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SOWERBY BRIDGE  
Urban District Council

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Annual  
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)

for the Year

1957



SOWERBY BRIDGE  
Urban District Council

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Annual  
**R E P O R T**

of the


**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**(N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)**

and the

**SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
**(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)**

for the Year

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

1957-58

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor W.F. TURNER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor MISS E. JUDSON

Members of the Council:

Coun. G.A. Benbow, J.P.

" A. Butterworth

" W. Crossfield, J.P.

" E.R. Berry

" H. Wilcock

" E. English

" E. Lumb, J.P.

" C.W. Maude, J.P.

" W. Greenwood, J.P.

" H. Haigh

" E. Broderick

Coun. C. Uttley

" K. Burke

" A. Leech

" Mrs. E. Bagshaw

" E. Rowe

" A. Standeven

" W. Tate

" Miss L. Wilson

" J.C. Bower

" W.L. Parker

" J.W. Barber

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. G.A. Benbow, J.P. (Chairman)

" J.C. Bower (Vice-Chairman)

" Mrs. E. Bagshaw

" E.R. Berry

" K. Burke

" W. Greenwood, J.P.

" E. Rowe

" W.F. Turner, J.P.

" Miss L. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sowerby Bridge U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (resigned 31st January 1957)  
NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (commenced 11th March 1957)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (to 10th March 1957)  
GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G. (commenced 13th May 1957)

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. GOULDEN, M.R.S.H.

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West Riding County Council

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 19

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District:-

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer:

+NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
+GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G. (from 13th May 1957)

Assistant County Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge  
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics:

+GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.  
+D.S. PICKUP, L.M.S.S.A., M.B., B.S. (commenced 1st October 1957)

Health Visitors:

E.B. NOWERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N.  
+M.O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

+B.G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker:

+E.C. WROE, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified):

+Mrs. M.H. GRAHAM, B.A.

Midwives:

- +A.G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (resigned 4.11.57)
- +D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B., Queen's Nurse
- +M. HOLDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Relief Midwife for whole Divisional Area)
- +K.M. McCORMICK, S.C.M. (only from 30.10.57 to 8.11.57)

Home Nurses:

- A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse
- +A.M. SCHOLLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse
- A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.
- +K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.
- +E.S. SIDDALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (Relief Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area)

+ Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Clerical Staff:-

Senior Divisional Clerk:

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S.

Deputy Senior Divisional Clerk:

Miss J. SUTCLIFFE

Clerks:

- Miss P. JACKSON
- D. HOWARTH (resigned 8th March 1957)
- D. THOMAS (resigned 31st May 1957)
- Mrs. L. BARKER (resigned 31st December 1957)
- Mrs. M. REDFERN
- Mrs. J.E. SUTCLIFFE
- Miss B. MARSHALL
- Miss M.J. CROWTHER (commenced 15th October 1956)
- T. WALTON (commenced 4th March 1957)
- R. WILD (commenced 3rd May 1957)
- Miss C. SHANN (commenced 25th November 1957)



Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee

Consultant Staff

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

W.O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon:

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

S. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,  
Todmorden.

December, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Eleventh Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Ripponden and Hebden Royd, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year continue to show a favourable trend, the birth rate being again considerably higher than the death rate. There is, nevertheless, a further decline in the population, which is now estimated to be 18,170.

Outbreaks of whooping cough and measles appeared in the early part of the year and spread rapidly amongst the younger members of the community. Whooping cough is frequently a debilitating disease in young children and can be an underlying factor of much chest trouble in later life. It may be modified and in many cases prevented by previous vaccination and this protection, either by itself or combined with diphtheria inoculation, is available under the County Council scheme for all children under the age of four years.

A much more widespread epidemic occurred in the district in September with the arrival of Asian influenza. The schools were affected at an early stage and it spread through the district in a matter of days, affecting the majority of the population. A very heavy strain was placed on all the medical services, in particular on the general practitioners. A vaccine was produced by the Ministry of Health to protect doctors and nurses against this type of influenza but supplies were limited and none was available locally until after the epidemic had passed its peak.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year but vaccine from the British manufacturers remained in short supply. In December, it was decided to extend the priority age groups to include all children between the ages of six months and fifteen years and the programme was to be accelerated by the use of imported Salk vaccine. The position at the end of the year was that of some 11,000 children eligible for vaccination in the division, over 2,000 had been vaccinated and a further 2,000 had been registered. One case of acute paralytic poliomyelitis was notified in Sowerby Bridge in 1957, a young adult who was not eligible for vaccination.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in the district has been declining year by year since the war. This reduced incidence of tuberculosis has also been reflected in the declining number of reactors found amongst thirteen year old school children, many of whom received a skin test prior to vaccination against the disease. In the area covered by the health division the percentage of reactors has fallen consistantly from 55% in 1949 to only 29% in 1957, indicating that fewer children are being exposed to infection. A further step in tuberculosis control was taken in November when Sowerby Bridge came within a "specified area" and only milk produced from a T.T. herd, or pasteurised or sterilised milk may now be retailed; this should still further reduce the opportunities of acquiring infection.

