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Contributors

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RAUNDS URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. McINNES, M.B., D.P.H.

1955





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RAUNDS URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman, 1955:

D.H.Smith, Esq.

Clerk:

B.M.Killick

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health:

A.McInnes, M.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor:

G.Whittam, F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.

Area of District:

6,483 acres

Population:

4,690

PARTICULARS of Separate Dwellings, Population, Rateable Value and Product of 1d. Rate.

		Dwellings	Population	Rateable Value £	Penny Rate £. s. d		
1953	...	1,583	4,663	20,108	76.	14.	5.49
1954	...	1,618	4,690	20,662	78.	17.	5.15
1955	...	1,646	4,690	21,027	80.	14.	5.82

Mr. Chairman,

A report on the health of the District for the year 1955 is given herewith. In a previous report there was a description of Raunds Urban District, its natural environment and its social make-up. The Urban District is on the fringe of the boot and shoe manufacturing area, represented typically by Rushden, and spills into the agricultural part of the county, represented by Thrapston. Its boundary runs with the agricultural county of Huntingdon. Although preponderantly industrial Raunds has many agricultural interests.

Statistics are given for the three years 1953, 1954 and 1955. For an area as small as Raunds there are bound to be wide fluctuations in statistics from year to year. If it is desired to compare Raunds of 1955 with any previous year the crude rates and not standard rates should be compared.

Public Health Medicine started off just over 50 years ago with the belief that through its system and work lay the hope of improving the physical state of the inhabitants of this country. This hope has, in a measure, been realised, especially through the Housing Acts. Better housing and better wages and the great advances in curative medicine by the discovery of Penicillin and its likes are the chief factors leading to a marked increase of the expectation of life. We are living longer and the effect of this is now upon us. The social amelioration of old age lags far behind the problem associated with a relative increase of the aged in the population. The aged are not as well cared for as they should be. This has come to a country with a good standard of health and of social administration. One can only wonder what is going to happen to the world when the expectation of life of the Asiatic and African is raised to 70 years from the present 25.

Birth Rate.

The number of births and a series of rates are given below. Up to 1950 only crude Birth Rates could be given, but for 1950 and afterwards a comparability factor has been issued so that standard Birth Rate = crude Birth Rate x comparability factor. For Raunds the comparability factor for 1953 was 1.08, for 1954, 1.17, and for 1955, 1.17.

Of the 62 births in 1955, 40 were born and registered in Raunds and 22 were inward transfers.

Live Births.

TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS in Raunds Urban District :-

						1953		1954		1955	
						M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	40	26	35	34	33	28
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	2	2	0	1
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	40	26	37	36	33	29
Illegitimate rate per 1,000 Live Births						0.0		54.8		16.1	
BIRTH RATES per 1,000 of population :-											
Raunds U.D.C. - Crude						15.28		15.5		13.2	
Standard						16.5		18.13		15.46	
England and Wales						15.5				15.0	
Administrative County						16.16				15.4	

Still Births.

						1953		1954		1955	
						M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	2	0	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	2	0	1	2

	1953	1954	1955
Rate per 1,000 of Live and Still Births :-			
Raunds Urban District	15.0	26.6	46.0
England and Wales	22.4		23.1
Administrative County	21.18	22.29	24.03
Rate per 1,000 of population :-			
Raunds Urban District	0.2	0.42	0.64
England and Wales	0.35		0.35
Administrative County	0.35		0.38

Death Rate.

Below are given the number of deaths and a table of death rates per 1,000 of population. A Comparability Factor has been given so that Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor = Standard Death Rate. The necessity of this factor for the purposes of comparison is due to an unequal distribution of age groups and also, to a lesser degree, of the sexes. For example: Bournemouth and Cheltenham are more likely to have a greater number in the older age groups than say Coventry or Wigan, where most are of the earning ages. Females have a greater expectation of life than males.

A classification of the causes of death is given in tables at the end of the report.

Number of Deaths.

	1953	1954	1955
Males	26	23	41
Females	15	21	40
TOTAL	41	44	81

In 1953 there were 10, in 1954, 19, and in 1955, 23, inwards transfers of persons normally resident in Raunds who died in hospital or while temporarily resident away from home.

