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**THE HEALTH  
OF  
ROYSTON**



*(Yorks)*

**1957**





**THE HEALTH OF  
ROYSTON**

being the

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**


and

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1957.**





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**ROYSTON (YORKS.)  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**HEALTH COMMITTEE 1957.**

**Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Health Committee.**

Councillor Mrs. J. A. Westwood, J.P.

**Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee.**

Councillor E. Brown.

**Committee.**

Councillor S. H. Bray.

Councillor G. H. Cooke.

Councillor T. Dyer.

Councillor J. B. Hudson.

Councillor L. W. Jackson.

Councillor H. Pearson.

Councillor G. Shone.

**STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

**Medical Officer of Health :**

R. BARNES, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :**

G. E. MILLAR, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.M.  
(Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods).

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# **ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Divisional Health Office,  
6, Victoria Road,  
BARNSELEY.

December, 1958.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**for the Year ended 31st December, 1957.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Westwood, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1957. I think, on the whole, you have good reason to be satisfied with the statistics relating to your district, although the Infant Mortality Rate for the year was slightly above the national average.

I am pleased with the progress made in the child welfare field in Royston, the clinic is thriving and statistics of immunisation against both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are steadily rising. The only despondent note is that Vaccination against Smallpox again appears to have become an unpopular measure. The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was again very low and for the first time within the scope of my records no case of Whooping Cough was notified during the year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs. Westwood and the members of the Public Health Committee for their support, my Divisional Health Staff for their willing assistance and your Public Health Inspector, Mr. G. E. Millar, for the loyal co-operation he has always afforded me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. BARNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYSTON.

### Statistics and Social Conditions :

Area .....	1,452 acres
Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1957 .....	8,270
No. of inhabited houses according to the rate book 31st December, 1957 .....	2,585
Rateable Value 31st December, 1957 .....	£51,714
Nett product of a Penny Rate .....	£193

The district is predominantly a coal-mining area with the majority of the population earning their living directly or indirectly from the industry. No major difficulty was experienced last year in finding suitable work for children leaving school and in this the two small factories in the district were of material help.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### Live Births.

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Legitimate .....	75	64	139
Illegitimate .....	2	2	4
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>143</b>

The number of live births registered was 143, 15 less than in the previous year. 55% of the mothers were delivered in hospitals or maternity homes, the same percentage as in 1956. The Registrar General supplied a comparability factor which relates the proportion of women in the district of child-bearing age with the proportion in a standard population. The crude birth rate multiplied by the comparability factor gives an adjusted birth rate which is comparable with similarly adjusted birth rates in other districts and with the birth rate for the country as a whole. The adjusted birth rate for your district last year was 16.8 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 18.7 per 1,000 estimated population in 1956 and with 16.1 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales.

#### Stillbirths.

3 stillbirths were notified last year as compared with 2 in 1956. The stillbirth rate was 20.5 per 1,000 total births as compared with 12.5 per 1,000 total births in 1956, and with 22.4 per 1,000 total births for England and Wales.



## Deaths.

The adjusted death rate, which is the crude death rate multiplied by the comparability factor, was 11.7 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 12.0 per 1,000 estimated population in 1956 and with 11.5 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales. There were 71 deaths among the inhabitants of your district, a decrease of 1 on the previous year, and the principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were : heart and circulatory diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases. Statistics relating to death rates and causes and ages at death are given in tabular form at the end of the section on vital statistics.

## Infant Mortality and Peri-Natal Mortality.

There were five infant deaths last year in your district compared with 2 in 1956. This represents an infant death rate of 35.0 compared with 26.4 for the administrative County and 23.0 for England and Wales. Peri-natal mortality is expressed as the number of stillbirths plus the number of deaths in the first week of life, per 1,000 live and stillbirths. I give below the record of peri-natal mortality in your district for the last six years.

Year	Live Births	Stillbirths	Death in first week of life	Peri-natal mortality
1952	124	5	5	77.5
1953	123	2	4	48.0
1954	123	6	4	77.5
1955	127	7	1	59.6
1956	158	2	2	25.0
1957	143	3	2	34.2

This increase in both infant deaths and stillbirths is obviously in excess of the national figures, but nevertheless the numbers concerned are small and minor fluctuations from year to year are inevitable.



## INFANT DEATHS — 1957.

	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	TOTAL
Prematurity .....	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Abnormalities .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Bronchitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	2	1	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	5

### Maternal Mortality.

I have to report that there was no death due to maternal causes last year.

# CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1957.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease .....	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	1	1
8. Measles .....	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	3	2	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	1	—	1
16. Diabetes .....	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	6	5	11
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	14	4	18
19. Hypertension .....	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease .....	7	4	11
21. Other circulatory disease .....	2	—	2
22. Influenza .....	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia .....	—	2	2
24. Bronchitis .....	4	1	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	—	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	2	1	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	—	—	—
34. All other accidents .....	1	—	1
35. Suicide .....	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—	—
All causes .....	46	25	71

# **PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957.**

Based on the Registrar General's Figures.

	Royston Urban District	Aggregate W. Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Prov'nal figures)
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population :				
Crude .....	17.3	16.1	16.6	16.1
Adjusted .....	16.8	16.2	16.7	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population :				
Crude .....	8.6	12.4	11.7	11.5
Adjusted .....	11.7	12.9	12.7	
Infective and Parasitic diseases excluding Tuber- culosis but including Venereal Diseases .....	0.12	0.07	0.07	not available
Tuberculosis :				
Respiratory .....	—.	0.08	0.08	0.09
Other .....	—.	0.01	0.01	0.01
All forms .....	—.	0.09	0.09	0.11
Cancer .....	1.69	1.99	1.87	2.09
Vascular lesions of the nervous system .....	1.33	2.15	1.95	not available
Heart and circulatory diseases .....	3.75	4.61	4.30	not available
Respiratory diseases .....	0.85	1.46	1.37	not available
Maternal Mortality .....	—.	0.41	0.51	0.47
Infant Mortality .....	35.0	25.4	26.4	23.0
Stillbirths .....	20.5	23.5	23.9	22.4



# DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year .....	3	2	5
1—5 years .....	—	1	1
5—10 years .....	—	1	1
10—15 years .....	—	1	1
15—20 years .....	1	—	1
20—25 years .....	—	1	1
25—35 years .....	1	—	1
35—45 years .....	1	—	1
45—55 years .....	6	3	9
55—65 years .....	11	2	13
65—70 years .....	4	3	7
70—75 years .....	9	5	14
75—80 years .....	5	4	9
80—85 years .....	3	2	5
85—90 years .....	1	—	1
90 years and over .....	1	—	1
TOTALS .....	46	25	71

## **SECTION II.**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

#### **Staff.**

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer of the Council but is engaged on whole-time Public Health work, being also Medical Officer of Health for the surrounding districts and the Divisional Medical Officer for Division No. 25 of the West Riding County Council. One Public Health Inspector is employed by the Council.

#### **General Hospitals.**

The general hospitals serving your district are given below. Their administration rests with the Leeds and Sheffield Hospital Boards through the local hospital management committees.

##### **Leeds Regional Hospital Board :**

1. Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.
2. General Hospital, Wakefield.
3. Leeds General Infirmary.

##### **Sheffield Regional Hospital Board :**

1. The United Group Hospitals, Sheffield.
2. The Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.
3. The St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.

#### **Infectious Diseases Hospitals.**

All infectious diseases requiring hospital admission were admitted to the Kendray Hospital, Barnsley. The ambulance arrangements were the same as for the previous year with the hospital retaining its own ambulances for the service.

#### **Maternity Hospitals.**

Maternity cases were usually admitted to the following hospitals :

St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.  
Pindar Oaks Maternity Home, Barnsley.  
Manygates Hospital, Wakefield.  
Hallamshire Maternity Home, Chapeltown.

The services of the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, and the Maternity Hospital, Leeds, were also available for abnormal obstetric cases.



### **Tuberculosis.**

Most patients suffering from the disease are admitted to the Wath Wood Sanatorium, and co-operation is maintained with the Chest Physician who holds out-patients' sessions at the Chest Clinic, 46 Church Street, Barnsley. Details of sessions are as follows :

Tuesday	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon (children)
Wednesday	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon
Wednesday	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Thursday	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon (children)
Friday	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon

### **Venereal Diseases.**

The nearest centre for Royston patients for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is in Barnsley.

Other centres are situate at Sheffield, Wakefield and Rotherham and a patient suffering from Venereal Disease is at liberty to attend at the centre of his choice. Treatment is completely confidential.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare Services.**

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Wesleyan Sunday School, High Street, Royston, on Wednesdays, 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon and 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the same premises on Tuesdays, 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Further details are given in the County Services Division of this report.

### **Laboratory Service.**

The laboratory service was provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Wakefield, a national service under the control of the Medical Research Council. The laboratory is equipped to deal with all bacteriological and pathological examinations, and a complete investigation is undertaken and report furnished for every specimen sent for examination.

Samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act for chemical analysis was examined by the Public Analyst at Bradford at the expense of the County Council.

### **Ambulance Service.**

The ambulance service is operated by the West Riding County Council. The depot for your area being at South Kirkby, Telephone No. South Elmsall 291.



### SECTION III.

#### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease in your district in 1957 amounted to only 27 cases as compared with 18 in 1956. This is the second consecutive year in which the incidence of infectious disease has been low in Royston.

	No. of cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles .....	24	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	1	1	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis .....	2	2	1
	<hr/> 27 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>

##### Scarlet Fever.

There was one case only of Scarlet Fever notified during the year, and comment is not called for.

##### Measles.

Only 24 cases of Measles occurred during the year. Although this is an increase over the previous year the figure is remarkably low.

##### Smallpox.

No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year. The number of infants vaccinated was 28 as compared with 40 in the previous year. This represents approximately 19% of the infant population. I hope that this figure will steadily increase because I do feel a genuine concern that such a small proportion of the infant population should be immune, and in these days of air travel the disease could in this district easily become established.

##### Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

No cases of either disease were notified during the year, but before I pass on to the subject of prevention I should like to place on record that this is the first time since 1946 that no case of Whooping Cough has occurred in the district.

The immunisation statistics for Diphtheria last year showed no change in the overall picture, although rather more of the pre-school group and rather less of the school-age group were immunised against the disease as compared with the statistics last year. Statistics show that 70.9% of all children in the district between the ages of 0 — 14 years were immunised with 44.9% in the age group 0 — 4 years and 82.9% in the 5 — 14 years age group protected.

If the number of pre-school children receiving Diphtheria immunisation were as high as the figures show for school children, then there might be some room for complacency. As the figures are, I would like to take this opportunity of warning parents of pre-school children of the terrible risk which they are taking on their children's behalf.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough showed a very marked improvement with 98 infants immunised in 1957, compared with 67 in the previous year. This represents 68% of the infant population, and I am pleased to say that this figure is now approaching a reasonable level of immunity in the population.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year and I am sorry to report that one case, who was an expectant mother, died from the disease. The other case was a child aged four years, and at the end of the year some residual paralysis remained in this case. In neither case had vaccination against Poliomyelitis been given.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis continued during the year and by the end of the year 264 children had been immunised with two doses. During the year and particularly towards the end of the year many more children were registered for immunisation. At the 31st December, 1957, the waiting list stood at 634.

### **Food Poisoning.**

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Tuberculosis.**

2 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified last year, as compared with 1 and 2 respectively in 1956. There was no death from the disease during the year.



The co-operation which has always existed between this department and the Chest Clinic happily continued through the year. The Tuberculosis Health Visitors attached to the Chest Physician helped to maintain an even better liaison between the two departments, and I feel this is one facet of our work in which excellent co-operation exists between the hospital and local authority services.

As mentioned later in the School Health Section, the B.C.G. Vaccination programme was continued, and I hope in the coming years will receive popular support, because I believe that here at last some measure of protection can be given to young people during their early working life.