There are, however, many other factors which influence the spread of tuberculosis in the community. Much has been done by the abatement of overcrowding and the improvement of housing conditions. A further 17 dwellings were completed by the authority in 1957 and improvement grants were approved to enable 16 existing houses to be brought up to present-day standards. The council is faced with the problem of dealing with large numbers of sub-standard houses in its area and has now embarked on a 20 year programme to clear 781 of the most unsatisfactory properties. In this, the first year, 43 dwellings were represented in clearance areas.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their consideration, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Foster, Public Health Inspector, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts, personal and official.

I am, yours faithfully,

N.E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics

STATISTICS

Area (Census 1951) .. .. .	5,763 acres
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population, mid-1957 .. .. .	18,170
Population (Census 1951) .. .. .	18,770
Number of dwelling-houses .. .. .	6,948
Rateable Value (1.4.57) .. .. .	£126,845
Product of a Penny Rate (year 1957-8) .. .. .	£481

Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births - Legitimate Illegitimate	282 13	148 7	134 6	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: 16.2
Still Births - Legitimate Illegitimate	4 1	3 1	1 -	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 16.7
Deaths of infants under 1 year - Legitimate Illegitimate	8 -	4 -	4 -	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births): 27.1
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age - Legitimate Illegitimate	4 -	2 -	2 -	
All Deaths	247	114	133	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 13.6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

	1956		1957	
	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	1	1	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	-	-	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	-	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	-	-	-	-
8. Measles .. .. .	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	-	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	2	5	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus .. .. .	5	-	6	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	-	4	-	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	-	2	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	11	16	11	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	-	1	2	1
16. Diabetes .. .. .	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	8	24	18	29
18. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	28	21	20	20
19. Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	2	3	1	2
20. Other heart disease .. .. .	8	28	14	28
21. Other circulatory disease .. .. .	2	1	1	5
22. Influenza .. .. .	3	2	2	3
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	8	-	8	5
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	9	2	8	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	3	1	3	1
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .. .. .	3	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	-	-	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	1	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	3	-	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	-	2	-	1
31. Congenital malformations .. .. .	-	3	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	9	12	6	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	1	1	-	-
34. All other accidents .. .. .	7	4	6	2
35. Suicide .. .. .	2	2	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	-	-	-	-
	<u>116</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>133</u>

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1957

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todmor- den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
<b>BIRTH RATE:-</b> (per 1,000 estimated population) .. .. .	16.2	15.2	12.9	13.5	13.3	16.1	16.6	16.1
<b>DEATH RATES:-</b> (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes .. .. .	13.6	15.6	14.4	13.3	15.3	12.4	11.7	11.5
Infective and parasitic diseases † .. .. .	0.06	-	0.10	-	0.11	0.07	0.07	+ +
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. .. .	0.11	-	0.10	-	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.09
Other forms of tuberculosis .. .. .	0.06	-	-	-	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cancer .. .. .	2.42	2.17	1.74	1.75	1.98	1.99	1.87	2.09
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	2.59	3.16	1.74	1.50	2.09	2.15	1.95	+ +
Heart and circulatory diseases ‡ .. .. .	5.01	7.3	6.35	6.25	6.38	4.61	4.30	+ +
Respiratory Diseases:- // (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.65	1.18	1.43	1.25	1.43	1.46	1.37	+ +
<b>INFANT MORTALITY:-</b> (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	27.1	26.0	31.7	-	12.4	25.4	26.4	23.0
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY:-</b> (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	3.33	-	-	-	-	0.41	0.51	0.47

+ Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles and other infective and parasitic diseases (items 3 - 9 incl. on page 8).

† Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system (items 18 - 21 incl. on page 8).

// Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system (items 22 - 25 incl. on page 8).

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### (A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children) and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are now only available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

#### (B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse - telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

#### (C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds.

#### (D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Royal Halifax Infirmary for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

A supply of re-agents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccine is also issued, as available, in accordance with the approved arrangements.