Analysis of ages at death were :-

	1953	1954	1955
Over 90	1	3	0
80 - 90	11	15	22
70 - 80	14	12	25
60 - 70	7	7	11
50 - 60	5	5	12
40 - 50	0	0	5
30 - 40	1	0	2
20 - 30	0	0	1
10 - 20	0	0	0
1 - 10	0	0	1
Under 1	2	2	2
	41	44	81

Percentage of deaths over 70	64%	68%	58%
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

DEATH RATE :-

Raunds Urban District - Crude	...	8.8	9.38	17.3
Standard	...	7.2	7.41	13.6
England and Wales	...	11.4		
Administrative County	...	11.51	11.04	11.38
Comparability Factor 1953	=	0.82		
" " 1954	=	0.79		
" " 1955	=	0.79		

Maternal Mortality.

The yearly number of births is too small to give a reliable figure of comparison with a populous area or of the trend when compared with figures for the whole of England and Wales. There has been no death associated with childbirth since 1935, the year of the formation of the District.

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified in 1955. During 20 years only 5 cases of puerperal Pyrexia have been notified.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

A special table at the end of this report gives rates since 1935, the year of the inclusion of Stanwick in the District.

NUMBER OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE -

						1953		1954		1955	
						M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2	0	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2	0	1	1

RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS :-

Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	30.0	27.3	32.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	26.8		
Administrative County	...	...	...	24.7		

Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate births	30.0	29.0	32.8
---	-----	-----	------	------	------

Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	0.0	0.0	0.0
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

In 1953 both deaths were under 4 weeks.

In 1954 there was no death under 4 weeks.

In 1955 there was one death under 4 weeks.

Cancer.

The number of deaths for the years of the report are given in the table of causes of death to be found at the end of the report.

Cancer of the Lung.

This is usually a cancer of the Bronchial tubes. Improved methods of diagnosis have separated this disease from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There is no satisfactory evidence that Lung Cancer is on the increase, nor is there any satisfactory evidence that smokers are more liable to the disease than non-smokers. Lung cancer was the cause of two deaths in 1955.

The microscopic appearance of cancerous tissue, and after all the microscope is the final arbiter, indicates that the characteristic of the disease is a reversion to the primitive. By primitive is meant the type of tissue seen in the developing ovum or foetus. Although one cannot deny the possibility of a specific invasive agent as a cause, there is undoubted statistical evidence that old age is a most important factor in causation. Cancer may occur in young people, but this young cancer has its origin in the generative organs. In the old, cancer may develop in any part of the body. Medical science has given us a greater expectation of life and, at the same time, a proportionate increase in the number of deaths from Cancer.

Infectious Diseases are now treated at Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton.

Diphtheria

A table of statistics for the District is appended.

Year	Estimated Population		No. of Births	Immunised		Notifications	Deaths
	Under 5	5 - 15		Under 5	5 - 15		
1941	305	765	58	139	565	0	0
1942	280	650	73	61	13	0	0
1943	280	650	71	72	68	0	0
1944	328	651	88	36	24	1	0
1945	341	598	80	47	24	0	0
1946	328	565	89	43	10	0	0
1947	340	540	98	39	7	0	0
1948	355	550	77	69	14	0	0
1949	360	563	65	54	6	0	0
1950	360	593	53	36	8	0	0
1951	380	635	67	50	3	0	0
1952	N.K.	N.K.	55	48	4	0	0
1953	N.K.	N.K.	66	55	1	0	0
1954	N.K.	N.K.	73	52	21	0	0
1955	N.K.	N.K.	62	38	29	0	0

Since 1935 only 9 cases of Diphtheria have been notified and there was one death in the year 1935.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Age -								
at 31/12/45	0	25	28	41	42	270	402	808
at 31/12/46	2	18	34	32	49	240	392	767
at 31/12/47	2	28	24	35	34	238	370	731
at 31/12/48	6	42	37	29	39	231	335	719
at 31/12/49	1	38	54	41	34	222	314	704
at 31/12/50	1	31	41	55	45	218	296	687
at 31/12/51	0	35	44	40	58	212	263	652
at 31/12/52	4	21	37	44	44	218	257	625
at 31/12/53	7	35	37	39	45	223	243	629
at 31/12/54	16	32	36	38	39	239	229	629

Scarlet Fever.