### **TUBERCULOSIS — Record of Cases during 1957.**

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
No. of cases on register at 1st January, 1957	17	12	2	2
No. of cases notified for first time during year	2	—	1	1
No. of cases restored to register	—	—	—	—
No. of cases added to register otherwise than by notification	—	—	—	—
No. removed to other districts	—	—	—	—
No. cured or otherwise removed from register	—	—	—	—
No. died from Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
No. died from other causes	1	—	—	—
Total at end of 1957	18	12	3	3

### **TUBERCULOSIS — New Cases and Mortality in 1957.**

Age Periods	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0—1 years	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	1	—	—
15—20 years	—	1	—	—
20—25 years	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	2	—	—



## **SECTION IV.**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and pleasure to submit to you my twelfth Annual Report showing the work done in the Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

As in previous Reports, those portions of this Report dealing with the Public Cleansing Service and Salvage refers to the Financial Year ended 2nd April, 1958, whilst the rest of the Report deals and refers to the Calendar Year.

Further important New Legislation dealing with Environmental Hygiene came into operation during the year, with resultant increase in duties and responsibilities and such matters will be dealt with more fully in the appropriate Sections of the Report.

Building materials became more easily obtainable during the year, and with no houses being built by this Council due mainly to the progressive increase in the Bank Rate, and the apparent slowing down in Private Building, considerably more work was able to be executed in repairing and reconditioning existing properties. In spite of this, a very great deal of accumulated repair work still requires attention, and difficulties still remain arising from the drift of skilled building labour from the Building Industry to more lucrative employment in other spheres. This loss to the building industry is a matter of serious concern and must have a continuing braking effect on general repair work. Work arising from the passing and coming into operation of The Rent Act, 1957 must be seriously affected by the loss of skilled building labour and delays must ensue in houses being overhauled and reconditioned. This matter will be given more detailed consideration in that portion of this Report dealing specifically with Housing.

The continuing increases in wages and standing charges was reflected in the cost of repair work but this must be dealt with more fully later in this Report. The impact of the Rent Act became apparent by more and more Owners and Agents seeking advice as to whether their property justified the expense involved in carrying out extensive repairs and information was sought on numerous occasions as to whether various properties were included in the Council's Demolition Proposals.

It is very gratifying to be able to report that in no instance was it found necessary to serve Statutory Notices during the year requiring works of repair to be carried out.

The growing awareness of earlier years of the necessity of money being ploughed back into property to minimise the ravages of time coupled with a heavily polluted atmosphere, continued to be apparent during the year under review and it was evident from the works of repair carried out, other than as a result of the service of Notices, that more tangible efforts were being made, voluntarily, to maintain houses at a reasonable standard of fitness.

In spite of this, the number of houses which require heavy expenditure to bring them back to even a reasonable standard of fitness, apart from providing the so called 'modern amenities' is still a high one, but some satisfaction can be obtained where existing houses are completely modernised, at very considerable expense.

Deterioration of external fabric of houses built forty or more years ago, becomes ever more apparent and the persistent very heavy pollution of the atmosphere has had serious effects on mortar in brick and stonework joints. In several instances, re-pointing of such brickwork has given houses concerned a much longer time of survival. The question of domestic smoke will be dealt with, in detail in that portion of the Report dealing with Atmospheric Pollution.

### **Verminous Premises.**

Fewer complaints of verminous infestation were received during the year than had been the case for quite a number of years, and one can but hope that the tedious repetitive work done in this connection over several years is at last showing positive results.



Three complaints of bed bug infestation were received, all in private properties, and it is gratifying to know that no such infestation in Council Owned Property was found during the year. In two instances, discreet inquiries revealed the fact that the infestations came about from tenants obtaining second-hand furniture or bedding, both being obtained outside the District. Whilst both tenants concerned gave me the fullest possible co-operation, I was unable to obtain any information as to the addresses from which the second hand material had been obtained. To say the least, this was unfortunate. In the other instance, whilst evidences of infestation were found, there were no indications of remaining 'live' infestation. Complaints of bed bug infestation continue to decline and are fast becoming almost 'Museum Pieces', and in this connection, there can be no doubt that the newer insecticides have done good work. Follow-up visits to infested houses showed no evidences of re-infestation after treatment.

As with bed bugs, so with complaints of cockroaches. Whilst there were slightly more complaints of cockroach infestation than were received in 1956, the number of complaints received were negligible as compared with the number of complaints only a few years ago, but I have no doubt that many infestations exist of which I have no knowledge. Only two complaints of Silverfish were received during the year.

Treatments followed identical lines with those of earlier years, and small quantities of insecticidal powder continued to be issued on request.

Crickets continued to infest the Council's Refuse Tip, but were not as abundant as was the case some years ago. Regular treatment of the Tip with powder has proved beneficial.

#### **Transfer of Tenants to Council Houses.**

As in earlier years, the houses and effects of applicants selected as tenants of Council Owned Properties, were inspected, prior to removal, for the presence of vermin.

Only 13 houses were inspected in this respect during the year, and once again, I am pleased to be able to report that in not one instance was any evidence of vermin found.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### (a) Water Supply.

Water continued to be supplied in bulk by the Barnsley Corporation, and this matter continues to be dealt with by the Council's Surveyor in his capacity as Water Engineer.

### (b) Closet Accommodation.

Particulars of the various types of sanitary conveniences in use in the District at the end of 1957 are given below :—

Type	No.
Pedestal water closet .....	2901
Privies .....	28
Chemical Closets .....	2

Only seven water closets were provided for new houses completed during the year, 9 additional water closets were provided for existing premises, and modernisation of club and licensed premises also resulted in additional water closets being provided.

It had been hoped that the privies serving the houses known as 6 to 16, The Avenue would have been converted by the end of the year, but this, unfortunately, did not materialise although there had been every indication that these conversions would have been carried out, but interference by third parties caused delay. Informal action continues and it is hoped that in the very near future, it will have been possible for the few remaining privies to be converted to the water carriage system of drainage. Preliminary investigations were made as to the possibility of converting the privies serving the 15 houses at Guiseley Cottages, but snags arose which were not immediately surmountable. A comprehensive Scheme is to be drawn up which, it is hoped, will not only allow conversions of these privies but will also provide proper drainage facilities for properties in Summer Lane which are at present served by cesspools, and I hope that by the time another Report is prepared progress in this respect will be able to be reported.

As for some years past, Owner-Occupiers of private properties in Lee Lane renewed their application for the Council to accept responsibility for the cleansing of cesspools, but after still further serious consideration, the applicants were advised that the Council were unable to depart from their decisions of earlier years.



(c) **Public Cleansing Service.**

The following report on the Public Cleansing Service refers to the Financial Year ended 2nd April, 1958 :—

Details of the various types of refuse receptacles in use in the District at the end of the year were as shown below :—

Dustbins .....	2600
Dry Ashpits .....	Nil.
Privy Middens .....	17
Chemical Closets .....	2

Cleansing of the remaining privy middens continued to be carried out by the Public Cleansing Staff, and a regular monthly cleansing was maintained so far as was possible. It had been hoped that the privies serving the houses known as 6 to 16, The Avenue, would have been carried out before the end of the year, but a temporary set-back, coupled with inclement weather, delayed the start on this work. Members are already aware of the reason for the delay in starting this work. The Members of the Public Cleansing Staff carrying out privy cleansing continued to do such work prior to normal hours of starting, and, naturally, are paid at overtime rates. The system continues to work reasonably satisfactorily, and with early morning cleansing being able to operate, nuisance from both flies and smell is minimised as much as possible. Furthermore, early morning cleansing results in this not particularly salubrious work being completed before many people are about, but more important still, before young children are about, a much more satisfactory state of affairs than obtained only a few years ago when hired transport was used for the work which resulted in the contents of privy middens being thrown out at all hours of the day under all kinds of weather conditions. This system has the added advantage that no dislocation of normal cleansing ensues.

The following Table gives details of the number of refuse receptacles emptied during the year, together with the number of loads and their estimated weight.

Receptacles	No Emptied	No. of Load	Estimated Weight		
			T.	C.	Q.
Dustbins, etc. ....	133,380	1874	5059	16	0
Privy Middens .....	183	50	135	0	0
Trade Refuse .....	—	374	187	0	0
TOTALS .....	133,563	2298	5381	16	0



Mention has been made, in passing, in earlier Reports, of mounting labour difficulties, but the year under review certainly brought things to a head in a most alarming fashion. A few years ago, this Council could congratulate itself on the loyal manner in which the Members of their Public Cleansing Staff attended work. At that time, most of the staff were older men, but they only stayed away from work when they were so ill that they just could not get to work. In several instances, these men came to work when they really should have stayed at home, they collapsed at work and had to be taken home. How different things were during the year under review. Labour difficulties assumed an ever more difficult obstacle to surmount, and a marked increase in casual absence continued almost throughout the year, and a total of 3,125½ man hours of working time were lost. Naturally, alarm at the amount of broken time was expressed by the Health Committee, and the cost involved in making up of pay where absence from work was supported by Medical Certificates exercised the minds of the Committee to such an extent that arrangements were made to meet Representatives of the J.I.C., to discuss the problem. The Public Cleansing Service was able to be maintained, but a regular weekly cleansing of the District was not possible throughout the year. Much has been said in earlier Reports of the necessity of recruiting younger men into this vitally important environmental Health Service but this action, in the light of experience cannot be said to have resulted in an improved service. Slightly more than 6,000 bins less were emptied during the year than in the previous year whereas, had regular weekly cleansing of the District been maintained, more bins would have been emptied than in earlier years. One cannot but wonder whether some unknown factors are at work undermining efficiency, and the thought springs into one's mind as to whether Sick Pay Schemes might possibly be a contributory factor. There can be no doubt that in the days before such Schemes came into being, men generally attended work much more regularly and conscientiously as the level of wages just before the 1939-1945 War required regular attendance of men at work if they were to have an even reasonable standard of living. One can always sympathise with people who fall ill, but at the same time I have wondered, from time to time, whether the regularity of identical work on the same day in each week, throughout the year, might tend to become monotonous and be a contributory factor to broken time.



With some members of the Public Cleansing Staff living just outside the boundaries of the District, the bus strike could have presented a difficult problem, although it is generally accepted that it is a man's responsibility to get to his place of work ready for the time of starting. To assist Council Employees adversely affected by the Strike, the Council authorised the Cleansing Vehicle to collect men in a morning and to take them at least part of the way home after finishing time.

During the year, instructions were issued requiring dustbins to be brought to the kerbside with the lids on so as to prevent fine ash from being blown about, and to prevent interference with the contents of dustbins whilst these were waiting to be emptied, but the loss of time resulting led to the instruction being withdrawn.

Following a request from the Trades Union, a Five Day Working Week was put into operation for a trial period, an extra hour being worked on four days in the week to make up for Saturday morning, but the Members of the Public Cleansing Staff found no benefit from this procedure, and requested a return to a 5½ day week.

It was possible to have one of the modern larger capacity, rear loading vehicles on demonstration for a week during the year, and it was found that such a vehicle saved time in going to the Tip, and, with a lower loading line and a self-trimming body, was less exacting on men actually emptying dustbins.

With the temporary halting of Local Authority Building during the year, very few additional houses came into occupation, but, nonetheless, additional bins of earlier years resulted in more bins requiring cleansing for a whole year. The work on the Refuse Tip did not fall off to any appreciable extent, but this work became heavy for the Tip Controller as his assistance was frequently withdrawn to help on the Cleansing Vehicle when men normally employed with the vehicle were away from work.

Weekly cleansing of the District will be maintained, if at all possible, but some time lag does occur when broken time arises, and no information is immediately available as to how long a man may be away from work which would allow decisions to be made as to whether temporary labour should be employed. When vacancies arose, from various causes, very few applications were received for regular employment on

this work, and this in spite of further improvements in the rate of pay. Whilst it is true to say that more men were 'signing on', unfortunately, in most cases, and with all due respect to them, they could not, in many cases, be regarded as suitable for this class of work, and as a result, the best had to be made of a bad job.

One can only hope that by the time another Report is prepared, a much more satisfactory state of affairs can be reported upon.