### SECTION III

#### W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

#### (A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

##### Infant Welfare:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Thursdays	)	
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	Fridays	)	
		)	
<u>Ante-Natal and Post-Natal:</u>		)	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
		)	
Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Mondays	)	
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	2nd & 4th	)	
	Fridays in	)	10 a.m. to 12 noon
	month	)	

##### School Clinics:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge			
(a) Minor Ailments	Mondays	)	10 a.m. to 12 noon
(b) Ophthalmic	As required	)	
(c) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	)	by appointment
(d) Artificial Sunlight	Tuesdays	)	
	Fridays	)	

##### Smallpox Vaccination:

##### Diphtheria Immunisation:

##### Whooping-Cough Immunisation:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge  
 The Institute, Luddenden Foot  
 At any Minor Ailments or Welfare Clinic, by arrangement with Medical Officer.



(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot Ante-Natal Clinics:

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year .. .. .	174
Total number of attendances .. .. .	851

Child Welfare Clinics:

Total number of children who attended during the year .. .. .	623
Total number of attendances .. .. .	3,721

Home Visiting of Infants:

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers .. .. .	305
Number of first visits to children under 1 year .. .. .	296
Total number of visits to children under 1 year .. .. .	1,273
Total number of visits to children aged 1-2 years .. .. .	600
Total number of visits to children aged 2-5 years .. .. .	856

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.:

National dried milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are distributed at the Centres, and a variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are also sold at the Child Welfare Centres for the convenience of mothers.

Care of Premature Infants:

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits:

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were four full-time Home Nurses and two full-time Midwives employed in 1957. Two of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional Area.

Midwifery Service:

Number of home confinements .. .. .	109
Number of hospital confinements .. .. .	196

The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1957, 72 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 70 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 9,727.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provides domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age".

Of the 72 cases attended in 1957, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons:-  
7 maternity and 65 chronic sick.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district .. .. .	20
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1957 .. ..	2,964
Number of children examined at school during 1957 .. .. .	746
this figure being made up as follows:-	
Routine examinations .. .. .	607
Re-examinations .. .. .	139
Number of children referred for treatment .. .. .	58

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping-cough and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation, 1957

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed Injections 1957	97	55	6	4	1	5	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total 172

Immunised in previous years re-treated 1957	-	-	-	-	5	7	14	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Total 29

(ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31.12.57

Age at 31.12.57 i.e. born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
No. immunised	21	137	153	187	192	1,151	1,138	2,979

Whooping-cough Immunisation

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who completed a full course of Whooping-cough Immunisation, 1957

Age at final injection	Under 6 months	6 months to 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	Total
No. immunised	5	120	23	1	2	151

(ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children at 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date.

Age 31.12.57 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1957	1 1956	2 1955	3 1954	4 1953	5 - 9	Total
No. immunised	39	135	117	113	110	135	649

During the year there were 72 notified cases of whooping-cough. <sup>8</sup> None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

Vaccination against Smallpox, 1957

157 people were vaccinated against smallpox during the year, 115 of whom were children under the age of one year. Many of the children were vaccinated at the Child Welfare Centres at Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1957

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet fever .. .. .	13
Whooping-cough .. .. .	72
Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	1
Measles .. .. .	374
Diphtheria .. .. .	-
Dysentery .. .. .	1
Meningococcal infection .. .. .	-
Acute pneumonia .. .. .	20
Smallpox .. .. .	-
Acute encephalitis .. .. .	-
Enteric or typhoid fever .. .. .	-
Paratyphoid fevers .. .. .	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	-
Food poisoning .. .. .	1
Puerperal pyrexia .. .. .	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. .. .	-
Pulmonary tuberculosis .. .. .	7
Other forms of tuberculosis .. .. .	1

490

### Tuberculosis

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis  
in Sowerby Bridge in 1957

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. on Register on 1st Jan. 1957 ..	64	53	117	18	9	27	144
No. first notified during 1957 ..	4	3	7	-	1	1	8
No. of cases restored to register ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification .. ..	2	1	3	1	-	1	4
No. removed from Register during 1957:-							
(a) Died .. .. .	2	1	3	2	-	2	5
(b) Removed from district .. ..	3	1	4	-	-	-	4
(c) Recovered .. .. .	1	3	4	-	-	-	4
No. remaining on Register 31.12.57	64	52	116	17	10	27	143

REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year ending 31st December 1957

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To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee  
of the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) the sanitary conditions in the area, (b) housing conditions including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December 1957, and for the cleansing services for the year ending 31st March 1958.

On reflecting on the year's work, three important Acts of Parliament, each having a far reaching effect upon the health and housing of the community, became operative. Two of the Acts are highly controversial, one the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the other the Rent Act, 1957, whilst the new Housing Act of 1957, consolidating previous housing legislation with the exception of the financial provisions, also became operative.

The new legislation once again placed additional duties upon a Department already fully occupied. The full impact of the Clean Air Act will not be felt until mid-1958 when the entire Act becomes operative. However, on the other hand the Rent Act became fully operative during the year under review.