	1953	1954	1955
Number notified	4	3	0
Number died	0	0	0
Notification rate per 1,000 -			
Raunds Urban District	0.86	0.64	0.0
England and Wales	1.39		
Death rate per 1,000 -			
Raunds Urban District	0.0	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	N.K.	N.K.	N.K.

Erysipelas.

	1953	1954	1955
Number notified	3	0	0
Number died	0	0	0

Pneumonia.

	1953	1954	1955
Number notified	5	3	0
Number died	1	2	4

Pneumonia (continued).

				1953	1954	1955
Notification rate per 1,000 -						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	1.07	0.64	0.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.84		
Death rate per 1,000 -						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	0.21	0.42	0.85
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.55		

Pneumonia is not often notified so that no relationship exists between the number notified and the number of deaths.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid.

One case of Paratyphoid B was notified in a child of 1 year 8 months. At this time there was a number of cases in Kettering and near villages said to be due to the eating of baker's confectionery made with Chinese frozen eggs.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

There were no notifications.

Measles.

				1953	1954	1955
Number notified	...	...	...	144	0	2
Number died	...	...	...	0	0	0
Notification rate per 1,000 -						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	30.88	0.0	0.42
England and Wales	...	...	...	12.36		
Death rate per 1,000 -						
Raunds Urban District	0.0	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	N.K.	N.K.	N.K.

Whooping Cough.

				1953	1954	1955
Number notified	...	...	...	1	21	0
Number died	...	...	...	0	0	0
Notification rate per 1,000 -						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	0.21	4.47	0.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	3.58		
Death rate per 1,000 -						
Raunds Urban District	0.0	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.01		

Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.

				1953	1954	1955
Number notified	...	...	...	0	0	0
Number died	...	...	...	0	0	0
Notification rate per 1,000 -						
<u>Paralytic</u>						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.07		
<u>Non-Paralytic</u>						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.04		
Death rate per 1,000 -						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.01		

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age.

There was no death in 1953, 1954 or 1955.

Influenza.

	1953	1954	1955
Number of Deaths	1	0	0
Rate per 1,000 population -			
Raunds Urban District	0.21	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	0.16		

Tuberculosis (Pulmonary).

NOTIFICATIONS	- 1953	Four males, aged 45, 21, 10 and 9, and one female, aged 16.
	1954	Four males, aged 70, 34, 21 and 12, and one female, aged 28.
	1955	Nil
DEATHS	- 1953	Nil
	1954	Nil
	1955	One

Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory).

There were no notifications and no deaths from this cause in 1953, 1954 or 1955.

Report - The Director of Mass Radiography has kindly given me the following

Oxford Regional Hospital Board
No.1 (Northants) Mass Radiography Service

RAUNDS - THIRD SURVEY

11th - 14th October, 1955.

Held at Brook Street, Raunds.

Response :- Firms 80%
 School 100%

SUMMARY OF WORK

SUMMARY OF WORK					Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	...	...	...	...	895	1,002	1,897
No. of large films taken	...	...	...	...	40	30	70
No. recalled for clinical examination	...	...	...	...	9	7	16
No. referred to chest clinic	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	676	651	1,327
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	219	351	570

RESULTS OF CASES REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC

Tuberculosis :-

Active pulmonary tuberculosis requiring
immediate treatment

This case was newly discovered: did not have a positive sputum: had not been previously examined by M.M.R.

Presumably inactive pulmonary tuberculosis
but requiring occasional supervision

but requiring occasional supervision	...	2	-	2
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis requiring no further action	... ..	1	1	2

Non-Tuberculous Conditions :-

Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Pulmonary fibrosis	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Bronchial carcinoma	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
					7	3	10

RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE
MEDICAL DIRECTOR BUT NOT REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC.

						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis :-								
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...				1	1	2
Non-Tuberculosis Conditions :-								
Osteo-chondroma scapula	...	...	...	...		-	1	1
Mitral stenosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
						2	4	6

SUMMARY OF NEWLY DISCOVERED CASES OF SIGNIFICANT TUBERCULOSIS FOUND
IN THE RAUNDS THIRD SURVEY.

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.B.	Rate per Thousand	Inactive P.T.B.	Rate per Thousand
Boot and shoe firms	855	1		1	
Other firms	330	-		-	
General Public	593	-		-	
Schools	119	-		-	
TOTAL	1,897	1	.53	1	.53

Tuberculosis - Number on Register.

