

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Sowerby Bridge U.D.C.

Contributors

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THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF SOWERBY BRIDGE



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

on the

Health and Sanitary State

of the District

for the Year 1947

SOWERBY BRIDGE :

TREW & EDWARDS, LTD., PRINTERS, TOWN HALL STREET

1949.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

Health Department Staff.

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. A. O. JOLLIE,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.)
(to September 30th, 1947).

Dr. R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
(from October 1st, 1947).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. G. A. WILTHEW, M.B., B.S., B.Sc.
(from October 1st, 1947).

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

WM. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN HOLMES, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Statistical Summary.

Area of the District in Acres	...	...	...	6,966
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£90,426.0.0
Sum Represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£351.0.0
Altitude varies from 230 feet to 1,250 feet above sea level.				
Latitude 53° 42' N. — Longitude 1° 56' W.				
Population	...	...	...	18,720
Birth Rate	...	1945	...	15.5
	...	1946	...	19.3
	...	1947	...	21.8
Death Rate	...	1945	...	18.4
	...	1946	...	14.3
	...	1947	...	14.1
Infantile Mortality Rate,	1945	...	...	68
	1946	...	...	41.6
	1947	...	...	34

URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. J. O. JOLLE
 F.R.C.S. (Edin), F.R.C.P. & S. (Glas)
 (to September 30th, 1947)
 Dr. R. C. WEBSTER, B.S., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
 (from October 1st, 1947)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. G. A. WILKINSON, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
 (from October 1st, 1947)

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

JAMES E. FOSTER, A.M.S.E., M.R.S.M.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN HOLMES, M.A., C.R.S.I.

Statistical Summary

Area of the District in Acres		Population
Ratcliffe - 7,000		18,750
Sum Represented by Ratcliffe Rate		12.5
Altitude - varies from 250 feet to 1,250 feet above sea level		12.5
Latitude 55° 42' N - Longitude 1° 50' W		12.5
Birth Rate		Death Rate
1942	12.5	12.5
1943	12.5	12.5
1944	12.5	12.5
1945	12.5	12.5
1946	12.5	12.5
1947	12.5	12.5
Infant Mortality Rate, 1942		Infant Mortality Rate, 1947
1942	12.5	12.5
1947	12.5	12.5

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year ending December 31st, 1947

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and statistics of your district during the year ending 31st December, 1947.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.**

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for the mid-year 1947, is given as 18,720, being an increase of 150 as compared with the estimate for 1946.

The following extracts of Births and Deaths are taken from the Returns as furnished by the Registrar General after correction for the inward and outward transfers :—

Births.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	188	198	386
Illegitimate ...	10	12	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	198	210	408

Birth Rate per 1,000
of the estimated Resident Population ... 21.8

Still Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	3	7	10
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	7	10

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 24

Deaths.

The number of deaths assigned to the District are set out as follows :

M.	F.	Total
136	128	264

Death Rate per 1,000
of the estimated Resident Population ... 14.1

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (Inf. Mort.)	34.3
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...	14
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ...	Nil
Measles ...	Nil
Diphtheria ...	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	1

Causes of Death (all ages).

Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages) ...	102
Deaths from Cancer ...	34
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	28

Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	20
Deaths from Tuberculosis	4
Nephritis	11
Premature births, etc.	10
Digestive Diseases	6
Appendicitis	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
Poliomyelitis	1
Suicide	3
Other Causes	17
Violent Causes	7
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1
Influenza	1
Diabetes	4
Circulatory Diseases	8
Duodenal Ulcer	4
Syphilitic Diseases	1

264

The 14 deaths of infants under 1 year of age may be classed as unavoidable, the majority of these occurring in the first week after birth, and being due generally to premature birth, congenital defects, broncho-pneumonia, etc. These are set out in the following table :