The Rent Act has brought many enquiries from both owner and occupier. Some of the very low rents became almost doubled, but for the most part the rent seldom exceeded 10s. Od. per week. In increasing the rent, however, an opportunity was also given to the tenant to ask for essential repairs to be carried out. It was thought that immediately the Rent Act became operative rents would rise very steeply, resulting in large numbers of applications for Certificates of Disrepair. This, as we well know, has not been the case. Rents have been increased, Certificates of Disrepair have been issued, but what appeared to many owners to be an opportunity for a substantial increase in the rent raised only false hopes as the repair schedule, when received, was found to be far too extensive and accordingly no further action was taken.

Many owners over the past few years have ploughed a considerable amount of rent back into the property until they have become a liability, but many others have unfortunately taken the maximum from the property and put little or nothing back. In such cases it is only to be expected that a repair schedule will be formidable. Neglected properties have

only one end, and the Department is forced into scheduling these under the Slum Clearance provisions. Some owners welcome this procedure, whilst others surprisingly are willing to spend what we consider most unreasonable sums of money to save much of this out-dated and poorly maintained property.

The Department has over the past few years inspected many hundreds of houses for inclusion in the 20-year programme, and it was pleasing to note the Council's general acceptance of the programme, which included some 781 houses of which 185 were placed in Group 1 and would as far as possible be dealt with by 1963. It would, I am sure, be comforting if these 781 houses represented all the substandard dwellings in the district, but it does not. The figure is a practical figure. Approximately 40 houses per year can reasonably be dealt with, but in order to make this a practical figure more than 300 houses had been removed from the list.

The housing problem in the industrial West Riding cannot be described as a problem of a few years, after which it is at an end. It is recurring, and unless many houses not included in these figures are maintained and improved, ever increasing numbers must be added to each 5-year group.

Substandard houses, with their low rents, attract certain undesirable elements who appear to be content to live in these unsatisfactory conditions, but as time goes by, unless this type of out-dated house with its lack of amenities, joint refuse and sanitary accommodation, inadequate water supplies, lack of washing facilities, is cleared, the undesirable element will tend to increase, leading to a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. It is essential, therefore, that a start be made in the clearance of these substandard houses at the earliest possible moment.

At the year end 10 fringe areas had been scheduled for slum clearance, involving some 43 dwellings. This can be very closely followed by re-development in Sowerby Bridge. Providing suitable alternative accommodation can be made available, there is no reason why the main re-development area of Sowerby Bridge cannot be tackled in the near future.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, have received much publicity. Much has been said and written about the many failings and complications of these Regulations. This may be so, but I feel that they are a great step forward and a considerable improvement should be seen in the food shops of this country, providing the provisions as set out in these Regulations are implemented and the necessary action taken to bring this about instead of the many murmurings we hear of the inadequacy of the Act. The Act is with us. It is a step in the right direction and it is up to every Public Health Inspector to see that the food shops of the district comply.

The Department has endeavoured to improve the standard of the food shops in the district. Every endeavour has been made to interpret the Act in the spirit in which it was made, and to achieve as far as possible the clean handling of food and its protection from contamination. In order to bring this about the food shops were grouped into trades or businesses, each being dealt with as a separate category. Up to the present time two groups, namely the butchers and cooked meats, and the bakehouses of the district have been dealt with; all these comply in every way with the requirements of the Act.

In the process it was most unfortunate that three businesses decided to close down. No one likes to see these things happen and every possible consideration was given by the Council prior to the owners making their final decision.

The improvements, with only three exceptions, were carried out in an informal manner. Many inspections and re-inspections were made, but it is now pleasing to note the improvement and the compliance in every respect with the Regulations. These shops now compare most favourably with any similar shops in the country. Without exception, they have been provided with sinks, washbasins and hot and cold water. They are fixed sinks or washbasins, and although some difficulty was experienced, the improvements have been found to be extremely beneficial to both shopkeeper and customer alike.

The improvement in the cleansing services, both in the collection and disposal of refuse, has been fully maintained, together with the disposal of waste paper. The Municipal Ashbin Scheme continues to work most satisfactorily and it should not be in the very distant future when the scheme will pay for itself.

It was again possible to make arrangements for the Public Health Committee to visit Manchester Corporation and to see at first hand re-development and the many different schemes in operation in that city. This was followed by a visit to one of the large food manufacturing factories, and here food hygiene was witnessed at first hand. It is always pleasing to be able to meet the Members of the Committee on these occasions.

Once again I wish to thank the Chairman, Councillor G.A. Benbow, and the Members of the Council for their continued help and interest, and to express my thanks to Dr. Gordon for the help which was so readily given at all times.