At the end of 1953 there were on the Register 24 respiratory cases and 5 non-respiratory cases; on 31st December, 1954, 29 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory cases and on the 31st December, 1955, 22 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

	1953	1954	1955
Number notified	0	1	0
Number died	0	0	0

Water Supply.

Raunds gets its water from wells sunk in the gravel of the Nene Valley. The position of the wells is a compromise between the two considerations of sufficiency of supply and prevention of contamination by flooding of the valley in winter. Before 1941 Raunds supply was not treated in any way, now the water is both filtered and chlorinated. It should be understood that treatment makes the water safer under varying conditions. Chlorine can be used in a range of 0.1 to 5.0 parts per million without unduly tasting the water provided the larger doses are necessary by reason of flooding. Over many years chemical and bacteriological analyses have been remarkably uniform and indicate a water of high purity.

This is a typical analysis :-

Sample of Water labelled, "Standpipe, Cartrill Street".

Physical Characters	...	...	Good
Reaction	...	...	pH 7.1

The sample contained :-							parts per 100,000
Chloride	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.8
Ammonia (Free and Saline)	...	...	...	...	...	...	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0018
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs at 37° C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0542
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.25
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	...	absent
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	absent
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	38.5

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of microorganisms per ml developing on Agar at 37° C = nil

Number of microorganisms per ml developing on Agar at 21° C = 5

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT.

None

I N F E R E N C E.

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

S. GREENBURGH

Public Analyst.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken by the Council under Section 47.

A. McINNES

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL TABLES 1953-55.

Table No.1

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	1953			1954			1955		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
2 Tuberculosis, other ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Whooping cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Meningeal Infections ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
11 " " Bronchus ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
12 " " Breast ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2
13 " " Uterus ...	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	1	1	0	3	2	1	9	4	5
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Diabetes ...	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
17 Vascular lesions, nervous system	5	3	2	6	3	3	5	3	2
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	4	3	1	5	3	2	12	5	7
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
20 Other Heart Disease ...	9	4	5	8	4	4	10	7	3
21 Other Circulatory Disease ...	2	0	2	2	0	2	5	3	2
22 Influenza ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Pneumonia ...	1	1	0	2	1	1	4	2	2
24 Bronchitis ...	4	3	1	2	1	1	4	2	2
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory system ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Congenital malformations ...	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	1
32 Other defined and ill defined disease ...	4	4	0	9	4	5	11	3	8
33 Motor Vehicle accidents ...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
34 All other accidents ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	1
35 Suicide ...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
36 Homicide and Operations of War	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	41	26	15	44	23	21	81	41	40

Table No.3

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Measles	1953	15	81	11	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	144
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1955	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Whooping Cough	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	1954	0	0	0	0	2	1	11	3	4	0	0	0	21
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	4
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric fever	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1953	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	1954	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1953	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anterior poliomyelitis	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1953	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1955	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The last report which covered the two years 1953 and 1954 gave details of action under the 'Slum Clearance' Acts taken by the Council to deal with unfit houses. It showed that by the end of 1954 the Council had dealt with 241 houses, 143 in Clearance Areas and 98 as individually unfit. 155 of these houses had been demolished, 21 had been closed for human habitation and 43 had been reconditioned. 16 houses due for demolition were vacant, but at the end of 1954 six houses due for demolition or closing were still occupied.

During the year of report another eight of these condemned houses were pulled down and another five were closed. Also during the report year the only occupied house in the outstanding Clearance Areas was vacated so that at the end of 1955 the position with regard to slum clearance action taken prior to the year of report can be summarised as follows :-

Action completed :

- 163 houses had been demolished.
- 26 houses had been closed.
- 25 houses had been made fit.
- 18 houses had been converted into nine and made fit.

Action not completed :

- 9 houses vacant pending demolition.

Details of these nine houses are :-

Clearance Areas.

- Area No.21. Three houses Nos.33, 35 and 37 Grove Street, Raunds.
3 houses vacant pending demolition.
- Area No.26. Four houses, Rooksby's Yard, Raunds.
1 house vacant pending demolition. (3 demolished)
- Area No.27. Three houses, Nos.9, 11 and 13 Midland Road, Raunds.
3 houses vacant pending demolition.