Cause of death	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	5-52 Week
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	—
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsion	—	—	—	—	2
Lobar pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—
Intracranial Hæmorrhage	1	—	—	—	—
Uræmia	—	—	—	—	1
Meningo-coccal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital absence of nose and eyes	1	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table sets out in detail all diseases notified under the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year, together with the age periods.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Para-Typhoid	Pneumonia	Acute Tonsillitis	Acute Poliomyelitis
Under 1 Year	—	—	—	17	5	—	—	—	2
1 - 5	1	—	—	186	45	—	1	—	1
5 - 15	7	—	—	148	17	—	5	—	1
15 - 25	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
25 - 35	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
35 - 45	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
45 - 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
55 - 65	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
Over 65	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civilians	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Total Cases (excluding H.M.F.)	10	—	2	357	69	1	14	—	4
Cases admitted to Hospital	10	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	4
Total Deaths	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE OF COMPARISONS
(excluding Members of H.M. Forces).

Disease	Average	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Diphtheria	9	25	10	7	4	Nil
Scarlet Fever	64	169	106	25	9	10
Pneumonia	13	26	11	4	10	14
Measles	134	35	91	173	14	357
Whooping Cough	49	27	68	4	75	69
Erysipelas	2	3	1	4	2	2
Puerperal Fever	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

These figures show a comparison between the Urban District and other districts in the West Riding administration County.

	Sowerby Bridge Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provis- ional figures)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) ...	21·8	21·6	21·5	20·5
DEATH RATES (all per 1,000 estimated population)				
All Causes... ..	14·1	12·7	12·3	12·0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)*	0·05	0·16	0·16	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0·16	0·38	0·39	0·47
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	0·05	0·09	0·09	0·08
Respiratory Diseases †(excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1·07	1·41	1·37	**
Cancer	1·82	1·87	1·80	1·85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases ‡	5·88	4·23	3·98	**
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	34	44	45	41
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	Nil	5·17	5·31	5·8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	0·24	0·21	0·26
Other Causes	2·39	0·88	1·07	0·91
Total	2·39	1·12	1·28	1·17

- * Combined death rate from smallpox (if any), scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.
- † Combined death rate from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.
- ‡ Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.
- ** Figures not available.

No cases of Smallpox, Enteric Fever or Diphtheria have been reported during this period,

The usual enquiries have been made covering the major notifiable diseases, all contacts being excluded from School and complete disinfection of bedding, etc., together with the household effects, being carried out in order to control the spread of such diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The work in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation has continued throughout the year, again with a considerable amount of success. We have now more than 91% of the school children, and approximately 52% of those under 5 years of age who have received the full treatment.

Details of the number of complete treatments which have taken place during the year are set out as follows :—

Number of Children who completed a full course of Immunisation during the Year	Age at date of final injection.		Total under 15 Years
	0 - 5 Years	5 - 14 Years	
	219	15	234

During the year each child within the Urban District has received a birthday card on attaining the age of one year, setting out the importance of Immunisation. This, I find has been of great value in keeping this very important subject constantly in the minds of the public, thus attaining its purpose in obtaining a high percentage of children being Immunised on, or immediately after their first birthday.

Tuberculosis.

The following table, setting out the number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register, shows an increase of 8 over the previous year.

The details are as follows:—

Total Cases on Register	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
113	46	27	73	21	19	40

Scabies Order, 1941.

The arrangements for the out-treatment of Scabies at the General Hospital still continue, the certificates for such treatment being issued at the Health Department. The days of treatment being as follows:—

Females and Children ... Monday and Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m.
Males Tuesday and Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.

Arrangements with the West Riding County Council have been made for in-patient treatment at the General Hospital, Halifax.

During the year 2 persons have been treated as in-patients by arrangement with the County Council. In addition to these, 17 persons have received out-patient treatment at the General Hospital. The nature of the disease has been slight, and it has generally been observed that one treatment has been effective. During the year there has been a definite decrease in the number of persons treated, both as out-patients and in-patients in comparison with the previous year.

General Provision for Health Services.