My thanks are also due to the staff of the Department, Mr. J. Goulden, the Additional Inspector, also to the Clerical Staff, together with the Foreman and the Employees of the Cleansing Department, who have carried out the objectionable work of cleansing and disposal of refuse in such an efficient manner.

In addition I should like to thank all the Officials of the Council, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Senior Public Health Inspector.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### Public Supply

The Halifax Corporation supply the majority of the water throughout the Urban District, although the Norland supply covers this part of the area and the Ripponden supply feeds parts of Mill Bank and Triangle.

The water is distributed throughout the district by the Urban District, and upon both bacteriological and chemical examination the waters continue to give satisfaction. Both the Norland and Ripponden supplies have been sampled for Plumbo Solvency and the results of these samples were also satisfactory.

During the year the water mains have been extended to parts of Midgley, and in this instance 500 yds. of 3" main were laid, together with 100 yds. on the Sowerby housing estate. The extension to the Midgley supply will enable a considerable number of private supplies to be discontinued, and also will enable the sanitary accommodation to be greatly improved.

At the end of the year there were 5,051 houses on the public supply, and approximately 1,908 on private supplies.

#### Private Supplies

The private supplies remain much in evidence, and a considerable number of houses are still supplied from these various sources, but with the extension of the mains these will be considerably reduced. The majority of the unsatisfactory private supplies have now been covered, and it is hoped to see a substantial reduction in the number of houses on these private supplies in the near future. It is most unfortunate that such pressure has to be brought on certain householders to discontinue the polluted private supplies in favour of the more wholesome public supplies.

With the extension of these mains, many of the houses in the outer districts, which are substantially built but lack reasonable sanitary conditions, will now be able to provide adequate sanitary accommodation and thus increase their life substantially.

During the year 140 samples of water have been obtained and subjected to bacteriological examination, 2 samples have been obtained for chemical examination and 4 for Plumbo Solvency. Of the samples obtained for bacteriological examination, 123 were taken from private supplies and 17 from public supplies. Of the private supplies 47 were satisfactory and 76 unsatisfactory, and of the public supplies 14 samples were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.

It was most disturbing to find 3 samples of the public supply unsatisfactory, but upon detailed investigation it was observed that the public supply had been piped to a large storage tank and distributed from this point. The tank was unfortunately found to be unsatis-

factory, and accordingly the source of pollution has since been eradicated.

The samples obtained for chemical analysis were quite satisfactory, as were those for Plumbo Solvency.

Details of the sampling during the year are set out below.

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	27	25	52
Sowerby Bridge .. .. .	-	2	2
Norland .. .. .	5	8	13
Midgley .. .. .	2	10	12
Triangle .. .. .	3	10	13
Sowerby .. .. .	10	21	31
Norland Public Supply .. .. .	9	-	9
Halifax Corporation Supply .. .. .	5	3	8
Totals ..	61	79	140

### Drainage and Sewerage

General maintenance work on the sewers has continued, and a start has been made on a complete survey of the sewerage schemes over the complete district. Many parts of the district still require an adequate sewer, and these positions are at the present time being carefully considered.

A considerable amount of work has again been completed on the re-construction and the testing of small drainage systems. During the year 425 inspections and visits have been made in relation to this work, and the water test has been applied in all cases. In addition to the work of inspection and re-construction of drainage systems, 53 choked drains have been attended to under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. No charge has been made for this work.

### Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Disposal Works at Milner Royd continue to give satisfaction, but the matter of trade effluent is still under consideration. In the case of the Luddenden Foot Joint Sewerage Board, High Royd, Luddenden Foot, plans appear to be well advanced for the complete re-construction and modernisation of these works.

## Sanitary Accommodation

The improvement of the sanitary conditions has continued during the year, with the conversion of pails and privies to the water carriage system. The work has once again been completed by negotiation rather than by formal procedure. A contribution towards the cost of conversion, of £10, has been made in all cases.

During the year 27 pails have been converted to the water carriage system, together with 6 privies. The progress in conversion has been accelerated, and it is hoped this will be even further increased as the water mains and sewers are provided. The percentage of houses on the water carriage system is now almost 90%.

The types of accommodation within the Urban District are set down as follows:-

Number of Privies .. .. .	6
Number of Pail Closets .. .. .	470
Number of Pedestal W.C.s, including factories and shops .. ..	4,579
Number of Trough Closets .. .. .	21
Number of Waste Water Closets .. .. .	16
	5,092

The pails and privies are mainly in the out-district, and are set out as follows:-

District	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
Triangle and Mill Bank .. .. .	54	2	-
Sowerby Bridge .. .. .	17	-	-
Norland .. .. .	111	2	-
Sowerby and Blackwood .. .. .	117	2	-
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	100	-	-
Midgley .. .. .	71	-	-
Totals ..	470	6	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

Refuse Collection

The Department continues to be responsible for the entire cleansing of the district with the exception of street cleansing. The disposal of all refuse, together with trade refuse, pails, privies, etc., continues satisfactorily. Waste paper and other salvageable materials continue to be one of the more profitable sides of public cleansing.