Individual Unfit Houses.

- Two houses, Nos.1 and 3 Church Street, Raunds.
2 houses vacant pending demolition.

Further action.

During 1955 the Council took action to condemn 37 houses making five new Clearance Areas comprising 22 houses and dealing with the other 15 as individually unfit. Six of these 37 houses were demolished and 9 were vacated, but at the end of the year 22 houses were still occupied awaiting re-housing of the tenants. Particulars of the 37 houses are :-

- Clearance Area No.32. Three houses, Nos.41, 43 and 45 Hill Street, Raunds.
3 houses demolished.
- Clearance Area No.33. Six houses, Nos.54, 56, 58, 60, 62 and 64 Hill Street, Raunds.
3 houses vacant.
3 houses occupied 31st December, 1955.
- Clearance Area No.34. Two houses, Nos.23 and 25 West Street, Stanwick.
2 houses occupied 31st December, 1955.
- Clearance Area No.35. Nine houses, Nos.1, 3, 5 and 7 Villa Lane, and Nos.2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 West Street, Stanwick.
9 houses occupied 31st December, 1955.
- Clearance Area No.36. Two houses, Nos.3 and 5 North Street, Raunds.
1 house vacant.
1 house occupied 31st December, 1955.

Individual Unfit Houses.

- One house, No.9 Blott's Gardens, Rotton Row, Raunds.
To be demolished, but occupied 31st December, 1955.
- Two houses, Factory Yard, Grove Street, Raunds.
2 houses closed.
- One house, Black Lodge, Raunds.
1 house closed.
- Three houses, Nos.28, 30 and 32 Grove Street, Raunds.
1 house closed.
2 houses occupied 31st December, 1955, to be closed.
- Four houses, Nos.33, 35, 37 and 39 Church Street, Stanwick.
2 houses to be made fit on owner's undertaking.
2 houses to be demolished, occupied 31st December, 1955.
- Three houses, Nos.20, 22 and 24 East Street, Stanwick.
3 houses demolished.
- One house, Newbridge Lane, Stanwick.
1 house vacant, to be demolished.

The action taken by the Council to condemn these houses was in accordance with their proposals for dealing with slum clearance under the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and subsequently approved by the Minister. The following is a copy of these proposals in the form as required by and submitted to the Minister :-

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area 1625

PART 1. THE TOTAL PROBLEM.

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 90
- (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i) 5

PART 2. ORDERS ALREADY MADE, ETC.

- (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority 4
- (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative. nil

PART 3. ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS.

- (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years. 21
- (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister 55
- (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation nil
- (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years. 80

- (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

10

Action taken during the year brought the total number of houses dealt with officially by the Council under slum clearance procedure up to 278 of which number 233 have been, or are to be, demolished or closed.

191 day-to-day housing inspections were carried out in addition to those upon which the above reported action was taken and representations were made to owners, by letter or by personal contact, concerning structural defects of various kinds in 83 houses, defective sanitary accommodation at 16 houses, defects in drains at 19 houses and defects of water supplies or fittings at 11 houses. This informal action produced the desired results except at seven houses in Marshalls Road where the Council had to issue statutory notices before essential roof repairs could be obtained, and in the case of a house in Rotton Row where another statutory notice had to be issued before a dangerous fireplace was made good.

Post War Housing.

The Council's post-war housing programme continued at a steady pace, 34 houses being completed and occupied during the year. 28 of these houses are in the Raunds Ward and 6 are at Stanwick. They bring the total number of houses erected by the Council since the war and up to the end of 1955 to 224 (including ten prefabs). 178 are at Raunds, 46 at Stanwick. Only four of these houses, all at Stanwick were specially designed for old people - they are one-bedroom bungalows.

The Council also own 218 houses built before the last war, 173 at Raunds and 45 at Stanwick. Included in them are ten one-bedroom bungalows for old people, six at Raunds and four at Stanwick.

At the end of 1955, two single bedroom bungalows for old people were under construction at Raunds and their completion shortly after marked a temporary cessation of building operations, but the Council were at that time considering a scheme for the erection of 28 houses and six two-bedroom bungalows on the new site off Windmill Lane. They were also considering the acquisition of a small piece of undeveloped land in Manor Street as a site for old-people's bungalows.