The following Table gives details of Cleansing Costs during the Financial Year ended 2nd April, 1958 :—

### COSTING.

House and Trade Refuse	Collection	Disposal	Totals
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages .....	3171 5 3	644 14 5	3815 19 8
Petrol and Oil .....	187 5 4	— — —	187 5 4
Spares and Repairs .....	91 14 1	7 5 2	98 19 3
<b>TOTALS — EXCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation .....</b>	<b>3350 4 8</b>	<b>651 19 7</b>	<b>4002 4 3</b>
Cost per ton .....	12 5	2 5	14 10
<b>General Administrative Charges and Depreciation .....</b>	<b>357 4 4</b>	<b>81 9 7</b>	<b>438 13 11</b>
<b>TOTAL COST INCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation .....</b>	<b>3707 9 0</b>	<b>733 9 2</b>	<b>4440 18 2</b>
Cost per ton .....	13 9	2 9	16 6

Estimated Population (mid-summer 1957 — Registrar

General's Figure) .....	8,270
Number of houses or premises in the District .....	2,998
Rateable Value of the District .....	£51,714
Product of 1d. Rate .....	£193

T. C. Q.

Total Tonnage Collected .....	5,381 16 0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per annum .....	628 3 0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per day .....	1 15 2
Average length of haul .....	1 mile



Based on the estimated weight, the weight of domestic refuse collected per 1,000 population per day was approximately 35½ cwts — a welcome decrease on the figure for the previous year. In view of the fact that complete weekly cleansing of the District was not able to be maintained throughout the year for reasons already stated, this figure is not a truly comparable figure for statistical purposes, although, in view of the fact that very few new houses came into full occupation during the year, and all houses provided during recent years were fitted with modern solid fuel appliances, coupled with the extensive modernisation of solid fuel appliances in most of the Council's Pre-War Houses a couple of years ago, should have resulted in domestic refuse of comparatively lighter weight. Furthermore, the continuance of improved quality home coal, with consequent heavy reduction in the amount of heavy contrary matter, in the form of shale and stone, also should have resulted in a much less dense household refuse. Only one conclusion can be drawn from the continuing heavy refuse — more and still more garden refuse continues to find its way, regularly, into the dustbins. It would appear that the quality of the concessionary coal at collieries other than the New Monckton Colliery Unit improved during the year, and one can only hope that this will continue with the result, in the near future, of a considerable decrease in weight of the domestic refuse to be collected.

In spite of the improved quality of home coal, it is with regret that I have, yet again, to say that much apparent waste of coal continues. The quantity of only partly burned coal finding its way to the Tip certainly is less than was the case only a few years ago, but is still much higher than it should be, but in this connection, regard must still be had to the still considerable number of obsolete solid fuel burning appliances still in regular use in various parts of the District. Even with modern appliances, however, it is still possible to observe, all too often, unnecessarily large quantities of coal being used to replenish fires, such fires being allowed to go out, and partly burned fuel dumped in dustbins instead of being used when re-lighting fires. Except for the occasional small pieces of shale and stone remaining in coal, even after washing, the residue from burning coal in modern appliances consists almost entirely of very fine ash of a very light character, and it had been hoped by the time this Report was prepared, that it would have been possible to record a sharp decrease in the weight of domestic refuse. Apparently, such a result is to be slow in coming but one can but continue to hope.



It would be interesting to know if much more coal is being burned than was the case some years ago before the post war houses were built. It would be reasonable to expect a higher consumption in view of the additional rooms provided in new houses in which fires are provided almost daily, or alternatively, if there has been no appreciable increase in the quantity of coal burned, this would give a fairly clearly defined picture of the inefficiency of older appliances.

Continued steady progress in the replacement of obsolescent and inefficient solid fuel appliances continued throughout the year, but much still remains to be done in this field. Housewives are no longer content to be tied to the drudgery of blackleading older types of appliances when they can see neighbours and relatives with modern appliances which only require wiping down as they are vitriolised. At the same time, it is disappointing in the extreme to visit houses provided with modern, light coloured appliances, which have been allowed to become marked and stained through lack of even the most casual attention.

Older appliances tend to give rise to much combustible material remaining in domestic refuse, but there can be no excuse for half burned fuel not being completely burned in modern grates, but as has already been stated, much waste in this respect arises from too much coal being placed on almost extinct fires. It will be interesting to note whether this tendency increases if and when restrictions on the purchase of solid fuel are lifted, but this must form the subject of comment at some later date.

Excessive amounts of garden refuse, hedge clippings etc., found in dustbins during the year continued to make the Tip 'spongy', encouraged the breeding of crickets, and also gave rise to evidences of heating in the Tip. On only one occasion did fire actually break out on the Tip, but I am satisfied that this was not the result of spontaneous combustion. There is always the possibility of fire starting in a tip these days as a result of hot ashes being taken from beneath an all-night burning appliance, but I am of the opinion that fires arise much more frequently from children who go on to the Tip after the men have finished working. Why children cannot find a more pleasant place to play than on a refuse tip is a question, the answer to which is not easy to find, and why parents do not prevent their children from playing in such a place is a question which comes into the same category.



Notices placed about the Tip in this respect appear to either be completely ignored, or alternatively, older children seem to delight in either defacing the notices or even taking the posts and the notice boards away.

In calculating the cost per ton, no allowance is made for income from the sale of salvaged materials. Income from this source continued to decline throughout the year, but in spite of this, separation of materials from refuse continued. The waste paper position did not improve and this was the greatest single factor resulting in the lower income. The total income amounted to only £92. 15. 4d., and details of this appear in that portion of this Report dealing specifically with Salvage. This income reduces the cost per ton (collection and disposal) by a little more than 4d.

The cost of the Public Cleansing Service, expressed as cost per ton (Collection and Disposal) showed a very slight decrease during the year, 16/6d. per ton for the year 1957/58 as against 16/7d. for the year 1956/57, and this in spite of increases in Establishment Charges resulting from higher National Health Contributions and higher contributions to the Superannuation Fund as a result of increases in wages and more men coming within the scope of Superannuation. Costs would have been even lower had it not been for the amount of money expended as a result of making up pay during sickness. The expenditure under this heading amounted to £223. 2. 4d. during the year and is equivalent to approximately 10d. per ton, collection and disposal.

Whilst costs have increased considerably on those of only a few years ago, it must be borne in mind that all costs against this Service have increased very considerably in a comparatively short time. In spite of this, however, I feel that our costs compare very favourably with those in adjoining Districts and are far from expensive from the standpoint of service rendered to the Public. Having in mind the vast amount of money being spent on entertainment etc., the cost of this service, vitally essential to the maintenance of the Public Health, can only be regarded as very small.

### **Salvage.**

The separation of various classes of salvageable materials from domestic refuse continued during the year to form an integral part of the Public Cleansing Service.



The market for waste paper continued to be uncertain, but we are fortunate enough to be able to continue disposing of all the paper collected although at a much lower price than obtained only a very few years ago, and in this respect it would appear that we were more fortunate than many Authorities who apparently could find no outlet for the paper they collected. In spite of all setbacks, and having in mind that no additional staff has been employed to recover Salvage, even with small monetary returns, the work of separation continued, income derived from the sale of such materials being used to offset the Public Cleansing Estimate.

The total income for the year amounted only to £92. 15. 4d. which was a further fall compared with the previous year when the income amounted to £121. 10. 0d.

It would appear that the number of pigs being kept in the District again declined during the year and there was even less evidence of kitchen waste being collected.

The following Table gives details of salvaged materials disposed of during the year together with the income derived from the sale of such material :—

**SALVAGE STATISTICS.**  
**Year ended 2nd April, 1958.**

MATERIAL	WEIGHT				VALUE		
	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper .....	34	3	0	0	68	6	0
Ferrous Metals .....	3	10	3	0	13	7	2
Non-Ferrous Metals .....			3	7	3	9	8
Rags, etc. ....		12	2	0	7	12	6
	38	7	0	7	92	15	4

The quantity of paper recovered during the year increased slightly, but the value was less due to the reduced price of the previous year not improving. Scrap dustbins were able to be disposed of, but the demand for this class of material began to fall off, and the quantity of non-ferrous metals recovered was very much less than in earlier years. Fewer rags were also recovered during the year, but this was probably attributable to even more people from outside the District coming into the District collecting rags. It is unfortunate that so few are made available for collection by the Council, the sale of which would be a slight saving on the Rates, but I expect that the few coppers paid by collectors is more attractive.

No direct evidence was found during the year of rags etc., being exchanged for toys, balloons etc., but on more than one occasion, vehicles collecting rags were noticed to have poor quality crockery on them which were, in all probability, exchanged for rags. On more than one occasion, remarks by housewives were overheard when they complained bitterly that rag collectors would only accept best quality woollen rags, but gave very little in return. One cannot but wonder what these householders would have to say if they could be made aware of the income collectors derive from the sale of this material.

### **Disinfection of Houses after Infectious Diseases.**

As in previous years, houses were disinfected as found to be necessary, but there has been a noticeable falling off in the number of cases where disinfection is requested other than when a case of Infectious Disease has been removed to Hospital. Where requested, however, disinfection will always be carried out.

Passing reference has to be made, however, to a case of Poliomyelitis where it was found that there were numerous possible indirect contacts. In this case, several days were taken up checking up on contacts, the Health Visitors assisting in this work, and all premises to which the child had been taken during the incubation period, were completely disinfected to minimise, so far as possible, any risk of spread of the disease. As no cases developed amongst possible contacts, one can only assume that the steps taken proved effective.

## **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.**

### **1. Number and Nature of Inspections.**

The following Table gives details of the number and nature of inspections carried out during the year :—

Nature of Inspection.	No. of Visits paid
<b>Housing.</b>	
Housing and Public Health Acts .....	4059
Verminous Premises .....	131
Miscellaneous Housing Visits .....	557
Works in Progress .....	1168



## Meat and Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses	988
Shops and Stalls	21
Butchers	112
Canteens	2
Fishmongers and Poulterers	56
Food Preparing Premises	161
Grocers	94
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	22
Ice Cream Premises	43
Restaurants	3
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	32
Miscellaneous Food Visits	332

## Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries and Disinfection	33
Miscellaneous	101

## General Sanitation.

Water Supply	50
Drainage	360
Stables and Piggeries	14
Fried Fish Shops	40
Civil Defence	13
Barnsley Canal	150
Factories	41
Cemetery	103
Bakehouses	10
Cricket	23
Public Conveniences	61
Licensed Premises	28
Refuse Collection	372
Refuse Disposal	56
Rats and Mice	1029
Petrol	154
Salvage	75
Shops	45
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	599
Interviews	1251

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Total Number of Visits ..... 12489

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(2) **Complaints Received.**

During the year, 309 complaints were received, details for which are as shown below :—

Nature of Complaint	No. Received
Subsidence .....	34
Defective sink .....	5
Dampness .....	8
Choked drains .....	105
Defective eaves gutters .....	6
Defective range .....	10
Defective Rain Water Pipe .....	1
Defective ceiling .....	3
Defective wall plaster .....	4
Water in cellar .....	5
Choked sewer .....	1
Defective water service pipe .....	4
Offensive accumulation .....	1
Smoke Nuisance .....	4
Dry Rot .....	3
Defective roof (raining in) .....	7
Defective chimney stack .....	2
Water Nuisance .....	5
Defective window .....	1
Defective tap .....	2
Smells under sink .....	2
Smells in cellar .....	2
Defective cone joint .....	1
Inadequate water supply .....	15
Defective W.C. Cistern .....	3
General Disrepair .....	6
Defective W.C. Compartment .....	1
Defective sink gully .....	2
Defective Inspection Chamber Cover .....	8
Defective Boundary Wall .....	9
Rats and Mice .....	38
Cockroaches .....	6
Silverfish .....	2
Bugs .....	3
Total Number of Complaints .....	309

It must be pointed out that none of the complaints listed above in any way refers to applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of The Rent Act, 1957.



## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Again there were no variations in the Register during the year, and no premises were either added or deleted.

Premises included in the Register were inspected from time to time during the year, as opportunity afforded, and 41 inspections were made in this connection.