Approximately 90% of the bins in the district continue to be cleansed weekly, and only those in the outer districts are placed on a fortnightly collection. The recruiting of labour has been a little easier this year, and accordingly there has been less difficulty in keeping the rounds completely up to date. The average number of bins emptied weekly is approximately 5,000. The work is extremely hard and at times extremely heavy, but I have found that the employees, generally speaking, are conscientious and although the financial return is not completely adequate for this type of work it has been possible to supplement this with a reasonable salvage bonus.

The work completed by the vehicles is set out in the following table:-

Vehicle	Ashbins	Ashpits	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts.
Bedford No. 7 .. .. .	8,010	38	-	504	446	-
Bedford No. 8 .. .. .	6,776	-	27,472	633	631	-
S. & D. No. 9 .. .. .	102,999	-	-	514	1,542	-
S. & D. No. 10 .. .. .	104,321	-	-	546	1,638	-
Karrier No. 11 .. .. .	31,368	-	-	982	970	-
Totals ..	253,474	38	27,472	3,179	5,227	-

Transport

Details of the transport operated by the Department are set out as follows:-

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
7	Bedford	1947	7 cu.yds.	Ashbins
8	Bedford	1949	7 cu.yds.	Pails and Pits
9	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader	1951	18 cu.yds.	Ashbins
10	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader	1954	18 cu.yds.	Ashbins
11	Karrier Bantam	1956	7 cu.yds.	Ashbins, Salvage, Trade Refuse.
	Fordson Tractor	1956	Shovel and Blade	Refuse Disposal

The new Karrier, which was brought into operation in 1956, is giving every satisfaction, although the roads in the outer districts which this vehicle serves are most unsatisfactory, many of them completely unmade, which adds greatly to the maintenance costs.

Five vehicles are still available, but only four operating regularly, the fifth which is kept as a spare vehicle is, in my opinion, very necessary as this has proved extremely useful when certain of the other vehicles have been under repair, or alternatively where the rounds have gone behind immediately after holidays it has enabled the rounds for the most part to be kept up to date. The vehicle has also been used from time to time on re-chargeable works and also in cases of emergency for trade refuse and the collection of salvage.

All the vehicles are still housed at the garage at Mearclough, although as I stated in my last report, with the recent acquisition of the Tractor it is becoming increasingly difficult to house them all adequately under this one roof.

The vehicles, generally speaking, are working very satisfactorily. There have been no major breakdowns during the year, and in view of the type of work carried out, which necessitates a tremendous amount of stop-start and very short journeys, together with the traversing of many unmade and very difficult roads and alleyways, I consider that the position is quite satisfactory.

#### Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 7 accidents. These are set out as follows:-

Bedford 8	..	..	..	..	1
S. & D. 9	..	..	..	..	3
S. & D. 10	..	..	..	..	3

It is pleasing to note that there has been a considerable reduction from 15 to 7 during the past year. It is sincerely hoped that this reduction will continue.

#### Refuse Accommodation throughout the Area

The comparative figures for refuse storage within the Urban District are set out in the table on the opposite page.

As the improvement in the sanitary conditions continues, there will be a reduction in the number of privies and pails, but an increase in the number of ashbins. It must not, however, be assumed that when we get to that fortunate position of no pails within the Urban area, the vehicle will not be called upon to call at these premises. At the present time one vehicle covers the collection of both pails and bins, accordingly when the pails have been discontinued it will still be necessary for the vehicle to collect the bins.

Year	Pail Closets	Privies	Ash Pits	Ash Bins
1950	655	51	-	6,197
1951	625	45	-	6,208
1952	629	30	-	6,229
1953	529	23	-	6,314
1954	520	16	-	6,384
1955	511	13	-	6,396
1956	497	12	-	6,410
1957	470	6	-	6,435

The joint refuse accommodation is not completely satisfactory, and unfortunately there has been a certain amount of deterioration during the year in the communal accommodation.

#### Municipal Ashbin Scheme

The Municipal Ashbin Scheme, which has now been working for approximately eight years, continues to work satisfactorily. In 1955 the scheme was changed over from the rate charge to the municipal charge of 5s. Od. per bin, as provided for under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and amending legislation. The scheme continues to run at a loss, but within a few years it should cover itself and at this time it may be necessary for the Council to adjust the charges in order that the scheme continues to be self supporting without making any profit.