The Council agreed during the year to purchase the ten prefabs in Windmill Grove.

Eight houses were erected in the year of report by private enterprise.

Grants were made under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, of £15 per year for 40 years for each of two houses being erected and intended for occupation by agricultural workers.

Improvement Grants.

The Council operate the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, and during the year made twenty six grants amounting in all to £1,923. Twenty four grants were made to owner-occupiers mainly for the provision of bathrooms with indoor sanitation and hot water supplies. The bathrooms were usually provided by straightforward conversions of spare bedrooms or boxrooms involving only the simple installation of sanitary fittings and hot water apparatus with a minimum amount of drainage. Two or three schemes were rather more elaborate and required the erection of small extensions to existing premises or required the demolition of unsatisfactory sculleries or outbuildings and their replacement with slightly larger and better arranged buildings providing improved kitchen facilities as well as new bathrooms. Other works in the approved schemes included the installation of improved heating arrangements and some essential structural alterations eligible for grant. One grant of £114 was for the conversion of cesspool drainage to main drainage. Grants were made

to an owner for improvements at two rented houses which gave them more efficient heating systems, proper food stores, new floors, new sinks with indoor water, bathrooms with indoor sanitation and new hot water supplies.

Four applications were rejected because they did not comply with the conditions prescribed by the Act.

Water Supply.

Because of the relatively dry summer and autumn 1955 was a difficult year for Water Undertakings and in common with most other parts of the country we experienced a near shortage in the town's water supply that gave rise to some anxiety towards the end of the year. The yield of the wells in the Nene river gravels, from which the supply is taken, fell off considerably in the late autumn. By December one of the three wells had dried up altogether and another had almost reached that stage, but the third well, sunk in 1943, was not affected to the same extent and although the yield did fall a little it continued for a long time to supply much the greater part of the demand. Fortunately before the position became really serious we were able to augment the supply by taking in water from a large open trench in an adjoining field cut into the gravel some years ago.

We tried to restore the supply into the well which had dried up, but our efforts were abortive. In the second well however our efforts were rather more successful and we were able to make a temporary improvement. Feeder tubes were cleaned out as much as possible by wormed rods and new perforations were drilled through the iron linings at lower levels. This work did improve the supply at first, but the increase wasn't maintained and after a few days the yield declined again with the lowering of the water table surrounding the well. The new perforations also brought a lot of fine sand into the well which kept finding its way into the pump suction where it caused a great amount of trouble by interfering with the action of the foot valve. We also tried to improve the yield by extending the feeder tubes farther into the gravel, but it is too tightly packed for manual driving, the only method available to us, to make any impression at all. These methods succeeded in the third well however, where the gravel seems to be less tightly packed and we were able to restore the yield of this well to somewhere near normal for the time of year. But this well by itself could not meet the demand and we had to extract every drop of water possible from the second well. These two wells feed one pump through dual suctions, one leg in each well and as the capacity of the pump is greater than the flow was at the time we had considerable difficulty in balancing the two so as to avoid pump stoppages through airlocks created when one or both suctions became uncovered. The pump is driven by electricity and normally requires little attention, but throughout this period we had to be in constant attendance, day and night, watching the suctions. Even so there were many stoppages because of airlocks in the pump and repriming was difficult and very laborious owing to sand in the foot valve. The sand became such a nuisance that in the end we had to plug some of the new perforations to keep it out of the well. All this time the service reservoir was getting lower and lower. Despite economy appeals by poster and by handbills delivered to every consumer, the consumption was rising as supplies of soft-water ran out and the town's hard water had to be used for all purposes. But although pressures in the higher parts of the distribution area became very poor there was never any actual shortage of water and except for prohibiting the use of the town's supply for washing vehicles or swilling yards no restrictions were imposed and the supply was never cut off. There were shortages however in the high level parts of the St. Neots Rural District area which we supply, because of the impossibility of maintaining a full pressure tank in the face of increases in a consumption already well above the maximum provided for in the bulk supply agreement.

