noon

Ante-Natal	The Health Clinic Every Tuesday — 2—4 p.m.
Dental Clinic	The Health Clinic 2nd Wednesday of the month 2—4 p.m.
Eyes	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton By Appointment
Tuberculosis	1, Thorpe Road, Peterborough Every Monday — 2—4 p.m. By Appointment.
Orthopædic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough Every Monday, 2.15 p.m. By Appointment.
Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.
Venereal Diseases	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
Women Only	Fridays — 10.30—12 noon. Wednesdays — 5.30—7 p.m.
Men Only	Mondays — 5.30—7 p.m. Thursdays — 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals :

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Disease at Peterborough
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital services in the district.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity cases at the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park at the present time.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

Housing :

Some progress is being made with regard to existing property, but difficulty is being experienced owing to lack of accommodation for re-housing purposes. As families are allocated council houses, appropriate action is being taken where necessary, under the Housing Acts, on houses vacated.

At the end of the year proceedings were being taken for Closing Orders on 3 houses which are unfit for habitation and not repairable at a reasonable cost and which cannot at the present time be demolished.

The Council have considered 11 applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and have awarded grants in 10 cases, the remaining case is still pending.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	34
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	100
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	16

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	10
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Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered so fit after service of formal notice (Public Health Acts) ...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	3

New Housing :

During the year 12 traditional houses and 8 "Unity" houses were completed, with a further 22 "Unity" houses under construction, making a total of 20 council houses erected. The number of houses built by private enterprise was 5. The Westfield site is now nearing completion as there is only land available for a further 14 houses. The Council are at present considering sites for future housing in the Wood Lane area.

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	258
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	640
Council House Maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	...	627
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Highways	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Playing Field	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	2213

Closets :

No. of houses at the end of the year with w.c.'s	...	860
" " " Pail Closets	...	883
" " " Privy Vaults	...	21
No. of w.c.'s constructed during the year for new houses		30
No. of w.c.'s newly constructed for old property	...	12
No. of Privies converted to Pail Closets	... ..	7

Milk Supply :

Three milk distributors are registered and three Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised were granted during the year.

Water Supply :

Samples from the water supply are taken at regular intervals and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough. During the summer months the supply again caused concern and it was difficult at times to meet the demand. In order to conserve as much water as possible restrictions were imposed on the use of water for non-domestic purposes. Negotiations are still in hand for a supply from the Cambridge Water Works, a much softer water, which will considerably improve the present position.

The average water consumption for all purposes per head of population per day is 19 gallons.

No. of samples taken from the main piped supply	...	15
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Drainage and Sewerage :

The need of an up to date system of sewerage for Ramsey Town is still an urgent necessity, as pointed out in the Annual Report for 1953. In some parts of the town where houses have no drains whatever, slops and waste water have to be carried, in some cases across the public highway, to be emptied down road gullies, causing a considerable nuisance.

The scheme to provide sewers and disposal works for the town area is proceeding but is at present held up by the negotiations for purchase of land for the sewage works site.

Factories Act, 1937 :

Total No. of Factories (including Bakehouses)	...	24
No. in which nuisances abated	... ..	1

Meat and Food Inspection :

The 2nd July, 1954, saw the renewal of free enterprise slaughtering and in this area 4 slaughterhouses commenced killing within a few days of this date. Originally there were six slaughterhouses registered, but two have been closed as being unsuitable. The remainder were in various states of repair, but have all been improved bearing in mind the interim period of 5 years mentioned in the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954.

The majority of carcasses have been inspected, although this entailed a considerable amount of additional work, including evenings. The following table shows the results of the inspection service:—

No. of Slaughterhouses on register ...	...	...	...	4
No. of visits for meat inspection ...	...	...	...	253

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known) ...	27	7	1	99 +	1756 +
No. Inspected ...	27	7	1	99	1756
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	1	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	13
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affec- ted with disease other than tubercu- losis ...	—	14.6%	—	—	.91%
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	2	—	—	16
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affec- ted with tubercu- losis ...	3.7%	28.6%	—	—	.91%

Food Premises :

The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as under :—

Butchers' Shops ...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers and General Stores ...	...	...	...	...	26
Greengrocers ...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakers ...	...	...	...	...	7
Confectioners ...	...	...	...	...	19
Fish Premises ...	...	...	...	...	5
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels ...	...	...	...	...	6
				Total ...	79

Number of Premises registered under Section 14 of Food and Drugs Act, 1938	16
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Refuse Collection :

The refuse collection scheme for the town, with labour on a contract basis, and collections at weekly intervals, continue to run smoothly. Refuse is satisfactorily disposed of at the controlled tip at Stocking Fen and very few complaints are received.

In the outside areas collections are made by contract on a fortnightly basis and all refuse brought to the one tip at Stocking Fen.

The collection of night soil is carried out by contract twice weekly in the town and weekly in the outside areas. Although this is an absolute necessity, it is a system which is full of complaints and one which can only be abolished by the provision of a proper sewerage scheme.

Moveable Dwellings :

During the year 17 licences were granted to erect station and use moveable dwellings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. All dwellings are inspected from time to time to ensure that the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Rodent Control :

A rodent control service is provided to private and business premises in the area under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The rodent operator made 589 visits to various properties and carried out 92 treatments in cases of infestation.

General :

In concluding this report may I thank the Members of the Council for their active interest and support, the Medical Officer of Health for his advice and the Staff and Workmen for their co-operation. I would also like to express my appreciation of the work carried out by my predecessor, Mr. J. R. Tanner, including his assistance given on my taking over this district in June of this year.

G. O. MARCH,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the last quarter of the year there was a brisk outbreak of measles. Over half the cases occurred in the age group 5—10 years, but for the most part the disease was not severe and there were no deaths.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1954.

DISEASE	TOTAL												under 1 year		I	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	
Erysipelas
Smallpox
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria
Cerebro-Spinal Fever
Pneumonia
Measles
Whooping Cough
Puerperal Pyrexia
Jaundice

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health

