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U.D.C.**

Contributors

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ROTHWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

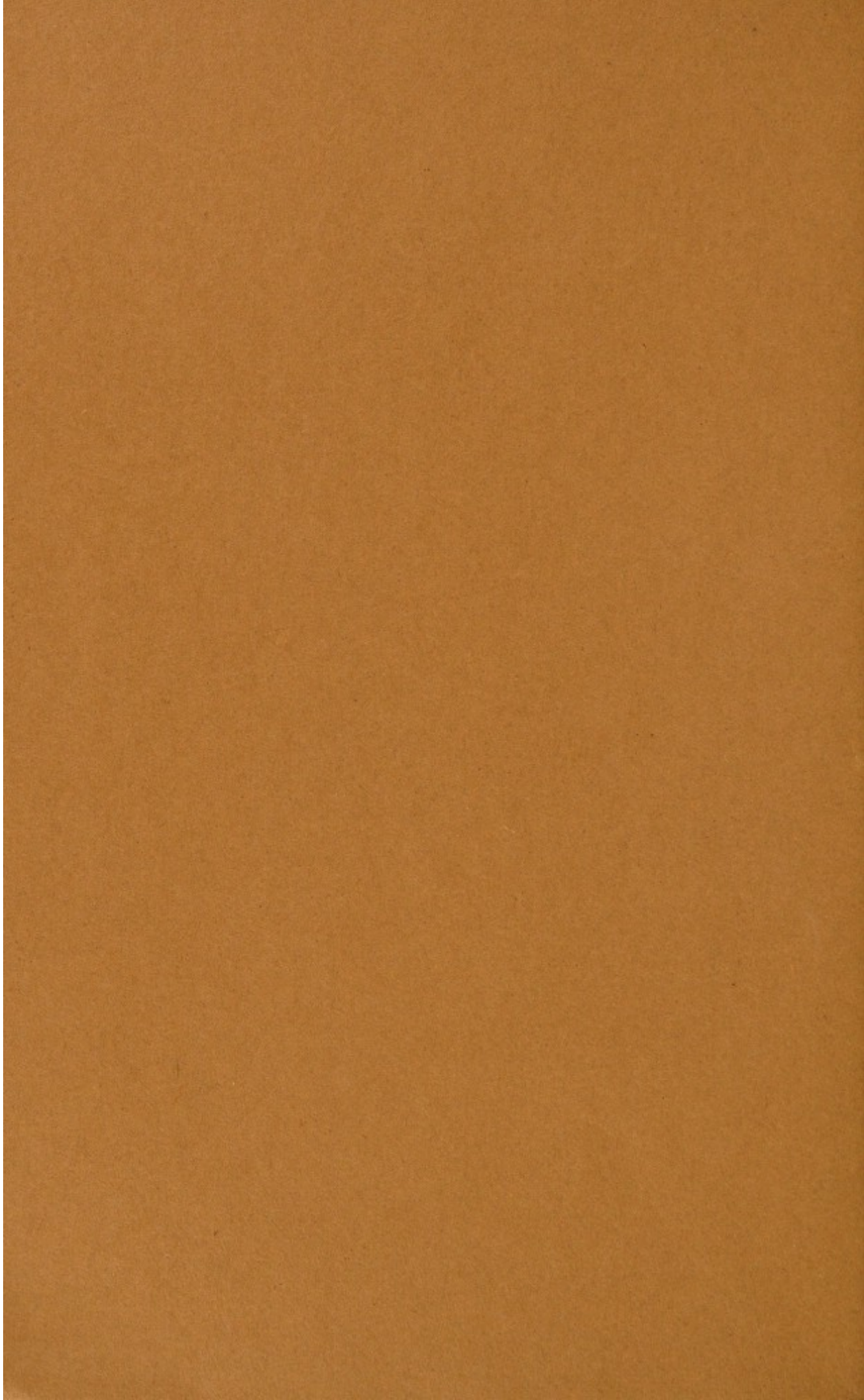
of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1948



DALKEITH PRESS LTD., KETTERING



Urban District of Rothwell

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. J. W. Rowlett (*Chairman*).

Messrs. A. Crook, S. B. Kimbell, F. T. Lee and C. H. York.
The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Also holds the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Desborough, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

A. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Cert.S.I.B.
(Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods).

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
Kettering.
July, 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District for 1948.

The National Health Service Act which came into operation on 5th July removed from the jurisdiction of the Council the two personal health services for which it was responsible, namely the treatment of Infectious Diseases and the immunisation of children under 15 years against Diphtheria. The Council is still responsible for preventing the incidence and spread of Infectious Diseases.