Eventually, as mentioned earlier, our difficulties were overcome by making use, with the kind permission of the land owner, of a trench in a field adjoining the waterworks meadow. This trench which is about 100 feet long and 40 feet wide was sunk into the river gravels during the last war by the American Army Air Force who were then occupying Kimbolton Airfield which we supplied with water. The trench was dug to meet an anticipated failure of our wells which the American engineers thought might happen during a period

of very dry weather, but the wells did not fail and the trench was never actually used except for plant testing. It came in very useful however last December and January when the Council bought a 3" portable diesel oil pump which was set up on the banks of the trench to deliver water through an over-land main into the pumping well. The reservoir levels were quickly restored and with a break in the fine weather the consumption fell a little. The yield of the wells improved and we were able to dispense with the emergency supply after some sixteen days use.

There were no other developments during the year at the source of supply nor were there any changes in the waterworks plant full details of which were given in the report for 1954.

The water is treated by pressure filters and by the chloramine process, the chlorine dosage throughout the year being at the average rate of about 0.5 part per million which always gave a residual chlorine value never less than 0.1 p.p.m., in each of the four, or more, comparator tests taken daily. A typical analysis of the treated water as it reaches the consumer is included by the Medical Officer of Health in his report.

The total consumption of water in the urban district during the year was 50,861,400 gallons for all purposes. Trade consumption accounted for 12,113,000 gallons and the balance of 38,748,000 gallons can be attributed to domestic consumption plus a little wastage. These figures give an average consumption per day of 139,000 gallons for all purposes which divides into 106,100 gallons for domestic purposes and 33,200 gallons for trade purposes. Expressed in gallons per day per head of population the figures give 30.22 gallons for all purposes made up of 23.00 gallons for domestic use and 7.22 gallons for trade purposes compared with 29.15 gallons, 23.40 gallons and 5.75 gallons per head per day respectively in 1954.

In addition to water used in our own district we supplied 20,584,000 gallons through the bulk supply scheme for the parish of Hargrave in the Oundle and Thrapston rural district and the parishes of Covington, Tilbrook, Kimbolton, Stoneley, Catworth and Stow in the St. Neots rural district. This amount works out at an average daily consumption of 56,000 gallons against the 40,000 gallons a day maximum provided for in the agreement with the St. Neots Rural District Council, under which the bulk supply is afforded.

There were no developments in the distribution system during the year except that a number of unsatisfactory ball hydrants were replaced by the screw-down valve type fitted with outlets suitable for the standard Fire Services equipment.

The water mains were tapped seventeen times for new domestic supplies and once for a new industrial supply.

Indoor Water Supplies.

Several extensions of existing water services were made to provide indoor supplies in accordance with the requirements of the Water Act, 1945, and twenty houses had sinks and indoor water installed during the year in place of outside standpipes.

At the end of the year 168 houses in the district were drawing water from common standpipes, but this number includes the 96 houses scheduled to be dealt with in the Council's five years slum clearance programme. It also includes 21 houses for which their owners had been requested to provide sinks and indoor supplies.

Water Byelaws.

In accordance with the Water Act, 1945, the Council made new Water Byelaws, based on the model issued by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied from the public supply. The byelaws were confirmed by the Minister on 14th November, 1955, and came into operation on 12th December, 1955.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Nothing of significance occurred during the year in connexion with the foul or storm water sewerage systems.

New settling tanks were constructed at the Raunds Sewage Disposal Works and brought into operation during the year. The new tanks almost doubled the settling tank capacity and brought about a considerable improvement in the effluent as it passes to the percolating filters, but a great deal still needs to be done at these works before a satisfactory final effluent will be obtained. It is well known that the works are grossly overloaded. The two percolating filters can only take about half the daytime flow and this they don't deal with satisfactorily because the media is choked with the accumulated sludge of years. The humus tanks which receive the filter effluent are also much too small, but provision has been made in the 1956/57 estimates for new tanks to double their capacity. The excess sewage above the filter capacity passes over an area of land now most inadequate, sewage sick and never dry enough to plough or clean. As a result it is very difficult to produce a good final effluent at any time and impossible all the time.

The works at Stanwick are very simple and very inadequate; one closed and two small open settling tanks followed by an area of land trenched for broad irrigation. Provision has been made in the 1956/57 estimates for a new settling tank to be constructed which will more than double the present capacity. This must result in a cleaner tank effluent, but the benefit of this will be lessened considerably by the inadequacy of the land treatment it must afterwards receive.