I am again pleased to be able to report that no complaint of uncleanness was received from H.M. Inspector during the year, nor was any case found during routine inspections. It is, therefore, again possible to give credit to the managements of the various premises for their compliance with the requirements of Factory Legislation. Still further improvements were carried out at the Empire Factory, space which had been lost being put to particularly useful purpose. Excellent canteen facilities were also provided in this Factory, and these gave rise to no complaint from the manner in which they were looked after.

So far as I am aware, no notifications were received under the provisions of Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937. (Outworkers).

The Tables appearing later in this Report are extracts from the Form of Return submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

### PART I OF THE ACT.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	12	41	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	12	41	—	—

## 2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—

### Smoke Abatement.

Once again, I am able to report that no nuisance from smoke arising within the District was noted during the year, but nuisances both from smoke and grit, arising outside the District continued to be apparent.

It is still early days to be able to say much about the success or otherwise of those provisions of The Clean Air Act, 1956, which were in operation during the year, but this vitally important Public Health Legislation must form the subject of comment in subsequent Reports.

Although there was some slight improvement in the smoke emissions from the Monckton Colliery Unit during the year, this was by no means what had been hoped for. Rumours are



still prevalent that modernisation of the steam raising plant at this Colliery Unit are included in the vast works continuing to be carried out, but it would appear that this work has, up to the time of preparing this Report, had little or no priority. I am informed that boiler firemen engaged at this Colliery have had the opportunity of attending courses for boiler firemen sponsored by the National Coal Board, but the dense smoke emissions which continue to belch from one stack in particular did not indicate much benefit being obtained. As has been stated in earlier years, without adequate knowledge of the boilerhouse, it would be extremely unwise to make too much comment as to whether the boiler firemen are entirely at fault, whether the boilers are the main trouble or whether it is a combination of both factors which give rise to smoke nuisances. Even with boilers of considerable age, care in stoking coupled with rotation of stoking the boilers, could minimise smoke emissions, and inferior quality fuel, properly fed on to boiler fires need not cause the prolonged emissions of black smoke.

The problem of grit nuisance is not so easily dealt with. Grit of considerable size continued to be found in quite appreciable quantities at the lower end of Midland Road throughout the year, and I continue to adhere to my opinion that this arises from the quenching tower. It would appear that this matter is receiving much more consideration than in the past and one can but continue to hope that in the reasonably near future, some type of arrestor will be developed which will deal with the matter adequately.

On the wider aspects of Smoke Nuisances to which attention has been drawn previously, not much more can be said other than smoke continues to drift over the District almost continuously. The by-product plant at Wharnccliffe Woodmoor Colliery ceased to operate during the year, and immediate benefit accrued, the dense volumes of foul smelling, green smoke arising when the ovens were recharged no longer hanging over the neighbourhood. From time to time thick black smoke arises from the Monckton Coking Plant, but as in previous years it must be stated that this is only noticeable when the retorts are being recharged. Much has been heard of the possibility of second take-off mains being fitted to batteries of retorts to collect volatiles discharged during recharging operations, but so far as I am aware, no such system is yet in operation. Consequently, heavy fouling of the atmosphere must continue at such time, at least for the time being.



On the question of fouling of the atmosphere by domestic smoke, little more than has been said in earlier reports can now be said. The replacement of older types of solid fuel burning appliances with those of modern design has certainly caused some slight reduction in pollution, and it was again apparent, during the short spell of really fine summer weather, how much filth is thrown into the atmosphere by domestic chimneys. The older, inefficient and often obsolete types of appliances continue to give rise to heavy pollution. Fewer chimney fires were noted during the year, and it would appear that the circular letter sent out to tenants of Council houses the previous year on the question of regular sweeping of chimneys had some beneficial result although not as much as could have been hoped for. It was again possible, during the year, to demonstrate to tenants how they could burn their coal more efficiently and many tenants, both of Council and Privately Owned properties agreed that more heat could be obtained from their coal by burning it more efficiently, but cases still arose where flues were found to be completely choked with soot in a very short period of time. Some improvement in the amount of coal used to replenish fires was also apparent during the year, but this is being accepted only slowly. At the same time, a greater awareness of the benefits which can accrue from more modern appliances being installed became more apparent during the year, particularly where tenants could only obtain limited quantities of coal, and whilst every effort is made to keep a check on appliances replaced, I fear that this was not always possible.

In connection with the installation of modern appliances, I was allowed to attend one of the Courses sponsored by the Coal Utilisation Council and the knowledge gained by attendance at this Course was very well worthwhile, particularly when supervising the fitting of new appliances especially where an old Yorkshire Type Range is to be replaced and where if adequate brickwork is not used to form flues properly, endless trouble must ensue by continuing smoke nuisance arising, not from an inefficient appliance but from a good and efficient appliance being wrongly fixed. Such work cannot be rushed, and occupiers of property who wish to modernise the house occupied by them should make sure that proper fitting is carried out.

It would be interesting to know what quantity of smokeless fuel is burned in the District, but with so much of the male labour being employed in or about the various collieries in the locality, change over from the burning of bituminous



coal to smokeless fuel will, I fear, be a very slow process unless some satisfactory agreement in the matter can be reached between the various Parties concerned. This, then, must remain a matter for conjecture, at the moment, but more information may be available on it by the time another Report is written.

### **Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**

As in previous years, the various premises registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were inspected during the year, as time and other duties allowed, and details of the premises inspected are shown in The Table of Inspections earlier in this Report. Again, except for minor matters which received immediate attention as a result of informal action, all premises were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

There were no prosecutions during the year.

### **Housing.**

During the year, 1,064 houses were inspected for defects within the meaning of the Public Health and Housing Acts, and arising from Rent Increase Notices being served upon tenants, 4,025 visits being made for the purpose. High winds during the early part of the year caused damage to quite a number of houses, of varying degrees of severity, and in some cases, houses which appeared to be quite sound were damaged. So far as I am aware, no personal injury arose from gale damage.

Normal repair and reconditioning work received more attention than had been the case for some years past and some arrears accruing from earlier years were able to be attended to. Even so, much still remains to be done. I am glad to be able to report that works were carried out after informal approach to Owners or Agents, and in no instance was it found necessary to issue a Statutory Notice. Exterior painting gained in momentum during the year and flushing of doors appeared to gain even more favour.

A greater awareness of the necessity of keeping house property in a good state of repair became more apparent during the year, but the constantly increasing rise in the cost of such work was frequently referred to when repairs were requested.



The much discussed Rent Act, 1957, came into operation on 6th July, 1957, and, as expected Forms A — Notices of Rent Increase — were quickly issued. I was made responsible for dealing with matters arising under this new Legislation and approximately 400 copies of Form 'G' — Notice by Tenant to Landlord of Defects of Repair were issued, but it is interesting to note that only 24 applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been received by the end of the year. Having in mind that in earlier years when pressure was brought to bear to have repairs to houses carried out, the invariable reply was that building labour was not available to deal with the repairs necessary, one can but doubt that if all the Forms G issued were in fact served upon Owners or Agents by their tenants, all the works of repair requested were attended to within the period specified by the Act. It seems more likely, therefore, that tenants either thought better of their first intentions, or for some undisclosed reason decided against serving notices as they were entitled to by the Act. If all the works which could have been required were carried out, little evidence was apparent. A small sub-committee was set up by the Council to deal with Applications for Certificates of Disrepair, and all houses were inspected where such applications were received, to check whether matters alleged by tenants as requiring attention, did in fact justify the issue of Certificates. In some instances, Forms A had been served upon the tenants of houses included in the Council's Proposed Demolition Programme, and although formal action which would result in the demolition of such houses had not started, and as a result persons in control of the houses could have no information in this respect, when advised of the position, Forms A were withdrawn. It will be seen, therefore, that this newest Housing Legislation resulted in a very considerable increase in the work of the Department, and, as was to be expected, a great deal of time was taken up by answering enquiries from tenants, as well as interviewing Owners and Agents, several of whom, after having been served with Notice of Intention to Issue Certificates of Disrepair, on which they took no action, expressed themselves in no uncertain manner when Certificates of Disrepair were issued and they complained that this was the first knowledge they had about the matter. When it was pointed out that notices could only be issued by the Council following the requisite procedure by tenants coupled with the fact that Notices of Intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair had been served by registered post, a different tale was told. Much was expected of this Act, and, had it had the results hoped for, accumulations of repair work would have been dealt with, properties justifying it would have been re-



conditioned and given a considerably longer continuing life, and with only more or less minor works of repair only being needed for some little time to come, more time would have been able to be devoted to other matters which have not had quite as much attention as could have been hoped for during recent years. Even so, repair work still lags behind, and the drift of skilled labour away from the building industry to more lucrative employment elsewhere retarded this work considerably.

There can be no doubt that some benefit has accrued from the coming into operation of this most recent piece of legislation, and quite a number of houses have been completely re-pointed, and more will be dealt with in a similar manner progressively, but in some cases, the serious ravages of the heavily smoke laden atmosphere have eaten into brickwork even more than had been thought. Coupled with the question of brickwork joints, consideration must be given to the quality of many of the bricks used in the construction of very many older houses. These, unfortunately, bear no comparison with most modern bricks, appear to have been hand moulded, probably made from locally obtained clay, and without much weather resistance. As a result, increasing evidence of penetrating dampness become apparent, and whilst re-pointing of such houses helps to turn storm water and improves appearance, one can but wonder how much lasting benefit will result. Lack of pointing over long periods of time has probably resulted in much of the mortar becoming absorbent to an appreciable depth into the walls, and after renewal of external pointing, retained moisture in such walls is drawn through the walls and appears as damp patches until such time as it evaporates on the inside of the house. Where this occurs, tenants wonder just what has happened, and it is only with difficulty that the true facts are able to be explained.

With the cessation, temporarily, of Local Authority Building, the waiting list for Council Owned Properties increased very considerably during the year. Reports of houses coming available for letting were received often months before any notice of termination of tenancy was received, and much time was taken up explaining to applicants that as no notice had been received, it was quite impossible to say who would be granted the tenancy of the house if and when it did become vacant. There can be no doubt whatsoever, that tenants desire all the amenities provided in more modern houses. This is quite understandable, but to provide such amenities with many older properties would mean building bathrooms etc.,



on to houses which would entail moving windows and doors, the possibility of causing light obstruction to adjoining houses and disturbance of stability of the houses themselves by major alterations to their fabric. Coupled with these aspects, the cost of conversion must be a major factor to be considered having in mind the possible market value of the property, the net rent at the moment, and the rent after permissible increase for improvement and the probable continuing life of the property. It will be seen therefore, that admirable as such a scheme would apparently be, when viewed from all angles, the matter poses quite a number of difficulties not too easy of settlement.

Naturally, following the coming into operation of the Rent Act, 1957, and the issue of Rent Increase Notices, the number of tenants coming for information and advice increased very considerably, and made a great demand on time. Once again, the number of people, Owners, Agents, Contractors and Tenants, seeking advice increased — an indication that my Department is more and more regarded as one where advice can be sought. Naturally, with longer time having to be spent in the office as a result of the increased number of people visiting it, it was again necessary to continue making visits and inspections long after what could be regarded as normal working hours. In this connection, it should be pointed out, also, that during the year many late calls were received, on more than one occasion, requests for me to visit were left at my home very late in the evening. Whilst matters of urgency arise and requests for late visits are amply justified, I regret that some such requests could quite easily have been left over until the following day.