Guaranteed hospital accommodation is available both at the Fielden Isolation Hospital, Todmorden and Northowram Hall, Halifax. The former hospital covering the whole of the Urban Area with the exception of Luddenden Foot and Midgley, these two being covered by the latter isolation hospital, where guaranteed accommodation is available by agreement,

Halifax Corporation have discontinued the arrangement whereby hospital accommodation is available for the Smallpox cases which occur in the Urban District, the provisional arrangements now being that Bradford Corporation will cater for these as and when they arise, providing accommodation is available. Other diseases such as Pneumonia, etc., are treated at the General Hospital, Halifax.

Child Welfare Centres are available at Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot, which serve the whole of the Urban District. The Luddenden Foot centre also caters for the Luddenden District of Halifax and Mytholmroyd, which is within the Hebden Royd Urban Area.

It has been observed that although staffing difficulties have been experienced, the Centres have continued their activities with a considerable amount of success.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held twice weekly at the West Riding Clinic, the days for treatment and consultation being Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Venereal Diseases are treated at Royal Halifax Infirmary. A certain amount of time has been devoted during the year to displays, film shows, etc., on this very important subject, and I consider that these have been quite successful.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Infectious Disease.

The entire district is covered by the motor ambulance service maintained by the authorities removing the patients for treatment. The arrangements work very smoothly.

Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

Arrangements with the Halifax Corporation for the use of the ambulance stationed at the General Hospital were completed during 1945, and I am pleased to say that this arrangements is continuing to work very satisfactorily.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and co-operation at all times, and to record my high appreciation of the work of Mr. Foster, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and his Staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council
for their kindness and cooperation at all times, and to thank
my long association of the work of the Eastern Council, and
Inspector, and his Staff.

Yours obedient servant,

W. C. WELSH

Medical Officer of Health

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REPORT
OF THE
Senior Sanitary Inspector
For the Year ending December 31st, 1947

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on
(a) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, (b) The Cleansing
Department, (c) Housing, (d) Inspection and Supervision of
Food, for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Apart from the extension of the public mains to the housing site at Lower Bentley Royd, no extension to the existing properties within the area has taken place. The public supplies have again been both suitable and sufficient, and samples taken for bacteriological examination have proved to be satisfactory. In addition to these samples, the Norland supply has been sampled for plumbo solvency—these samples also proving to be quite satisfactory.

With the extension of the public mains to the new Bungalows, the number of dwelling-houses now connected to the town's supply total some 4,550.

Private water supplies are still very much in evidence in the more rural areas, and supply approximately 2,200 houses. Many of these are quite large, catering for upwards of 30 houses; these larger supplies are some 10 in number, and are sampled regularly.

A considerable amount of trouble has arisen during the year, due to the extra ploughing of agricultural land. This has resulted in many stoneware pipes conveying the water from the springs to the storage tanks, being seriously damaged. These, however, have been replaced, and are again working satisfactorily.

The smaller private supplies are sampled from time to time, and details of these, together with the district from where they were obtained are set out below :—

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Triangle and Millbank	3	3	6
Norland	2	1	3
Sowerby and Blackwood	6	2	8
Luddenden Foot	2	—	2
Luddenden and Midgley	7	26	33
Totals	20	32	52

With the exception of the Luddenden and Midgley area, the supplies are reasonably satisfactory, the unsatisfactory samples being due to comparatively minor defects, and have been remedied without necessitating major works. There are still, however, a number of private supplies receiving attention.

In the Luddenden area the reconstructed Booth supply continues to give satisfaction, and with one exception, the private supplies in this area are reasonably satisfactory.

In the upper portion of Midgley, the position is most unsatisfactory, by reason of the fact that the two larger supplies almost on the boundary of the district have been condemned as

unfit for human consumption, and only entire reconstruction of these will give any degree of satisfaction. The source of this supply, however, is quite satisfactory, but unfortunately the water is allowed to flow through an open course for approximately 500 yards before reaching a covered storage cistern. It is confidently expected that the work of reconstruction on this supply will be commenced during the coming year.

The recently constructed supply to Scout Head continues to work satisfactorily, together with the Midgley school supply, but it may be that this latter supply will fail in times of drought, due to the fact that the County have seen fit to provide a Canteen in connection with the School without providing extra storage facilities.