The Harrington water main, from Northampton reservoir was connected in June and provided an addition to the town water supply which had failed in several previous years to provide a 24 hours service. The substitution of a motor vehicle for refuse collection has proved more efficient and more hygienic than the former system of horse drawn vehicle.


I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and also to the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Area (acres)	3638	3638	3638	3638	3638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4458	4408	4629	4747	4685
Number of Live Births	99	83	103	91	72
Legitimate	81	69	96	85	69
Illegitimate	18	14	7	6	3
Birthrate per 1,000 population ...	22.20	18.82	22.25	19.17	15.36
Number of Still Births	2	1	3	—	2
Legitimate	2	1	3	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	19.80	11.90	28.30	—	27.02
Rate per 1,000 population	0.44	0.22	0.64	—	0.42
Number of Deaths	55	70	54	51	66
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	12.33	15.88	11.66	10.74	14.08
Total Maternal Deaths	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	30.30	60.24	29.12	21.97	27.77
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	5	2	1	1	5
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	—	1	3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	8	9	9	4	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	1	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1948

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Influenza	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	3.3	34
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	20.0	0.52	11.6	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	4.5	39
148 Smaller Towns												
estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000 — 50,000 ...	19.2	0.43	10.7	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.02	0.00	0.04	2.1	32
London ...	20.1	0.39	11.6	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	2.4	31
Rothwell												
Urban District	15.36	0.42	14.08	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27.77
The Maternal Mortality rates for England and Wales per 1,000 total births ...												
The Maternal Mortality rates for Rothwell per 1,000 total births ...												
			Abortion with Sepsis	Abortion without Sepsis	Puerperal infections	Others	Total					
			0.11	0.05	0.13	0.73	1.12					
			nil	nil	nil	nil.	nil					

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	3,638
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	4,685
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to	
Rate Books	1,487
Rateable Value	£19,507
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£75

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—

Boot and shoe manufacture, ironstone mining and manufacture of agricultural implements.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate				69	34	35
Illegitimate				3	2	1
				—	—	—
			Totals	72	36	36
				—	—	—

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 15.36

STILL BIRTHS.				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
				2	—	2

DEATHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
				66	33	33

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.08

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—

Death-rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	27.77
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	28.98
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) —

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) —

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 9

Deaths.—No comparability factor was issued for 1948.

Births.—The following table shows the birth rate for the year 1948, together with the rate for England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1948

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	15.36
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	17.9

Infantile Mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1948

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	27.77
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	34.0

The causes of death in children under one year with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
7 days	M.	Broncho pneumonia due to Atelectasis.
7 months	M.	Tuberculous meningitis.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes	33	33	66
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	2	3
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
9 Influenza	—	—	—
10 Measles	—	—	—
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
12 Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—
13 Cancer	5	4	9
14 Diabetes	—	—	—
15 Heart Disease	10	15	25
16 Intracranial vascular lesions	4	6	10
17 Other circulatory diseases	—	—	—
18 Bronchitis	2	1	3
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	2	—	2
20 Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
22 Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	—	—
23 Appendicitis	—	—	—

Registered causes of death—*continued*.

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
24	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
25	Nephritis ...	...	...	...	2	—	2
26	Puerperal causes ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27	Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28	Congenital debility, malformation, and birth injury	...	...	...	1	—	1
29	Suicide ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
30	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Other violent causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
32	All other causes ...	...	...	...	3	4	7

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations have been carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The following specimens were examined :— 1948

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	—
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	6
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—Infectious cases are removed by the ambulance of the Joint Hospital Board. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by the Desborough or Kettering ambulance under the administration of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The Rothwell Nursing Association which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association provides the services of a whole time nurse. Details of the work carried out during 1948 are as follows :—

	<i>Cases Nursed</i>			<i>Total</i>
General	Midwifery	Maternity		<i>Visits</i>
164	23	32		3875

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Child Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The County Council is the Authority for the Treatment of Tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at the Health Clinic, Market Street, Kettering.

Orthopaedic cases attend the Mansfield Orthopaedic Clinic at Kettering.

Persons suffering from Venereal Diseases are treated at the Kettering and District General Hospital every Thursday evening under the County Council scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—From 1941 free immunisation against Diphtheria was offered to children from one to fifteen years of age.