During the year, continuing evidences of damage to property arising from Mining Subsidence, became apparent. Procedure of earlier years continued, and it is of interest to note that where evidences of possible ground movement came to light as a result of inspections of houses following receipt of Applications for Certificates of Disrepair, I was able to make arrangements with the Area Offices of the National Coal Board so that its Officers might inspect properties concerned so that repairs for which that Board accepted responsibility could be carried out either before or at the same time as works considered to be necessary and included in the Rent Act Forms. The vast majority of houses affected continued to be more or less in the centre of the District, as in previous years, and many houses which had been repaired had to be repaired again on more than one occasion. The worst affected



building in the District continues to be the Salvation Army Citadel, and although the condition of this building was referred to the National Coal Board, nothing had been done to make good any damage at the end of the year. I fear that damage to houses from this cause will increase rather than otherwise in the immediate future, and the continuing increase in the rate of mineral extraction, together with increasing underground mechanisation and an ever increasing weight of road traffic can only result in more houses showing evidence of damage by ground movement. The matter must, therefore, continue to be one calling for constant vigilance. Naturally, houses known to have been affected are kept under observation, and I am again pleased to be able to report that the close liaison between the various Area Offices of the National Coal Board and myself continued to be maintained and resulted, where evidences of rapid deterioration were noted, in security measures being taken forthwith. This was the case at 10, Fosters Gardens when it was found that the staircase was unsafe and employees of the Coal Board were working in the house to make the staircase safe less than 12 hours after I had reported the matter and visited the house with Coal Board Officials. More movement followed in a very short time, and this house again had to be repaired. Some time lag became apparent before repair works were carried out by the N.C.B., but this I attribute to an ever increasing number of applications being received alleging damage by mining subsidence.

Following the completion of the first Contract on The Doles Site, and no further building by the Council, complaints of overcrowding or bad housing and sleeping arrangements fell off until during the year under review, no such complaint was received.

This state of affairs should not be allowed to give a sense of false security, as I am still satisfied that many cases exist where unsatisfactory sleeping arrangements continue to exist. The continuing increase in the cost of providing houses coupled with the ending of Government Subsidy brought the building programme to a complete standstill, and, although, quite a number of houses etc., still require to be built, (and there is still a need for further houses in this District judging by the constantly increasing Waiting List) before a halt to building should be called. Without Subsidy, house rents would be considerably higher than at present, and would probably severely limit the number of applicants who would be prepared to accept the tenancy of such houses, if built. As a direct result of the temporary cessation of building, appli-



cants for houses clamoured more and more as and when it became known that a Council House might become available for letting. Callers at the office boomed and, all too frequently, numerous calls were made at my house, by people hoping to be granted the tenancy of a house likely to be vacated. Naturally, each of these applicants considered that their case merited immediate consideration. More houses vacated by applicants fortunate enough to be offered a Council House Tenancy were offered for sale, a continuing disappointment when it had been hoped that such houses would have been re-let to people in the lower income groups which could have helped to reduce the Council's Waiting List. More people who might have purchased houses sought advice before committing themselves and this was both fortunate and wise. In one instance, however, I am sorry to have to say that a young couple from outside the District agreed to purchase a house, without having sought information, only to find that the house was excessively damp, gave rise to persistent colds and ill-health and was also included in the Council's Clearance Proposals.

In one instance, a young couple who had been granted the tenancy of a house on the Doles Estate were given notice to quit, after several warnings, and very considerable damage was found to have been caused in the house. Action in the County Court followed, judgement being given in favour of the Council.

The continuing vexed question of moral overcrowding leaves little, other than has been said in earlier Reports, to be said on this occasion. This must remain a matter of grave concern but one not easy to remedy. The build up of the Waiting List can only have an adverse effect on the matter, and young people, marrying and continuing to live with parents, can also aggravate the position still further. With the best will in the world so far as providing houses is concerned, the strictly financial point of view is a most serious handicap, and until such time as either the Bank Rate is reduced very considerably, or Subsidies are again payable, or both, little progress in this direction can be expected. Provision of more bungalow type of accommodation might help somewhat, but here again, reduced subsidies are reflected in higher rents, and possible tenants prefer to stay where they are, in lower rented properties, rather than have to seek monetary assistance from other sources. Remarks of previous years on the necessity of adequate and proper separation of sexes, coupled with the problem of limited sleeping accommodation and shift work, continue to hold good and no good purpose would be served by repeating them.



Further reconditioning of older properties, coupled with the provision of modern amenities in the form of domestic hot water supplies and provision of fixed baths continued throughout the year. Whilst progress in this direction is somewhat slow, the trend is in the right direction, but once again, costs are a limiting factor on the amount of such work which can be done. At the same time, the more houses which are modernised, the fewer applications for council houses are likely to be.

Two houses were demolished during the year. The tenant of one had been found other accommodation previously, and the other tenant was granted the tenancy of an Aged Persons Bungalow. On the question of the clearance of properties which have completely outlived their usefulness, rents of alternative accommodation is a constantly recurring question, and will become a more serious matter when more concerted action is able to be taken to clear away unfit houses. Tenants of houses included in the Council's Proposed Clearance Programme, when told that their house will, in due course, be demolished, continue to plead for consideration for tenancies when council houses become vacant not realising that if they were re-housed and an Undertaking was given that the house would not be re-let a unit of housing accommodation would be lost by the Council. Perhaps by the time another Report is prepared, a more cheerful story will be able to be told in this connection.

Families who moved out of the District on accepting the tenancy of a Coal Board House a few years ago continued to try to get back into the District.

As was stated earlier in this Report, far more extensive repairs were carried out to existing houses during the year, and to this extent, The Rent Act, 1957, has been of benefit, but very many more houses, completely overhauled and modernised where possible, could only result in these houses having quite a considerable continuing life and automatically reducing the number of houses required to be provided by the Council, especially for re-housing purposes.

At the end of the year, two sets of properties in respect of which Undertakings had been received, contained one lady of advancing years, in each set of houses and as soon as these ladies can be provided with suitable alternative accommodation, both sets of premises, comprising 6 houses in all, will be demolished.



Two informal enquiries regarding Improvement Grants under the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, were received during the year, but the decisions of previous years not to implement the optional provisions of this Section were adhered to.

After long and very careful consideration, the Housing Committee instituted a scheme whereby tenants of Council houses accepting lodgers should, except in special cases, pay a small increased rent. Income from this source far exceeded expectations.

### **Inspections and Supervision of Food.**

As in previous years, as much time as could be made available was devoted to this most important matter. Premises registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were visited as often as possible. The mobile wet fish shop depoted in the District was inspected at frequent intervals and butchers' vans from outside the District were also inspected as and when the opportunity afforded. School canteens were visited and the two cafes in the District were also visited. In no case was anything found to which exception could be taken.

### **Food Premises.**

At the end of the year, the following Food Premises were in use in the District :—

Butchers Shops — Retail — Private .....	10
Butchers' Shops — Retail — Multiple Firms .....	3
Bakehouses .....	4
Cafes .....	2
School Canteens .....	4
Catering Establishments .....	1
Fried Fish Shops (also selling wet fish) .....	11
Wet Fish Premises (sold from mobile shop) .....	1
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .....	7
Grocers and General Dealers .....	42
Confectioners .....	2
Licensed Premises (including W.M. Clubs) .....	16

The various premises were visited during the year as shown in the Table of Inspections.

### **Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.**

Two Supplementary Licences authorising the sale of milk under the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" remained in force at the end of the year.



## **Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 to 1953.**

The following Supplementary Licences remained in force during the year :—

Milk sold under the Special Designation	
“Pasteurised” .....	3
Milk sold under the Special Designation	
“Sterilised” .....	2

### **Ice Cream.**

Further applications for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream were received during the year. All premises were inspected prior to registration, and the Council continued to pursue their previously declared policy that registration of premises was for the sale of wrapped ice cream only.

33 sets of premises were registered at the end of the year as shown below :—

Storage and Distribution Depot .....	1
Sale of wrapped ice cream .....	32

No premises for the manufacture of ice cream remain in the District.

### **Food Preparing Premises.**

No additional premises were registered for the preparation of Sausages or Potted, Pickled, Pressed, or Preserved Food intended for sale. Premises registered were visited as shown in the Table of Inspections. In no instance were unsatisfactory conditions found.

### **Meat Inspection.**

The two sets of premises granted temporary licences in 1954, continued to be used, under the same conditions during the year, and in view of impending legislation, the type of licence was in no way varied, and only vitally essential work was done to the premises.

As far as possible, all animals for slaughter were inspected ante-mortem, and it gives me real pleasure to be able to report 100% inspection of animals slaughtered. At this point, I feel I must refer, publicly, to the good offices of my colleague, Mr. Fieldhouse, Chief Public Health Inspector to the Darton U.D.C., who, when I was unfortunately taken ill early in the year, willingly undertook my meat inspection duties so as to



maintain 100% inspection. It is most gratifying to be able to report that Mr. Fieldhouse was afforded the closest possible co-operation by the butchers who appreciated that he was safeguarding them as well as helping me.

Slaughtering practice remained good, and except for minor matters, nothing occurred to which exception could be taken. The standard of food animal slaughtered continued to be very good and adequate cleanliness was maintained both before, during and after slaughter.

The arrangements of the previous year whereby slaughtering offal was collected for treatment, instead of being disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip continued during the year, but I could not be but surprised when I found that there was no demand either for tripes or cow-heels resulting in this material having to be dumped.

The following Table shows details of food animals slaughtered in the District and unsound conditions revealed on inspection. The first total condemnation of a carcase of beef since de-control in 1954, arose during the year. Necessary arrangements were made for the proper disposal of the carcase and all internal organs which was reduced to fertiliser, and the carcase was able to be checked from leaving the District until finally disposed of. This I consider to be essential if diseased and unsound food is not to get into unauthorised hands. As in previous years, with very few exceptions, slaughtering operations were carried out either after normally accepted office hours, in the evening, on Saturday afternoons and evenings and Sunday mornings. Week-end slaughtering took place almost every week-end of the year. Whilst such slaughtering cut down my possible available spare time very considerably, it did at least allow me the opportunity of being present during slaughter which most certainly would have not been possible had all the slaughtering been carried out during the day, unless other work had suffered. Other things apart, I am convinced that the only satisfactory standard of meat inspection is 100% of all animals slaughtered, and this work is absolutely essential for the health of the people. The butchers although slaughtering almost daily throughout the week, were still considerate to the extent that they tried to complete slaughtering operations as early as possible both for my benefit and also their own, but during the only too short spell of really hot weather, I persuaded them to slaughter later in the evening partly for their own comfort during dressing operations and also to allow the meat to set better as well as minimising possible trouble from flies. The use of aerosols in the slaughterhouse during warm weather was encouraged.



The bullock which was totally condemned evidenced no clinical signs of advanced disease when inspected ante-mortem, but this case only goes to prove that best quality animals, purchased in all good faith, showing all apparent evidences of health, can be found to be seriously affected with a transmissible disease after slaughter. The other carcase condemned, that of an eight weeks old calf, comes into a somewhat different category. It was quite apparent that the calf was not 'doing well' and the conditions found on examination appear in the list of conditions justifying condemnation.

Whilst no case of Emergency Slaughter arose during the year, a case of Anthrax was reported, and I was able to work with the Police both in disposing of the carcase, by burning, followed by complete disinfection of the premises where the pig was found dead.

Once again, no evidence of Cysticercosis was found during the year.

Offals rejected as unfit for food, in both slaughterhouses, were taken away for treatment resulting in their being turned into fertiliser. This practice is much preferable to burying on the Tip where dogs might unearth the material, and which could also attract rats.

Whilst more beef animals were slaughtered during the year, the number of sheep and lambs fell very considerably and no pigs whatever were slaughtered in the District.

The incidence of disease is somewhat higher than in the previous year, and this could be deplored, but I have no hesitation in saying that the local butchers buy with the utmost care. Much work has been and continues to be done in an effort to stamp out bovine tuberculosis, but with varying apparent results. One can but hope that the day is not too far distant when it will be the exception rather than the rule to find evidences of the disease.

The Insurance Schemes in operation at fatstock markets have certainly helped butchers who have had the misfortune to have animals carcasses totally condemned as only a few years ago, such a man under such circumstances had to stand the whole loss himself.

# Meat Inspection, 1957.

CARCASES and OFFAL inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) .....	467	—	4	449	—	—
Number Inspected .....	467	—	4	449	—	—
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	10	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci .....	2.14%	—	25%	—	—	—
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	55	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	11.99%	—	—	—	—	—
<b>CYSTICERCOSIS</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—



It is of interest to note that during the year, very much more evidence of beast hides being affected with the Warble Fly was apparent. In some cases these had erupted right through the hide which not only resulted in loss to the butcher from the sale of the hide, but also resulted in loss when the hide was tanned.