It is most unfortunate that the public main cannot be extended to the properties throughout the Midgley area, but at the present time this is impracticable, a survey however for the lower part of Midgley is under consideration.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The extension of the sewer has taken place on the housing site at Lower Bentley Royd where the aluminium type bungalows have been erected. There has been no further extension of the sewer during the year. The more rural parts of the district still require sewerage.

Numerous defects in the existing drainage systems of the district have been reported, and many others found when on routine inspection, all having been remedied. No major works of reconstruction have been found necessary during the year. A considerable amount of extension to existing drainage systems has been carried out during the year in order to cater for the increased number of water closets which have been provided in place of the more primitive types of sanitary accommodation. In all cases the water test has been carried out before the systems have been passed.

Details relative to the visits, inspections and tests are set out in the list of Inspector's visits.

Sewage Disposal.

The sewage disposal works at Milner Royd and High Royd continue to give satisfaction, and the effluent from the works continues to pass the necessary tests of the Rivers Board.

The lattice bridges supporting the sewers over the Calder, which collapsed due to severe flooding of the river, as reported in the last Report, have now been replaced in such a way as to avoid as far as possible future damage due to this source.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The conversion of the more primitive types of sanitary accommodation (pails and privies) has continued throughout the year, and has resulted in the abolition of 41 pails and 3 privies.

It is pleasing to note that where joint accommodation has previously existed, the conversions in the majority of cases have resulted in separate accommodation being provided. It is most unfortunate that so much joint accommodation still exists in the older properties in the district, but owing to lack of accommodation both inside and outside (the houses being back to back type), I am afraid that very little can be done to improve these conditions at present.

A total of £170 0 0 has been paid during the year for 34 conversions, but this has resulted in approximately 69 new pedestals being provided. The following table shows a slight increase in the number of pails in the district, but this is due to the conversion of privies to earth closet accommodation where no sewer is available.

The tables are set out as follows :

District	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
Triangle and Mill Bank ...	78	17	—
Sowerby Bridge	38	—	—
Norland	132	13	—
Sowerby and Blackwood ...	176	42	—
Luddenden F't (inc. Butts Green)	164	—	—
Midgley	106	10	—
Totals ...	694	82	—

In addition to these conversions 14 pedestal wash down basins are being provided in place of five hoppers and nine waste water closets, and a further seven additional water closets have been provided to existing properties.

Cleansing Department.

The collection and disposal of house refuse still remains the responsibility of the Department. This includes the cleansing of ashpits, privies, pails, etc., which are situated in the more rural parts of the district. Highways scavenging, etc., is carried out by the Engineer's Department.

Refuse Collection.

The labour problem has so improved during the year that this has presented no real difficulty. The greatest difficulty experienced was due to the very heavy fall of snow in the early part of the year, which isolated the more rural parts of the district, and cleansing in these areas ceased for approximately six weeks. Only the very accessible properties in the more congested part of the area received regular attention. The position was such that both the transport and labour were transferred to the Highways Department for 900 man-hours. With the limited transport available, it took approximately seven weeks before the cleansing became again normal.

Weekly collection throughout the entire area has not yet been resumed, although the cleansing of the more congested areas is carried out weekly, but this is only approximately 30% of the entire district. In addition to this, the cleansing of pails, etc., is carried out weekly.

It is most unfortunate that in 1947, the ashbin being such a necessary feature of the properties is so abused, resulting in the rapid deterioration of the same. It is also noted with regret that where joint accommodation exists there appears to be a lack of thoughtfulness, or maybe carelessness on the part of certain citizens who continue to use the leading bin, and when this is full, the remainder of the refuse finds its way on to the floor of the compartment. This not only severely handicaps the men on

their round, with a consequent rise in costs, but such conditions are conducive to rodent infestation. I do sincerely hope that in the future a little more attention and thoughtfulness will be given to what may appear a trivial matter, but when multiplied becomes a major problem.