The number of children who were immunised in 1948 is as follows:

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	53
5 to 14 years	...	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	...	57

The number of children who have had the full course of immunisation since the beginning of the scheme is as follows :—

Age at 31-12-48	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in year	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Number immunised	6	36	56	49	55

Estimated mid-year population 1948, 417

Age at 31-12-48	5 to 9	10 to 14
i.e. Born in year	1939-1943	1934-1938
Number immunised	304	309

Estimated mid-year population 1948, 555

The above figures do not include those children immunised by private arrangement.

The number of children who received a reinforcing injection of Diphtheria prophylactic during the year was 54.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—Heavy rains in early January replenished the springs and increased the daily flow from the main source from 65,000 to 239,000 galls., so that the restrictions were ended on the 8th January, and the use of the “ Halfway House Well ” and overland supply from Desborough were closed down—let us hope for the last time.

Harrington Supply.—The Harrington Main was completed in June and, after testing and chlorination, the main was put into immediate use as the completion coincided with a fall to 77,000 gallons per day from the main source.

Rainfall.—The rainfall during 1948 was higher than that of previous years, when 28.77 inches were recorded, compared with earlier years, viz :—

1948	...	28.77 ins.	1943	...	19.24 ins.
1947	...	21.21 „	1942	...	20.51 „
1946	...	25.94 „	1941	...	25.80 „
1945	...	20.83 „	1940	...	24.13 „
1944	...	21.94 „	1939	...	28.40 „

Water Analysis.—Four samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacterial examination—two Main Supply and two Harrington Supply. All four samples were stated in the Bacteriologists Report to be “Very Satisfactory.”

New Services.—24 new services were connected to the mains during the year ; 5 to farms, 5 to private dwelling houses, 12 to Council Houses and 2 to other premises.

Yield of Water, Main Source, and Consumption.—The total yield of water from the main source was 50,285,600 gallons and the total consumption was 35,041,700 gallons, so that with adequate storage facilities this supply would have been ample. The extensive collection and use of rain water in the district has a marked bearing on the town's water consumed, in that when the flow of main source water is at its lowest the rain water wells are drying up and consequently more town's supply is used.

TABLE OF YIELD AND CONSUMPTION

		<i>Yield</i>	<i>Harrington Supply</i>	<i>Consumption</i>
January	...	6,960,800	—	2,815,800
February	...	7,274,000	—	2,927,000
March	...	4,960,000	—	3,074,000
April	...	3,495,900	—	3,003,000
May	...	3,162,000	—	3,047,000
June	...	2,766,500	—	2,882,000
July	...	2,552,000	547,000	3,199,000
August	...	2,226,000	1,009,000	3,035,000
September	...	2,505,700	659,000	3,164,700
October	...	2,403,500	500,000	2,903,500
November	...	5,500,000	—	2,370,000
December	...	6,479,000	—	2,620,700
TOTALS	...	50,285,600	2,715,000	35,041,700

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewers.—No extensions have been made to the sewerage system during the year, but several breakages have occurred in the main sewer from the Stanley Street area, due entirely to part of this sewer being above ground at its lower point.

Sewage Disposal Works.—Adjustments to the weirs in the flow of the tank liquor distribution channel to the filter beds have proved successful in that each of the four beds receives the same amount of liquor. This has caused even resting periods for the media of all beds, which have thereby been cleansed and oxidised, giving an improved effluent.

Sewage Effluent Analysis.—Two samples of sewage effluent were examined during the year. No. 1 Sample was taken by the County Sanitary Officer and the other by myself. The reports on the analysis show that the plant is fairly satisfactory, even if not quite up to the standard according to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. The result of the adjustment made in the previous paragraph may show a further improvement in due course.

Analysts' Report.

	<i>Sample No. 1</i>	<i>Sample No. 2</i>
Suspended Matter	3.0 parts per 100,000	2.5 parts per 100,000
Nitrates ...	2.0 „ „	3.0 „ „
Oxygen absorbed—		
at 80° c in 4 hours	1.67 „ „	1.77 „ „
at 18° c in 5 days	2.23 „ „	1.96 „ „

Report on Sample No. 2 (No remarks on Sample No. 1)

“The effluent complies with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, as regards the suspended solids, and the 5 days B.O.D. tests. The saline, albuminoid ammonia and permanganate oxygen tests are on the high side, but are not of special significance provided the effluent becomes well diluted by the river water.”

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections

Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	478
Nuisances Inspected	...	...	...	...	204
Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	369
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	51
Carcases and offals of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	160
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	66
Rat Infestation	...	...	...	...	26
Food Shops Inspected	...	...	...	...	34
Food Warehouses Inspected	...	...	...	...	4
Milk Samples taken	...	...	...	...	78
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	131
Housing Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	291

Number of Notices Served

INFORMAL	Dustbins	...	...	...	42
	Nuisances	...	...	...	11
	Housing	...	...	...	10
STATUTORY	Nil.				