The following Table shows organs etc., rejected as unfit for food, on account of the conditions stated :—

#### **Tuberculosis.**

##### **Bullocks.**

Entire carcase and all internal organs .....	1
Sets of lungs .....	12
Heads and tongues .....	6
Livers .....	3
Mesentery and intestines .....	6

##### **Heifers.**

Sets of lungs .....	22
Heads and tongues .....	17
Mesentery and intestines .....	9
Livers .....	4

#### **Multiple Abscesses.**

Bullock livers .....	3
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#### **Parasitic.**

Heifer lungs .....	3
Bullock lungs .....	3

#### **Cirrhosis.**

Bullock livers .....	1
Heifer livers .....	2
Portions of Heifer Liver (4 lbs.) .....	1

#### **Pyelo Nephritis with General Fever and Oedema.**

##### **Calves.**

Entire carcase and all internal organs .....	1
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All organs etc., found to be unfit for food were surrendered and disposed of as already stated earlier. Very little slaughtering refuse, other than stomach contents were collected by the Council's Cleansing Vehicle for most of the year.

#### **Other Foods.**

Details of other foodstuffs found to be unsound, and which, also, were voluntarily surrendered, are given below :—

<b>Ham, Bacon and Offal.</b>		<b>Quantity.</b>
1 — 11 lbs. 15 oz. tin Ham .....	11 lbs. 15 oz.	
1 — 13 lbs. 5 oz. tin Ham .....	13 lbs. 5 oz.	
1 — 10 lbs. 14 oz. Shoulder Pork .....	10 lbs. 14 oz.	
1 — 10 lbs. 4 oz. tin Shoulder Bacon .....	10 lbs. 4 oz.	
1 — 4 lbs. tin Pork Luncheon Meat .....	4 lbs.	
2 lbs. Shoulder Bacon .....	2 lbs.	
Ox Tongue .....	2lbs. 4 oz.	
Pig Livers .....	20 lbs.	
3 tins Corned Beef .....	2 lbs. 4 oz.	
<b>Fish.</b>		
Swedish Sardines — 1 tin .....	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	
Salmon — 2 tins .....	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	
<b>Fruit.</b>		
Pineapple — 7 tins .....	5 lbs. 12 oz.	
Peaches — 3 tins .....	2 lbs. 13 oz.	
Oranges — 1 tin .....	11 oz.	
Plums — 2 tins .....	2 lbs. 8 oz.	
Grapefruit — 1 tin .....	1 lb.	
Apricots — 3 tins .....	3 lbs.	
Cherries — 3 tins .....	2 lbs. 10 oz.	
Grapefruit — 2 tins .....	2 lbs. 8 oz.	
Blackcurrant jelly — 1 tin .....	1 lb. 4 oz.	
<b>Beans.</b>		
Beans in Tomato — 3 tins .....	1 lb. 8 oz.	
<b>Tomatoes.</b>		
Italian Peeled Tomatoes — 9 tins .....	9 lbs. 3 oz.	
<b>Peas.</b>		
2 tins .....	Size A.1.	
1 tin .....	5 oz.	
<b>Cakes and Biscuits.</b>		
1 packet Sponge Cake Mixture .....	6 oz.	
1 Chocolate Roll.		
1 packet Maryland Cookies .....	6 oz.	
<b>Milk.</b>		
Carnation Milk — 6 tins — $\frac{3}{4}$ pint per tin. 1 tin — 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints.		
<b>Cereals.</b>		
Kelloggs All Bran — 1 packet — 10 oz.		
<b>Cheese.</b>		
1 — 3 oz. Kraft Cheese and Onion Spread.		
3 lbs. Cheese.		
<b>Cocoa.</b>		
5 — $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins Cocoa.		



The quantity of Other Foods found to be unsound during the year is again much lower than was the case a very few years ago. The trend of 1956 leading to more pre-packed and frozen foods being sold increased during 1957. The scope of this type of food widened considerably and whilst sales must justify the costly installation of refrigerated display cabinets, judging by the number of tins in domestic refuse, there is no apparent indication that tinned foods are losing popularity.

### **Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56.**

Some progress was made during the year in having hand washing facilities provided in various shops, and although all premises are not yet completely up to standard, progress is being made. The premises of the Globe Tea Company were completely reconditioned and the new counters were fitted with screens. Further refrigerated counters were fitted, and, as has already been referred to in the previous Section, more premises were provided with facilities for the display and sale of refrigerated foods. Refrigerators were also supplied in grocers' shops.

One minor infringement of the Regulations was noted during the year, but informal action resulted in the offence not being repeated.

Alterations were carried out at the Church Street W.M.C., and plans for extensive alterations at The Old Ring O' Bells were submitted. By the time another Report is prepared, further progress so far as Licensed Premises are concerned will be able to be reported.

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The systematic inspection of the District for the presence of rats and mice continued during the year, and a copy of the Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1958, appears below.

10% tests of the sewers again revealed some infestation, but only of a minor character. It is of interest to note that evidences of such infestation was again in that part of the District from Army Row to Alfred Street.

Regular routine inspections of Council Owned properties (Refuse Tip, Salvage Shed, Pooles Lane Sewage Disposal Works and Church Hill Depot) were carried out during the year, treatments being carried out as and when found to be necessary, and, so far as I am aware, residual infestation at the end of the year was not apparent.

Re-infestation of the Area bounded by Dove Hill, Godley Street, Park View and Church Hill became apparent, but following an extensive treatment, this centre of infestation appeared to have been cleaned up. I have to give credit to Mr. Smith for the work done in this connection.

Block Control methods continued to be used where Private Properties were involved.

I am again proud to be able to report that on no occasion was it necessary to take formal action either for carrying out treatments or carrying out works found to be necessary to minimise access to rodents to premises. Fullest co-operation was forthcoming on every occasion, and advice was sought and followed in efforts to minimise the risk of re-infestations. At the same time, it must be pointed out that rats still keep appearing despite the work done to destroy them, but I am firmly of the opinion that it is not a question of increasing rat population, but rather that more information is being received of infestations whereas in the past little really effective steps have been taken to report them.



	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5)
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District .....	6	2675	150	2831	6
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification .....	—	17	—	17	—
(b) Survey under the Act .....	6	465	—	471	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose). .....	—	—	—	—	—
3. Total inspections carried out-including re-inspections .....	134	935	—	1069	—
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major .....	4	—	—	4	—
Minor .....	—	65	—	65	—
(b) Mice Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
Minor .....	—	4	—	4	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the Local Authority .....	4	69	—	73	—
6. Total treatments carried out-including re-treatments .....	7	18	—	25	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing) .....	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act .....	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings .....	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out .....	—	6	—	6	—

### **Barnsley Canal.**

Little more than has been reported in previous years can be reported for the year under review. The water level became lower than ever, and informal action resulted in weed growths being removed. Heads of Agreement were agreed by all Parties. Regular inspections were made to ensure that Nuisance from stagnating water did not arise and also to ensure that this watercourse did not become a breeding place for flies etc.

### **Public Conveniences.**

The year under review added just another year of constant worry and trouble from mis-use of public sanitary accommodation and more and more damage being done. Although the matter was reported to the Police, no-one doing damage was able to be found.

Defacement of the walls, on both male and female sides of the Midland Road Conveniences occurred more frequently and on even more occasions were these conveniences found to be in a disgusting and revolting condition.

Not quite as much damage took place in the Cross Lane Urinal but once again damage to flushing arrangements and to water service pipes were found.

Remarks of earlier years regarding the persistent senseless and wanton damage to public sanitary accommodation continue to apply and no good purpose would be served by repeating them.

The work of preparing the Scheme for new Public Conveniences at The Wells was handed over to The Surveyor's Department, but in the light of previous experience, one can but wonder whether a range of public conveniences at this point will receive the same disgusting treatment as the others. This must, for the moment, remain a matter of conjecture, but the next Report will be able to deal with this possible source of trouble.

### **Supply of Dustbins.**

The Scheme whereby dustbins are renewed and charged to the General Rate Fund continued throughout the year, and continued to work smoothly. In only a very few instances were visits made necessary following adverse reports on the use of dustbins by Members of the Public Cleansing Staff.



Purchase Tax on Dustbins was reduced during the year, but even so, the price of these articles was such that it became ever more necessary to make them last as long as possible before withdrawing them from service.

### **Moveable Dwellings.**

As in previous years, the Council continued to regard the possible siting of such dwellings in the District with disfavour, and none are permanently sited in the District.

### **Welfare of Aged Persons.**

Consideration was given to the possibility of appointing an Aged Peoples' Warden to have supervision over the tenants in Greenwood Crescent. Although the matter was not brought to finality, agreement in principle was reached, and when another Report is prepared, more information on this matter will be able to be given.

### **Civil Defence.**

Efforts were again made during the year to start Training Classes for enrolled Civil Defence Volunteers but without avail.

### **Mortuary.**

During the year it was found necessary to renew the Water Heater in the Mortuary, but otherwise, no works other than normal maintenance were found to be necessary.

### **Cemetery.**

All the Cemetery Registers and Records continued to be lodged in my office.

During the year ended 2nd April, 1958, the following interments took place in the Council's Cemetery :—

Interments in new graves .....	36
Interments involving re-opening of graves .....	31
Interments in Public Grave .....	4
	<hr/>
Total Interments .....	71

Approval was given to the erection of 25 Memorials.

During the year, a scheme whereby Grave Marker Stones were erected on newly purchased grave plots, came into operation which makes identification of graves easier, and when in full operation will tend to avoid confusion where relatives wish to pick a grave space are immediately aware if a grave space has been bought "In Reserve".



Income from Fees during the year amounted to the sum of £290. 13. 6d. as detailed below :—

	£	s.	d.
Exclusive Right of Burial .....	91	10	0
Interment Fees .....	142	0	0
Interment in Public Grave .....	2	19	0
Vaulting Fees .....	2	2	0
Memorial Fees .....	30	7	6
Grants of Right .....	4	12	6
Grave Marker Stones .....	17	0	0
Registration of Change of Title .....	2	6	
	<hr/> £290 13 6		

The system whereby mutual assistance was afforded to the Parochial Church Council continued to operate, accounts for time spent etc., being rendered on that Council. Income from this source during the year under review amounted to £32. 2. 1d.

Mention was made in the Report for 1956 of damage being done to the railings at the lower end of the Cemetery. During 1957, even after temporary repairs had been carried out, further sections of the railings were completely broken down, and one can only assume that this was done to effect a 'short cut' into the centre of the District. The damage done leaves no doubt in one's mind that it is the work of adults rather than children. The notices posted in various parts of the Cemetery a year or two ago regarding the non-admission of children except in charge of adults appears to have been completely ignored, and yet again coloured chippings on graves were found to have been mixed up. It would appear that such mixing is done after the Council's gravedigger has finished work. I am completely at a loss to understand what satisfaction anyone can derive from doing such senseless things, but it is easy to understand what the feelings of persons responsible for graves will be when they see Memorials provided at considerable cost being desecrated. Unfortunately, as with other malicious damage in various parts of the District, persons responsible for this work of desecration were not able to be found and, as a result, other action against them was not able to be taken.

Still further complaints were received of the condition of the Church Burial Ground. The matter was again raised with the Parochial Church Council, and although some effort was made to tidy this Burial Ground up, the general condition is such that it must take a considerable time before it is brought to a state of real tidiness.



### **Boundary Extensions.**

Having in mind rumours of possible redistribution of the boundaries of County District Councils over the past few years, the matter of extending the boundaries of the District was given serious consideration during the year, and, as a result, invitations were sent to the Parish Councils of Notton (in the Wakefield Rural District) Havercroft with Cold Hiendley, Ryhill and South Hiendley (in the Hemsworth Rural District) inviting them to a Meeting to discuss the possible inclusion of those Parishes within the Urban District, but in only two instances was information received indicating willingness to meet to discuss the matter. As a result, formal application was made to the West Riding County Council seeking approval to this Council's proposals. At the end of the year, no progress was able to be reported.