The following table sets out in detail the types of receptacles cleansed, the number of loads, and the vehicles concerned :—

Vehicles	Ashbins	Pits	Pails	Loads	Tons Cwt.
S. & D. No. 5	72,319	—	—	563	1,689 0
Karrier No. 6	43,060	60	—	1,113	1,392 19
Commer No. 3	36,344	295	2,333	796	1,183 10
Commer No. 4	920	3	8,042	186	325 10
Bedford No. 7	3,041	14	22,487	467	816 15
Totals ...	155,684	372	32,862	3,125	5,407 14

Transport.

The following mechanical transport was operated during the year :—

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
3	Commer N. 2F.C.	1938	7 cu. yards	Salvage and Trade Refuse
5	S. & D. Moveable Floor	1939	16 cu. yards	Ash Bins
6	Karrier Bantam	1946	7 cu. yards	Ash Bins
7	Bedford 7	1947	7 cu. yards	Pail and Pits

The Commer N. 2.F.C. No. 4 was taken off the road during May, and was replaced by the Bedford 7. The remaining Commer is now only used in an emergency, and will be replaced immediately another vehicle is obtained. The delivery period for this is almost two years.

The vehicles, with the exception of the Commer, have received very little maintenance, and the time worked has been approximately 95% of the possible time. The S.D. Freighter, a rear loader purchased in 1939 will in the near future require a complete overhaul.

Storage.

The following table sets out a comparison of the types of refuse accommodation present in the district, compared with those of previous years :—

Year	Pail Closets	Privies	Ash Pits	Ash Bins
1939	687	120	12	5471
1945	712	96	8	6041
1946	688	84	2	6062
1947	694	82	—	6124

There is a constant reduction in the number of privies and ashpits and providing both sewer and water supply were available in all cases, these would be entirely abolished. Unfortunately, as this is not so, work will be continued to reduce these to the absolute minimum.

Trade Refuse.

During the year approximately 151 tons of trade refuse has been removed from the shops and markets of the district, the approximate income from this source being £42 0. 0. The Council still continue to empty one bin of trade refuse free, whilst a charge of 6d. is made for each additional bin or part thereof.

Refuse Disposal.

The house refuse of the district is disposed of mainly by complete incineration and controlled tipping. Approximately 60% of the total refuse was disposed of at the destructor at Milner Royd, whilst controlled tipping accounted for the remainder, these amounts being 3,244 tons and 2,153 tons respectively. The destructor and the tip at Milner Royd are controlled by the Surveyor, whilst the tip at Luddenden Foot is under the control of the Department.

During the year there has been a slight rat and cricket infestation at the Milner Royd tip, which has been successfully dealt with.

Salvage.

The amount of salvage collected during the year shows a considerable reduction upon the previous year. Many of the materials salvaged during the war have now completely disappeared, the collections mostly consisting of waste paper, kitchen waste, glass, and ferrous metals. These, based on the previous returns, are considerably reduced.

It is unfortunate that such large quantities of waste paper are again finding their way to the ashbin, and although containers are issued, very few are now used. The attention of housewives is constantly drawn to the importance of waste paper to the country, but the results are still unsatisfactory.

With the closing of the many canteens and military establishments in the district, the kitchen waste returns show a considerable decrease on those for the previous year. The 160 food bins in the more congested parts of the area are utilised, but again the results from this source have shown a decrease.

The position with the loose tins is no better than returned on the last occasion, and ever increasing quantities lie unwanted at the destructor head. Enquiries have been made relative to a suitable baling press, but the period of delivery is not very satisfactory.

Details of the salvage sales during the year are set out below:—

Materials Salvaged.

Materials Salvaged.					T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.	
Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	92	2	3	537	12	5
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	91	14	1	130	14	3
Cullett	...	...	...	...	8	15	2	10	2	3
Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	5	12	0	7	1	9
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...		12	0	9	16	8
Textiles	...	...	...	...		7	0	3	0	0
Rubber	...	...	...	...		4	2		14	6
Total					...	199	8	0	699	1	10

These figures show a decrease of nearly 50% on the return for 1946.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Investigations have continued during the year into the more serious types of infectious disease notified through the normal channels, and all precautions taken to avoid the spread of disease. The disinfection of the bedding has been carried out where necessary.