Public Cleansing.—The Karrier Bantam refuse collecting vehicle was put into service on March 2nd, and has proved a more attractive and satisfactory means of collection than the horse-drawn vehicle.

The sliding covers prevent the dust and refuse being blown about the streets and causing a serious nuisance. The collection is carried out weekly giving the operators more time for the methodical collection of salvage than previously.

The refuse collectors are systematically reporting all defective or insanitary dust-bins and notices are sent to the owners. This has been the means of obtaining the renewal of 143 bins during the year.

Salvage Collection.—The introduction of the Salvage Trailer and the various efforts to make the public salvage conscious, have been most successful by increasing the quantity of waste paper collected during the year as compared with the two previous years, viz :—

		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1946	...	33	4	2
1947	...	22	18	—
1948	...	52	9	1

The saving of waste paper is not only a National asset, but is also a useful local revenue ; the receipts for the sale of waste paper for 1948 was £335, which is equivalent to a 4½d. rate.

Rodent Control.—26 infestations of Rats were dealt with during the year by your Rodent Operator. The follow up treatment by test baiting after the poisoning proved the efficiency of the method of pre-baiting.

53 Manholes on the Sewerage System were baited during the year, giving evidence of infestations of Rats in 16. These were poisoned, 7 bodies being found on the manhole benches, and later several bodies were found in the sewage at the Sewage Works.

Public Swimming Bath.—Several improvements were made to the open air swimming bath, viz :—

A new ladies' lavatory provided.

Repairs were made to the bath which was painted with "Snowcem."

Town's water was used instead of water from the Ise brook.

Daily chlorination was carried out and from many Orthotolidine tests made an average residual chlorine content of 1 part per million was maintained.

The water was changed fortnightly during the season to keep it fresh and clean.

Between the 21st July and 10th September, the following bathers attended the bath :

Boys	715	Girls	660	
Men	229	Women	69	Total 1,673.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and Foods.—Of the 160 carcasses and offals of cottagers' pigs examined it is very gratifying to note that no carcass was affected with any Tuberculosis or similar disease which would have rendered the pork unfit for human consumption. Only two sets of lungs were unfit for human consumption, one affected with a localised Tuberculosis and the other with Pneumonia.

The following foodstuffs being found unfit for human consumption were condemned and destroyed :—

Fresh Meat	178 lbs.	Canned Meat	43 lbs.
Fresh Offal	10 lbs.	Canned Fish	6 lbs.
Cereals	48 lbs.	Canned Fruit	13 lbs.
		Canned Vegetables	5 lbs.
		Canned Milk	45 lbs.

Milk and Dairies.—78 samples of milk were taken during the year and examined for keeping quality and by the Methylene Blue reduction test resulting in the following reports :—

Satisfactory	55	} Total 78.
Moderate	10	
Bad	13	

The bad samples were obtained from 8 producers and were therefore not from one or more consistently bad producers. The probable cause of these bad samples is due to an occasional lapse in the necessary precaution e.g. omitting to wash the cows' udders or the effectual sterilisation of utensils, both essential for clean milk production.

The 12 Cowsheds and Dairies were visited on 66 occasions and all faults found in cleanliness and method of production were raised and discussed with the producer.

Inspection of Factories was carried out on 51 occasions, 8 defects were ascertained and 7 of these were remedied by the end of the year.

Bakehouses.—The three bakehouses were inspected on five occasions and found to be satisfactory.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases during the year were limited to Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough. All the cases were nursed at home and all recovered.

Tuberculosis

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925. These Regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1948.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Three cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year and there were three deaths from respiratory tuberculosis. One elderly patient who was suffering from chronic respiratory tuberculosis died from broncho pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE. The Committee continues to take a great interest in the welfare of the patients. The preventive side of tuberculosis is stressed as well as making grants of assistance to the patients.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis), 1948

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	3	6
Measles	...	10	43	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61
Whooping Cough	...	3	—	3	—	—	2	3	7	2	1	—	21
Totals	...	13	43	9	2	—	3	4	7	3	1	3	88

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1948

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Measles	3	5	8	12	15	17	1	—	—	—	—	—	61	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	3	10	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—
Totals	3	8	19	14	18	25	1	—	—	—	—	—	88	—	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1948.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	1	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	1	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1948.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	—	—	1
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	1	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	1	1