The Hog Dyke into which the final effluent from the Raunds Sewage Disposal Works discharges was cleaned out during the year by the Nene River Board. The Council made a contribution of £150 towards the cost of this work.

House Refuse Collection.

House refuse is collected throughout the district once a week by means of a motor driven collecting vehicle of the low-loading type. The collected refuse is disposed of by a modified form of controlled tipping in a disused limestone quarry at Stanwick owned by the Council. Tipping of trade refuse is allowed there by arrangement. No developments or complaints about the house refuse collection service occurred in the year.

Rodent Control.

The Council have an arrangement with the Wellingborough Urban District Council, under which the services of their full time Rodent Operator are made available to us for the equivalent of three days a month. He carries out regular surveys as required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and treats any infestations he discovers or are assigned to him. Supplementary action is also taken by our own staff from time to time and as required for dealing with infestations noted during inspections for other purposes or reported as complaints. Regular treatments are carried out by our own staff at the Sewage Disposal Works, the refuse tip and at other Local Authority properties.

During the year of report 231 premises were inspected, 194 as a result of the survey required by the Act and 37 following complaints or incidental to other inspections. 187 of these inspections were of domestic properties, 17 of business or industrial premises, 15 of agricultural premises including allotments and 12 were of Local Authority properties.

No major infestations by rats were noted, but there were minor infestations on 26 domestic premises, 5 industrial premises, 3 agricultural premises and on 3 Council properties. There was also one infestation by mice, which although of a minor character, proved very troublesome to clear.

65 treatments, including re-treatments, were carried out by the Rodent Operator or by the Council's own workmen at domestic and local authority

properties, but this figures does not include the regular treatments at the Sewage Disposal Works and the refuse tip, of which no records are kept, and which no doubt limit the incidence of infestations and prevent minor infestations developing into major. Notices were served requiring specified treatments for minor rat infestations at four industrial and four agricultural premises.

Factories.

There was one addition to the Register of Factories bringing the total registrations to thirty-one, mechanical power being used in twenty-three, and there were twenty-two separate sites of building operations to which the sanitary provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, applied. All these factories and sites were visited, and as a result, three non-statutory notices were issued requiring repairs to drains at two factories and the cleansing of sanitary accommodation at another.

Lists returned under the provisions of Section 110 of the Act showed that twelve local factories employed a total of 114 outworkers, 69 living in the urban district and 45 in neighbouring towns and villages. Notifications were also received from Public Health Inspectors of other areas showing that 14 people living in the district were doing outwork for factories in their towns.

Certificates of satisfactory means of escape in case of fire were issued to four factories where the necessary works were done to comply with the Council's requirements or recommendations.

Meat and Food.

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the district where animals are killed for human consumption. Regular slaughtering is done on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; often on Thursdays and occasionally on Fridays and Sundays. This distribution of slaughtering over so many days of the week calls for a disproportionate amount of time to be spent on meat inspection and during the year 274 visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops. Carcases and viscera were examined of 251 beasts, 506 pigs and 1,027 sheep.

The complete carcase and organs of one beast and of a sheep, the head and neck of a pig and the livers of five beasts, one pig and one lamb were condemned as unfit for human consumption and were destroyed.

Routine inspections of food premises were made and the following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed :-

14	lbs.	Fish
6	lbs.	Butter
5	lbs.	Brisket of Beef.
31	lbs.	(6 tins) Corned Beef.
79½	lbs.	(57 tins) Peeled Tomatoes.
33	lbs.	(22 tins) Apricots.
16½	lbs.	(11 tins) Peaches.
1	lb.	(1 tin) Tomato Juice.
5	lbs.	(5 tins) Pears.
2	lbs.	(2 tins) Oranges.
1½	lbs.	(1 tin) Pineapple.
¾	lb.	(1 tin) Evaporated Milk.
6½	lbs.	(5 tins) Grapefruit.
106½	lbs.	(122 tins) Garden Peas.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district, all sales being of prepacked products from refrigerated containers. Two new licences were issued bringing the total up to twenty.

General.

Licences were renewed for the twenty registered stores for petrol and petroleum mixtures.

The district was relatively free from infectious disease and no fumigations were required nor were any disinfections for house vermin carried out.

G. WHITTAM

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

1881.

Received of the Treasurer of the County of ... the sum of ...

for ...

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