Details of the visits in connection with these notifications are set out below:—

Enquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	19
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	31
Visits re disinfection, etc.	24

Smoke Abatement.

Once again the factory chimneys of the district have been observed on a much larger scale than previously, but not actually up to the pre-war scale. During the year 30 smoke observations were taken and of these 11 emitted smoke for a longer period than three minutes in the half hour. Two of the premises in the area have recently changed over from solid fuel to pitch burning, and although a serious nuisance was committed, I am pleased to report that the plants are working quite satisfactory. There appears to have been an increase in the pollution of the atmosphere from this source, this may be due to the poor quality of the fuel used.

Factories.

During the year, as a result of a complaint from H.M. Factories Inspector, and as a result of routine inspection, 17 complaints have been investigated. These, in the majority of cases have been in connection with the sanitary accommodation, and with the exception of three cases, all have been satisfactorily remedied. It has been necessary to carry out 43 inspections of the factories, whilst these works have been in progress.

Swimming Bath.

The Public Swimming Baths have again been functioned during the summer period, and continued to give satisfaction. The water has been sampled on 8 occasions and in every case

found to be satisfactory. The chlorine content of the bath has been stepped up to between 0·4 and 0·5 parts per million. The appropriate Committee have under consideration the reconstruction of the chlorine plant in the immediate future.

There are no private swimming pools within the district.

Nuisances.

As a result of complaints at the Office, and found whilst on routine inspection, the number of nuisances investigated during the year number 334. The nature of these has varied considerably from the flooding of cellars, due to defective drainage systems, offensive accumulations and deposits, nuisances from animals, etc., etc. In addition to the above items 27 complaints were outstanding at the end of 1946, making a total of 361. During the year 330 nuisances have been abated, leaving 31 outstanding. The majority of these nuisances have been abated in an informal manner, but it was found necessary on 38 occasions to serve formal notices, in order to have the necessary works completed.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings in any of these cases.

Offensive Trades.

There have been no additions to the Register of Offensive Trades, and no further applications have been received. At the end of the year the following trades were carried out in the district :—

Fish Friers	...	27
Tripe Boilers	...	2

70 inspections have been made of these premises, and no serious contraventions of the byelaws have been observed. The general cleanliness of the premises was found to be satisfactory. In certain of the fish frying establishments, it was observed that no proper cleaning room had been provided. This is desirable in all cases, and efforts are to be made in order to secure provision of the same.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	Visits
Refuse Collection	473
Refuse Disposal	115
Drainage, etc.	391
Flood visits	312
Water Supplies	224
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	213
Survey of Sanitary Accommodation	167
Fried Fish Shops	139
Rodent Control	100
Factories	91
Smoke Observations	70
Shops	59
Public Conveniences	58
Petrol	58
Houses—let in Lodgings	41
Common Lodging Houses	12
Stables and Piggeries	40
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	33
Bakehouses	31
Schools	25
Offensive Trades	23
Dangerous Buildings	12
Transport	10
Public Houses	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	5
Total	<u>2,709</u>

HOUSING.

General Inspection.

A considerable amount of housing inspection, both as a result of complaints and observation has been carried out, covering approximately 452 dwellings. Again in the majority of cases, repairs were found to be necessary, due in the main to the accumulative neglect during the war years. As in the past, considerable difficulty has again been experienced in completing the same, due to shortages mainly of materials, and as a result, many temporary repairs have had to be effected to render the houses reasonably habitable. The Department has again given assistance where difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a suitable Contractor, also in arranging for the completion of a considerable amount of work.

The rechargeable works undertaken during the year have amounted to nearly £200 0 0 and where several owners have been involved, work has been undertaken on behalf of the owners in question and the cost allocated.