### **CONCLUSION.**

I must apologise for the lateness in submitting my portion of the Reports dealing with the year ended 31st December, 1957, but as Members are aware, an occurrence starting in May, 1958, required other work to be left in abeyance to allow me to concentrate almost exclusively on the special work, details of which must remain a matter for inclusion in the Report for the year 1958. Gross accumulation of work resulted which, even now, has not been completely cleared up.

I think it will be apparent to Members, having read the foregoing Report, that the Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department had an even more strenuous year, even though it was very varied.

The trend of earlier years of still more and more callers coming to the office continued, and whilst this is some cause for satisfaction — they must feel that we are able to help them — time taken in dealing with the ever increasing number of callers seriously curtails the time available, at least during normally recognised hours of work, for inspection duties. As a result, visits after normal office hours were essential if vitally necessary work was to be kept moving. Many callers visiting the office when I was not available continued to refuse to leave names, addresses or messages, but making appointments for personal interviews. Evidences of confidence such as this, as I have said on previous occasions, made late visiting worthwhile in spite of the personal inconvenience and serious curtailment of possible leisure time.

The cessation of providing new Council Houses resulted in reports of existing houses likely to become available for re-letting being received long before any official information



was received, and applicants on the Waiting List clamoured for their case to receive consideration, many such applicants calling upon me on Sundays, at home, rather than risk calling at the office and my not being available to see them.

As will be seen from the Table of Visits, every effort was made during the year to keep all matters under the control of my Section of the Health Department under regular supervision, but still further New Legislation continued to extend to work of the Department and make it still more onerous. In this connection, if efficiency is to be maintained, I fear the day cannot be far distant when the question of staffing of the Department will have to be considered.

May I take this opportunity, once again, of thanking The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement during a hard and very trying year, and at the same time, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Housing Committee for all the help, understanding and support he afforded me in Housing matters.

On this occasion, I must make special reference to the very amicable working which existed between the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Barnes) and myself. I count myself extremely fortunate in having him as my Medical Officer as it is a real pleasure to work with him. Not only does he understand how difficult things can be at times, but he appreciates that the closest possible co-operation between his side of the Public Health Department and mine is absolutely essential for the benefit of Public Health. Proper efficiency is completely impossible if mutual esteem and understanding between the two sides of the Department does not exist.

May I, once again, thank my fellow Officials for their support in the execution of my duties. Reference must also be made to the excellent work done by Mrs. Preston, my part-time clerical assistant, without whose help, the work of the Department would have suffered greatly and efficiency would have also suffered. With the increase in duties and responsibilities, the work which she was called upon to do increased automatically and is certainly very much heavier than when she first came into the office only a very few years ago.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE E. MILLAR,

Public Health Inspector,  
Cleaving Superintendent,  
Housing Officer & Cemetery Registrar.



## SECTION V.

### DIVISIONAL STAFF.

**Divisional Medical Officer :** R. Barnes, B.A., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**Assistant County Medical Officers :** T. F. M. Jackson,  
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S. (app. August, 1957)

S. G. A. Henriques, M.B., Ch.B.

#### Clinic Medical Officers :

Dr. J. S. L. Allott,  
Dr. C. B. Ball,  
Dr. J. H. Fairclough,  
Dr. H. W. Gothard,  
Dr. G. Ingram,  
Dr. J. Leishman,  
Dr. K. Mathers,

Dr. W. G. S. Maxwell,  
Dr. N. M. Piercy,  
Dr. J. H. Ritchie,  
Dr. M. Scott,  
Dr. M. E. Tapissier,  
Dr. L. Taylor,  
Dr. J. W. Whitworth.

#### Health Visitors :

M. Baker, Miss  
B. Clarke, Mrs.  
D. Gibson, Mrs.  
A. M. Harston, Mrs.  
B. Hunter, Miss  
A. E. Jackson, Mrs.  
(App. 14.1.57, res. 30/9/57)  
M. E. Lee, Miss

G. M. Lodge, Mrs.  
F. A. Manley, Mrs.  
H. Thorpe, Miss  
(res. 30/9/57)  
C. Totty, Mrs.  
D. Westerman, Miss  
F. H. Whittlestone, Miss  
A. M. Widdison, Mrs.

#### Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

M. Mellor, Miss

E. Beever, Mrs.

#### Midwives :

K. Burgin, Miss  
(res. 30.7.57)  
M. Caton, Miss  
(res. 11.9.57)  
E. Cheetham, Mrs.  
D. Crossley, Miss  
B. Fitzpatrick, Mrs.  
C. M. Hill, Mrs.  
I. O. Kilner, Mrs.  
E. Leather, Mrs.

M. Marsland, Mrs.  
D. Newton, Mrs.  
E. Parkes, Mrs.  
E. A. Staley, Mrs.  
M. Walters, Mrs.  
E. Ward, Mrs.  
M. Wroe, Mrs.  
B. Horsfield, Mrs.  
(app. 14.10.57)

**Home Nurses :**

M. Allen, Mrs.	H. Padgett, Mrs.
F. G. Cartwright, Mrs.	B. Parker, Mrs.
N. C. Crofton, Miss	R. E. Scott, Miss
E. Cross, Mrs.	(app. 1.5.57)
R. Edwards, Mrs.	A. P. Tibbitts, Miss
K. M. Hanson, Mrs.	(res. 28.2.57)
(res. 1.7.57)	I. D. Thomas, Mrs.
M. Johnson, Miss	E. A. Walker, Miss
C. D. Lee, Miss	K. Winterburn, Mrs.
M. McConnell, Mrs.	(app. 15.8.57)

**Mental Health Social Worker :** M. Webster, Mrs.

**Mental Health Home Teacher :** E. Harrott, Mrs. (App. Sept., 1957)

**Speech Therapist :** S. Smith, Miss (App. 1.10.57)

**Duly Authorised Officers :** H. Nettleton, Mr., J. Hyland, Mr.

**Senior Clerk :** L. S. Wrigg, Mr.

**DIVISIONAL REPORT.****Vital Statistics.**

I have compiled a comparative table of the vital statistics for each of the County districts comprising Division No. 25, which I feel may be of interest to each separate authority in assessing how they stand in relation to the local figures generally.

**Births.**

The number of live births registered in the divisional area in 1957 was 1,304. This is equivalent to a crude birth rate of 17.2 per 1,000. There were 30 stillbirths giving a stillbirth rate of 22.5.

**Deaths.**

The deaths assigned to the divisional area after the addition and deduction of inward and outward transfers was 628, giving a crude death rate for the division of 8.3. You will notice in the table that this is lower than any of the other figures given for individual districts, but the other figures show adjusted rates. Unfortunately, no adjusted rate is available for the division.



### **Infant Mortality.**

There were 34 infant deaths in the division during the year, of which 27 occurred in the neo-natal period. This gives an infant mortality rate for the division of 26.1.

### **Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics.**

I give a table showing the statistics with regard to vaccination and immunisation during 1957. Smallpox vaccination again did not prove a very popular measure. There were slight fluctuations in individual districts, but in the main the proportion of infants immunised in the division remained about constant.

Towards the end of the year a scheme was introduced whereby at the discretion of medical officers a combined triple vaccine could be used against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus. This vaccine was not introduced until November, and since three doses were required at monthly intervals, it could have no effect on the statistics for 1957. Nevertheless, in a full year I have hopes that a reduction in the number of injections will go some way to improving the statistics, particularly in relation to infancy, and it is to be hoped that more mothers will then be willing to accept smallpox immunisation. I think that the table is clear and informative and calls for no comment.

### **Midwifery and Maternity Services.**

The number of cases attended by domiciliary midwives was 678. This compares with 655 hospital confinements. Thus, in this division, domiciliary midwives still account for over 50% of births during the year. During 1957 we started to see a decline in the midwifery staff available. This state of affairs continued and accelerated during 1958. I am afraid that the salary, and more particularly the conditions of service of domiciliary midwives, are not conducive to recruiting younger members of the profession into district service. Many of our midwives in the division are fast approaching retirement age, and I am afraid serious consideration will have to be given at national level if domiciliary midwifery is to continue as part of our integrated health service. New cases attending local health ante-natal clinics in the division was 710 and the total number of attendances was 3,874.

199 mothers attended post-natal clinics and made 211 attendances.

District	Acres	Population Registrar's Estimate Mid. 1957	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Stillbirth Rate	Infant Death Rate
CUDWORTH	1,746	8,830	18.8	13.7	38.9	28.9
DARFIELD	2,018	6,500	18.8	11.4	8.1	16.4
DARTON	4,726	14,630	14.4	14.7	22.7	23.3
DODWORTH	1,857	4,200	14.5	15.1	46.2	16.1
ROYSTON	1,452	8,270	16.8	11.7	20.5	35.0
WOMBWELL	3,850	18,990	17.3	11.5	15.0	27.4
WORSBROUGH	3,420	14,500	18	12.6	22.5	26.8
RATES FOR THE DIVISION	20,099	75,920	17.2	8.3	22.5	26.1
RATES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY			16.6	12.9	23.9	26.4



District	Pop- ulation	Smallpox Vaccinations		Whooping Cough immu- nisations		Diphtheria Immunisations			Poliomyelitis Immunisation	
		No.	%	No.	%	Years 0-15	Years 0-4	Years 5-15	No. com- pleted	No. wait- ing
CUDWORTH	8,830	53	30	90	53	73.5	42.4	88.3	127	804
DARFIELD	6,500	64	52.4	47	38.5	87.3	60.5	100	383	709
DARTON	14,630	66	31	42	20	58.6	45.7	63.8	424	888
DODWORTH	4,200	15	24	36	58	71	40.3	82.8	205	313
ROYSTON	8,270	28	19	98	68	70.9	44.9	82.9	264	634
WOMBWELL	18,990	85	25.9	127	40	60.9	35.5	71.9	582	1,534
WORSBROUGH	14,500	48	18.0	90	34	72.2	37.5	88	319	1,030
RATES FOR THE DIVISION	75,920	359	28.2	530	41.5	Accurate divisional figures not available			2,304	5,912

### **Ante-Natal Clinic.**

The ante-natal clinic at Royston continued to thrive and during the year 112 patients made 491 attendances. This is a slight increase on the previous year and I think it may be fairly said that the ante-natal clinic in Royston is not declining as are those in other parts of the County.

### **Infant Welfare Clinics.**

Most of the infant welfare clinics in the division continued to thrive and 1,307 new cases attended under the age of one year. The total number of children attending local health authority clinics was 2,587.

The local clinic in Royston again showed an increase in the children attending during the year when 431 attended, compared with 353 in the previous year. The total number of attendances showed that 3,322 attendances were made by children under one year of age and 1,705 attendances by children over one year. Both these figures represent an increase of over 300 in the attendances compared with the previous year.

### **School Health Service.**

It is with great regret that I have to report to you that routine work in the school health service suffered a decline in 1957. Routine medical examinations were few in some districts in the early part of the year because of lack of Medical staff. This deficiency was partially remedied by the welcome appointment of Dr. Jackson in August, 1957, but some post-ponement of the programme had of necessity to take place because of the increased pressure of work caused by Poliomyelitis vaccination.

Specialists' clinics continued to be held during the year. Some in this office and some at the local hospitals by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

The Speech Therapy Service has been dormant for some-time and the appointment of Miss S. Smith in October, 1957, was very welcome.

The tables show the work carried out in the school health service during the year.