Under the Public Health Acts complaints involving 239 dwellings were dealt with, 208 of these were satisfactorily completed, together with those outstanding (35) at the end of 1946. Under the Housing Acts 213 dwellings were inspected and the work satisfactorily completed in 192 instances. All the defects outstanding under this heading at the end of 1946 have been dealt with. In order to complete the housing repairs under both headings approximately 700 visits and inspections have been required. All notices served were of an informal nature.

Overcrowding.

The position relative to overcrowding this year is very much the same as in previous years, although more dwellings have become definitely overcrowded by reason of the return of service men and women, thus the dwellings where the overcrowding had been temporarily abated have once more become overcrowded. There has also been a slight increase due to family and age increases, also where married sons and daughters have had to take up residence along with their parents.

During the year 135 visits to overcrowded and suspected overcrowded dwellings have been made. At the year end the Register showed that 13 cases of overcrowding had been abated, leaving 30 on the Register, but 39 new cases, due to reasons stated above have been recorded, making the total 69 at the year end.

Verminous Dwellings.

As a result of complaint and general routine inspection, 71 dwellings have been inspected for the presence of vermin, necessitating some 135 visits. Of these dwellings 57 were found to be infested in varying degrees. In all cases the dwellings were treated with an approved insecticide, subsequent visits showing that the treatments have proved to be quite satisfactory. It was found that two treatments were necessary in nearly all cases, the interval between the treatments being one month.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies.

As in previous years a considerable amount of time has been devoted to the inspection of milk producing establishments. At the year end there were 101 registered milk producers on the register, a decrease of 4 over the previous year, the number of registered cow sheds being 163. In addition to the visits re sampling, etc., 266 inspections were made of these premises. It was found necessary to serve only a very few notices relative to the reconditioning of the sheds, as the specifications issued in 1945-1946 have now been almost completed, those still outstanding being where major works are required.

It is pleasing to note the satisfactory state of cleanliness which exists in the majority of the sheds, also the improvement in the handling and storage of milk and the attention now being given to the cleanliness of the equipment, etc.

In numerous sheds where for many years the fly nuisance has persisted, I am pleased to report that many of the farmers have availed themselves of the offer from the Department to spray the sheds in May and August for quite a nominal sum. This we have found very beneficial, and many farmers have stated that the

second treatment has not been necessary, owing to the persistency of the D.D.T. in the first treatment. The work has been carried out with an approved insecticide with 5% D.D.T., also the water soluble D.D.T. (10% solution), both with very satisfactory results.

Milk Sampling.

In addition to the inspections and visits to the farms, the milk producers and retailers in the area have been sampled regularly. Details of the sampling being set out below :—

	No. of Sampl's Taken	In District		Out District	
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Designated Milks	131	71	18	33	9
Pasteurised Milks	46	29	2	13	2
Raw Milk	335	252	53	27	3
Totals	512	352	73	73	14

In addition, 8 samples were taken for Biological examination for the presence of Tuberculosis, one sample being found to be positive and the farm in question visited, with the result that two beasts were removed and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

Although the number of samples has fallen short of the previous year, this has been due to the excessive amount of snow experienced during the months of February and March, but the results are reasonably satisfactory. Each producer has been sampled on approximately 4 occasions, and the results have shown that some 50% of the producers had a clean record, whilst a further 25% had only one failure.

Designated Milks.

The results of the sampling of designated milks were quite satisfactory. The samples of Pasteurised Milk in all cases had a satisfactory Phosphatase test, and where the sample proved unsatisfactory, it was due to a Methylene Blue failure.

The Pasteurising establishment in the district has again been visited frequently, and is working quite satisfactorily, but owing to the rapidly expanding demand, the premises are becoming overcrowded. As a temporary means, other parts of the building are being utilised, but there is no doubt that larger premises will have to be acquired in the future if the sterilizing of utensils, equipment, etc., and the treatment of the milk is to be efficient.

At the present time there are 20 producers of designated milks on the register, these consist of 2 Tuberculin Tested farms; 17 Accredited, and 1 Pasteurising Plant. This is an increase of 2 on the previous year.

The following licences were issued during the year:—

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk	...	3
Supplementary Licences to Retail T.T. Milk	... ..	3
Bottling Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	2
Bottling Licence for Pasteurised Milk	... ..	1
Bottling Licence for Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk	...	1

Food Inspection.

Regular inspection of the food establishments, food preparing establishments, restaurants, etc., have continued throughout the year. Details of the visits, etc., are set out as follows:—

Dairies and Milk Shops	... ..	112
Butchers Shops	... ..	178
The Public Market	... ..	160
Fish Merchants and Poulterers	...	55
Grocers	... ..	78
Canteens	... ..	33
Ice Cream Premises	... ..	70
Green Grocers and Fruiterers	... ..	28
Restaurants	... ..	27
Cowsheds	... ..	266
Pasteurising Plant	... ..	4
Visits to Slaughter Houses	... ..	2
Visits to Shops and Stalls (Meat)	...	88
Total	... ..	1101

The general cleanliness of premises, equipment and utensils was quite reasonable. As a result of these inspections, a quantity of food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption, details of this is set out below :—

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Flour	...	...		16	3	24
Meat	...	...		1	3	7
Fish ...	...	...			2	24
Vegetables	...	...			2	12
Fruit	...	...			1	15
Butter	...	...				10
Jam ...	...	...				6
Chocolate	...	...				1
Crab Paste	...	...				1
Total	...		1	0	2	16

Also 131 tins of Evaporated Milk.

23 doz. eggs. 5 pkts. Dried eggs.

Centralization of Slaughter.

Since the Sowerby Bridge Abattoir was closed in October, 1942, the whole of the slaughtering of animals for human consumption within the Urban District is carried out at the Halifax Public Abattoir.

The Butchers' shops in the district are inspected from time to time.

Rodent Control.

The work in connection with rodent control continues to be carried out, mostly by the Foreman, who does this work in a part time capacity, having received training for the same by the Technical Staff of the Infestation Branch of the Ministry of Food.

As a result of complaints and routine inspections, 200 visits have been made to infested premises. From these, it was observed that 129 infestations existed. These may be classed as follows:—

(a)	Major Infestations	...	1
(b)	Minor Infestations	...	128
	Total	...	129

All these complaints have been dealt with on the lines approved by the Ministry of Food.

There were no large infestations observed from these inspections, the one major type being in one of the factories in close proximity to the river. The Local Authority property at Milner Royd and Luddenden Foot has been inspected and treated where necessary, the Sewage Works have also been treated on approved lines. There have been no treatments of the sewers during the year.

In conclusion, may I record my appreciation of the keen interest shown by my Chairman, Mr. Coun. Sutcliffe, in all the work appertaining to the Health Department, and also to the Health Committee for their unfailing courtesy and valuable assistance at all times. The assistance and guidance so readily given by the Medical Officer, Dr. R. C. Webster is deeply appreciated. My appreciation is also due to the work of the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Holmes, and to the Clerical Staff of the Public Health Department, together with the Foreman and Staff of the Cleansing Department. In addition, I should like to thank all Officials of the Council who have kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this Report.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

WM. E. FOSTER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

All these complaints have been dealt with on the lines approved by the Ministry of Food.

There were no large infestations observed from these insects from the one major type being in one of the factories in close proximity to the river. The Local Authority property at Millers Wood and I understand Food has been inspected and treated where necessary, the sewage works have also been treated on approved lines. There have been no treatments of the sewers during the year.

In conclusion, may I record my appreciation of the keen interest shown by my Chairman, Mr. C. G. Sutcliffe, in all the work pertaining to the Health Department, and also to the Health Committee for their untiring courtesy and valuable assistance at all times. The assistance and guidance so readily given by the Medical Officer, Mr. R. C. Webster is deeply appreciated. My appreciation is also due to the work of the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Thomas and to the staff of the Public Health Department, together with the Police and staff of the Cleansing Department. In addition, I should like to thank all the staff of the Council who have kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this Report.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

WM. E. FOSTER

Sanitary Inspector