# SUMMARY OF DEFECTS FOUND.

District				DEFECTS FOUND							Passed for treatment
	No. of children examined	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory	Ocular	E.N.T.	Heart	Orthopaedic	Lungs	Other		
CUDWORTH	583	581	2	97	48	10	19	13	60	71	
DARFIELD	173	172	1	9	13	4	5	6	12	13	
DARTON	684	682	2	112	42	6	31	15	61	73	
DODWORTH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
ROYSTON	456	453	3	69	28	5	9	13	45	59	
WOMBWELL	352	350	2	69	28	6	8	11	27	34	
WORSBROUGH	214	214	—	55	15	4	10	5	19	27	
TOTAL	2,462	2,452	10	411	174	35	82	63	224	277	

## SPECIALIST CLINICS.

Clinic	No. of attendances						
	Darton	Worsbrough	Darfield	Wombwell	Dodworth	Cudworth	Royston
OPHTHALMIC .....	153	261	128	374	83	229	139
ORTHOPAEDIC .....	19	19	10	9	8	43	30
EAR, NOSE AND THROAT	41	32	8	14	18	35	6
PAEDIATRIC .....	6	9	2	19	2	17	8
SPEECH THERAPY .....	10	5	3	14	3	8	7
CHILD GUIDANCE .....	9	3	1	16	—	17	5

### Minor Ailments Clinics.

District	No. of children examined	Total attendances
DARTON .....	163	235
HIGHAM .....	84	115
STAINCROSS .....	61	66
WORSBROUGH BRIDGE	551	1,002
WORSBROUGH DALE .....	82	111
BLACKER HILL .....	72	151
DARFIELD .....	87	150
WOMBWELL .....	52	121
DODWORTH .....	66	83
CUDWORTH .....	48	73

### School Clinics.

DARTON .....	162
HIGHAM .....	44
STAINCROSS .....	45
WORSBROUGH BRIDGE	110
DARFIELD .....	108
WOMBWELL .....	71
DODWORTH .....	26
CUDWORTH .....	221

### Ultra-Violet Light Clinics.

WORSBROUGH DALE .....	19	115
WOMBWELL .....	17	115



### **B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme.**

This scheme was continued during the year with the vaccination of children of 13 years and over. The response continued to be good, but still left room for improvement. I give below details of the B.C.G. programme carried out during the year.

School	No. of children tested	No. Positive	% Positive	No. Negative	No. Vaccinated
Cudworth S. M. ....	55	11	20.0	44	43
Darfield S. M. ....	102	32	31.4	70	67
Darton S. M. ....	139	25	18.0	114	110
Dodworth S. M. ....	54	24	44.4	30	30
Royston S. M. ....	71	12	17.0	59	49
Wombwell S. M. ....	148	56	38.0	92	88
Worsbrough S. M. ....	80	13	16.3	67	67
Divisional Total ....	649	173	26.6	476	464

### **Health Visiting.**

This service continued during the year, and although the total number of staff was not fully up to establishment, some improvement occurred compared with 1956. During the year 12,640 visits were paid to infants under one year. The total number of visits made by health visitors during the year was 30,732, of which 20,084 were to pre-school children.

I still feel that there is need for greater co-operation between the general practitioner and the health visitors, and vice-versa. The degree of co-operation has improved, but still does not approach anything like the co-operation that exists between the general practitioners and the home nurses. I feel further improvement in this relationship would be to the benefit of both parties and to the patient.

### **Home Nursing.**

The Home Nurses in the division made 56,396 visits last year. 47,642 of these being to medical cases. 7,978 were to surgical cases and 573 visits were made to tuberculosis patients. The total number of visits made during the year showed a slight increase, and the number of visits made for the purpose of injections rose by over 3,000 to 27,073. I

feel that with the present establishment of Home Nurses a peak has been reached in the number of visits made. There is obviously a limit to the amount of work which can be done by a given number of nurses. The number of visits made to old people over the age of 65 again accounted for nearly 62% of the total visits. 892 visits were made to children under five years of age. The home nursing service, in conjunction with the general practitioners of your area, is undoubtedly making a large contribution towards treating many patients in their own homes. But for this, I am afraid, the problem of chronic sick accommodation might be even worse than it is today.

### Home Help Service.

The Home Help Service in the division continued to provide a service mainly for old people. 91% of the help was provided to people of 65 and over. The total number of cases provided with a home help was 568. Those cases received a total 89,241 hours. You will appreciate that all these cases were not operating at the same time, and during the last half of the year the average number of cases was 406 in any one week. The following is a table comparing the home help position over the past four years. You will see that in the division the number of cases has risen from 224 to 406 with very little corresponding increase in the total number of hours available. It is, therefore, inevitable that the number of hours per case has declined steadily. I do not think any further comment is required as the table speaks for itself.

### HOME HELP SERVICE.

	No. of Cases		Average Hours per Case	
	1st half 1954	Last half 1957	1st half 1954	Last half 1957
Cudworth .....	31.5	58.5	7.0	3.5
Darfield .....	28.0	40.5	6.8	3.8
Darton .....	47.0	77.0	6.1	3.85
Dodworth .....	9.0	19.0	6.6	6.0
Royston .....	14.5	49.5	10.3	3.5
Wombwell .....	53.0	95.0	5.1	3.8
Worsbrough .....	41.0	66.5	6.0	4.9
Divisional Totals	224.0	406.0	6.4	3.9



## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

### Mental Deficiency.

#### A. Cases ascertained to be defective and subject to be dealt with during 1957.

Number in which action was taken on reports by :

	Under 16 yrs.		Over 16 yrs.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
i. Local Education Authority :				
a. While at school or liable to attend school .....	2	1	—	—
b. On leaving Special School .....	2	—	—	—
c. On leaving Ordinary School .....	3	1	—	—
ii. Police or by the Courts .....	—	—	—	—
iii. Other sources (transfers from other districts, etc.) .....	—	2	1	3
	7	4	1	3

#### B. Particulars of cases removed from the Register during 1957.

i. By reason of death .....	1	—	—	1
ii. De-classified .....	—	—	2	1
iii. Removal to Mental Deficiency Hospitals .....	1	—	4	—
iv. Transfers to other districts .....	—	1	1	2
	2	1	7	4

#### C. Particulars of cases on the Register at the 31st December, 1957.

i. Statutory Supervision .....	19	19	54	62
ii. Voluntary Supervision .....	—	—	21	22
iii. Under Guardianship .....	—	—	—	3
iv. On Licence from Mental Deficiency Hospitals .....	—	—	1	1
	19	19	76	88

### **Training Facilities for Mental Defectives.**

This year there has been a considerable improvement in the training facilities available, principally because all the children on the waiting list under 16 years of age have been catered for as a result of the Occupation Centre at The Gables, Wombwell, opening at the beginning of the year.

As I reported last year, the Occupation Centre at Wombwell is primarily covering the Urban Districts of Darfield, Wombwell and Worsbrough; and also a few children from the adjacent districts of Hoyland and Houghton. The children from the Urban Districts of Darton, Royston and Dodworth attend the Barnsley County Borough Occupation Centre and the children from Cudworth Urban District attend the Occupation Centre at Hemsworth.

For the first time, I am able to report that there is no waiting list for full-time training in respect of the children under 16 years of age. However, I am afraid that this happy state of affairs will be of short standing for the Wombwell Occupation Centre now has its full complement of 27, and the Hemsworth and Barnsley County Borough Occupation Centres are unlikely to be able to absorb more children from this Division as they will have their own commitments to fulfil.

However, as there are children over the age of 16 years in these Centres, it might be that they will have to be excluded to make way for the younger children, but I personally would regard this as a retrograde step, and am making strong representations to the West Riding County Council for extensions to be authorised at The Gables to provide for Workshops for adult male and female defectives.

Those adult defectives who are unemployable too are in great need of regular full-time occupation in order to give them a feeling of sufficiency and also a well regulated life away from the street corners and boredom.

In all there are 14 males and 46 females who are receiving full-time or part-time training, by way of attending Occupation Centres and Group Training Classes or being visited by the Home Teacher in their homes. If my suggestion for the extensions at The Gables are accepted the majority could be catered for, especially if transport could be provided and the whole of the Division would be catered for at the Occupation Centre in Wombwell.



**Particulars of Mental Defectives from this Division attending  
Occupation Centres at the 31st December, 1957.**

Occupation Centre	Supervisor	Under 16 years		Over 16 years	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Wombwell	Mrs. Large	5	9	2	3
Hemsworth	Miss Porter	—	2	—	—
Barnsley C. B.	Miss Smith	8	2	1	4
		13	13	3	7

Facilities available for the training of adult defectives at present, apart from those already in attendance at Occupation Centres, are restricted to Group Training Classes which are held once a week in Clinics in the Division, and also the Teacher visits a certain number at home who because of physical disability or domestic commitments are unable to attend the classes.

Wherever possible the defectives are encouraged to attend more than one class and vouchers are issued to cover their travelling expenses. The classes are of considerable benefit and the defectives are encouraged to do handicrafts, i.e. embroidery, knitting, rug making, leather work, dress-making, etc., and also attention is paid to personal cleanliness, physical recreation and social behaviour. Particulars of the classes are given below :

Day	Times	Clinic	Teacher
Monday,	9.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.	The Darby and Joan Club, ROYSTON.	Mrs. Harrott
Tuesday,	9.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.	The Parish Hall, WOMBWELL.	Mrs. Harrott
Thursday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.	The Ambulance Hall, WORSBROUGH BRIDGE.	Mrs. Harrott
Friday	9.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.	The Old Infants' School, DARTON.	Mrs. Harrott

**Hospital Accommodation.**

During the year six cases have been admitted to Mental Deficiency Hospitals for short-stay periods. The short stay facilities offered by the Regional Hospital Board are greatly appreciated for it enables the Authority to offer relief to those cases where temporary care is required to give the parents a rest and possibly avert a family crisis. The normal period allowed is 3 to 4 weeks, but in the event of a breakdown in the home this period can, at times, be extended.



Despite the acute shortage of vacancies in Mental Deficiency Hospitals, I am pleased to report that at the end of the year there are only two urgent cases not catered for, and that in any event, both these cases have been assisted by short-stay vacancies which has helped considerably to alleviate the domestic situation. I understand that these children will be accommodated as soon as a new hospital for low-grade children is opened by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board in the near future.

There are a further seven cases which are on the waiting list for admission to hospital in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising at home as a result of which they would not be able to receive the care necessary for their well-being.

As a result of the recent report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Deficiency, admissions to Mental Deficiency Hospitals now are on a purely "informal" basis, and it is not necessary to obtain medical certificates or magistrates Orders. This, in itself, is a great step forward and a step that is appreciated by the relatives as there is no longer the stigma "of being signed away", as admissions are treated in the same way as an admission to an ordinary hospital. However, the Local Authority still has the power to bring about the admission to a Mental Deficiency Hospital of a defective who is a social danger and this case is dealt with by a Magistrates Order on the production of medical evidence supporting a petition by the Local Authority.

### **Employment of Defectives.**

At the end of the year there were 50 males and 17 females in regular gainful employment, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain employment for the school leavers who have been reported. Unfortunately the labour market is becoming such that employers now are able to be more selective, and naturally employ able-bodied people and the defectives are at a disadvantage in obtaining suitable work. It is a great pity because a high grade defective, although taking much longer to absorb a routine job will eventually, under supervision, give useful service.

### **Mental Health.**

During the past year 48 patients have been discharged from Mental Hospitals, the majority of whom had been admitted on a Voluntary basis. Follow-up visits have been carried out by the Mental Health Social Worker and as a



result there has been a steady increase in the number of after-care visits. Many patients have expressed their appreciation of the interest taken in them, and also for the opportunity of discussing their worries and problems. At present there are 38 patients on the after-care register, 4 of whom are visited also by the Home Teacher for occupational therapy.

Often the reason for a breakdown could be an accumulation of fears and worries which the patients feel have gone unheard and the fact that they can discuss this and be helped to place the problems in true perspective can sometimes help to alleviate a certain amount of stress and strain. Wherever possible help and guidance is given, especially in the question of employment, financial and domestic problems, through the calling in of the various agencies, and also advice is given on the advisability of obtaining medical attention in the event of a patient's apparent relapse.

The Mental Health Social Worker also attends the Psychiatric Clinic at Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, and acts as a liaison officer between the clinic and the various local health authority departments, and also does whatever field work is required by the Consultant Psychiatrist.

There is every reason to be satisfied with the state of this service in the division. It has made vast strides during the past ten years and I think the work done compares favourably with other districts. Nevertheless, it will be a happy day when more time is spent on the earlier preventive cases rather than on after-care, but for the present time after-care is very necessary indeed.