#### Trade Refuse

The trade refuse throughout the district continues to be removed regularly, and there have been no alterations in the conditions of collection or the charges, which remain at the free collection of the first bin and a charge of 1s. Od. for each additional bin or part thereof. Many of the food shops have the trade refuse collected three times weekly, but the majority is collected on a Saturday morning, together with the market refuse. The amount of trade refuse removed during the year amounted to approximately 152 tons, bringing in a return of £251.

#### Refuse Disposal

Almost the entire disposal of refuse is carried out at the Milner Royd tip. This caters for approximately 100 tons of domestic and trade refuse weekly, together with approximately 20 tons of contractors' and other refuse.

The site has been quite difficult to work due to the steep gradients, but the majority of the tipping has been concentrated on one area measuring approximately 150 yds. x 120 yds. This area has recently been pegged out and the refuse tipped in bays approximately 6'6" deep and about 35'0" wide.

Since the purchase of the tractor there has been perfect compacting of all refuse, the tip has been completely free of infestation and there have been no tip fires. There has unfortunately been a shortage of covering material, but the majority of this is now brought from a nearby disused tip, where the decomposed refuse is used to great advantage.

The costs for the controlling of the refuse have been constantly reduced. This has been due to the fact that it has been possible to control the tip and yet loan the tractor to other Council Departments for a variety of work. This has been a tremendous saving all round, and has meant that the cost of controlling the tip does not exceed £450.

### Salvage

The amount of waste paper collected during the year has exceeded 250 tons and this figure, together with other salvageable material, has brought an income of approximately £2,100, which was in excess of the previous year. The amount of paper collected exceeds more than 1 ton per 1,000 of the population per month.

There has been no difficulty in the disposal of paper during the year. The Department has been extremely well served in this direction with the contracts which have been in existence for a considerable time with one of the leading board mills of the country.

Waste paper continues to be sorted into three separate types, Fibreboard, Newsprint and Mixed Waste, and although it is suggested that this should be sorted even further, I consider that this would be uneconomical in the case of a small authority. The yield for this district, as I have already stated, is high but I consider this due to the very successful bonus scheme which has been in operation for some time. This incentive bonus, which is paid twice per year, at Christmas and the Wakes Break, has increased the hourly rate by between 3d. and 4d. per hour, and this I consider has helped considerably in solving the labour problem.

Details of the sale of salvaged materials are set out in the following table:-

Materials Salvaged	T	C	Q	£	s	d
Waste Paper .. .. .	211	10	3	1,572	13	-
Fibreboard .. .. .	39	19	-	379	10	9
Ferrous Metals .. .. .	23	2	2	87	13	9
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .		5	-	14	5	6
Rags .. .. .		13	2	16	17	7
Carpets .. .. .	2	3	-	17	4	-
String .. .. .	1	-	2	4	2	-
Totals ..	278	14	1	2,092	6	7

SALVAGE SALES 1939 to 1957

Year	Total Tonnes for all Materials T. C. Q.	Waste Paper T. C. Q.	Ferrous Metals and Loose Tins T. C. Q.	Non- Ferrous Metals T. C. Q.	Textiles and Rubber T. C. Q.	Cullet T. C. Q.	Kitchen Waste and Bones T. C. Q.	£ s d
1939								
to								
1950	3,778. 8. 0.	1,903. 8. 0.	433. 6. 3.	6. 9. 3.	23. 5. 2.	165. 13. 2.	1,246. 4. 2.	13,822. 1. 6.
1951	238. 0. 1.	162. 11. 3.	14. 14. 0.	5. 1.	5. 1.	- - -	60. 4. 0.	2,742. 8. 9.
1952	247. 2. 2.	150. 16. 3.	28. 4. 1.	5. 2.	1. 5. 0.	- - -	66. 11. 0.	1,540. 15. 7.
1953	280. 13. 2.	186. 14. 2.	26. 9. 0.	2. 1.	1. 1. 3.	- - -	66. 6. 0.	1,521. 17. 0.
1954	183. 19. 3.	172. 15. 1.	10. 2. 3.	1. 2.	6. 1.	- - -	14. 0.	1,303. 0. 10.
1955	235. 15. 3.	215. 15. 0.	19. 3. 1.	1. 1.	16. 1.	- - -	- - -	1,905. 19. 0.
1956	272. 14. 2.	243. 16. 1.	25. 7. 1.	6. 1.	3. 4. 3.	- - -	- - -	2,069. 0. 9.
1957	278. 14. 1.	251. 9. 3.	23. 2. 2.	5. 0.	3. 17. 0.	- - -	- - -	2,092. 6. 7.
	5,515. 8. 2.	3,287. 7. 1.	580. 9. 3.	7. 16. 3.	34. 1. 3.	165. 13. 2.	1,439. 19. 2.	26,997. 10. 0.



## Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Enquiries and visits in connection with the prevention of the spread of infectious disease have been carried out during the year. 44 visits were made, the majority of these being in connection with mild cases of Scarlet Fever, these numbered 19. There were once again a number of cases of Dysentery, these were very small in comparison with the previous year. There were 4 visits in connection with notifications of Poliomyelitis.

Full details of the visits and investigations are set out in the following table:-

Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits .. .. .	15
Visits re Sonne Dysentery .. .. .	6
Visits re Scarlet Fever .. .. .	19
Visits re Poliomyelitis .. .. .	4
Visits re Disinfection .. .. .	14

## Smoke Abatement

In the period under review 45 smoke observations were made. 9 of these showed excessive emissions of black smoke and in all cases cautions were issued, but no formal action was taken.

During the year parts of the Clean Air Act, 1956, became operative and Byelaws were made in relation to the fixing of approved appliances in all new houses.

## Factories

During the year 11 visits were made to the various factories in the district, and as a result 3 contraventions of Section 7 were observed, one notification being received from H.M. Factories Inspector in this connection, all of which were remedied.

Details are set out in the following tables:-

### Inspections

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	21	2	1
Where Section 7 is enforced .. .. .	122	9	3
Totals ..	143	11	4

## Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Inadequate Ventilation .. .. .	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	1	1	-
Sanitary Conveniences:			
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	4	3	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	2	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	-	-	-
Totals ..	7	6	2

## Public Swimming Bath

The Public Swimming Bath gave rise to serious concern as a result of certain samples of water which were obtained during a peak period of bathing. The samples, upon bacteriological analysis, were found to be unsatisfactory. The matter was reported to the Committee and every effort was made by the Superintendent to improve the conditions. As a result of the reports submitted by the appropriate Officers, the entire plant is to be renewed.

There are no private swimming baths or pools in the area.

## Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The total number of inspections made for Nuisances only, not including Housing inspections, during the year totalled 68. At the end of 1956, 5 informal notices were still outstanding. During 1957, 34 informal notices were issued, 32 of which were abated, leaving 7 outstanding at the end of the year. There were no statutory notices issued during this period.

## Offensive Trades

There have been no additions to the register of offensive trades, and no applications have been made. At the end of the year 29 establishments were still on the register, of which 28 were Fish Friers and 1 a Tripe Dresser. The premises were visited on 1 occasion and the conditions were reasonably satisfactory.

It will be necessary, however, to carry out detailed inspections of all the Fish Friers under the Food Hygiene Regulations as and when time permits.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits
Bakehouses .. .. .	41
Camping Sites .. .. .	6
Conversions - Visits .. .. .	291
Drainage, etc. .. .. .	425
Factories .. .. .	11
Flooding, etc. .. .. .	4
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	29
Hairdressers .. .. .	9
Houses Let in Lodgings .. .. .	2
Interviews .. .. .	190
Ministry of National Insurance - Burials .. .. .	2
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .. .. .	170
Offensive Trades .. .. .	1
Outworkers .. .. .	2
Petrol Pump Inspections .. .. .	40
Public Cleansing - Administration .. .. .	112
Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection .. .. .	210
Public Cleansing - Refuse Disposal .. .. .	126
Public Cleansing - Salvage .. .. .	61
Public Conveniences .. .. .	7
Sanitary Accommodation - Defects .. .. .	61
Schools .. .. .	13
Shops .. .. .	31
Smoke Observations .. .. .	45
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry .. .. .	2
Sunday Trading .. .. .	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds .. .. .	4
Theatres and Places of Entertainment .. .. .	6
Water Courses - Survey .. .. .	12
Water Supplies .. .. .	158
West Riding Court .. .. .	1
	2,075

## HOUSING

Inspection of housing in the district has continued, together with the investigation into complaints both under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

There has been a considerable amount of work in preliminary inspections under the Rent Acts, and from the enquiries made it would appear that this will increase substantially in the coming year.

Limited progress has been made in relation to the returns for setting out the programme for housing progress in the next 20 years. From the returns, a start will be made in the very near future on slum clearance. Whether this will be in the more isolated parts of the district or alternatively whether a start will be made in the more central area is a question which will have to receive very careful consideration, but it is very gratifying to know that a start will be made.

The overcrowding has again been reviewed and at the end of the year there was a further reduction in the number of overcrowded houses in the Urban area.

Regarding verminous premises, there is an ever decreasing number of inspections in this direction, and the infestation of bed bugs is now almost non-existent. This, I think, is attributable to the new insecticides and the constant vigilance of many of the families. The majority of the trouble now is in relation to infestations of cockroaches and flies in certain localities.

Inspections have continued during the year under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and for this purpose 11 inspections were made and reports submitted.

The housing statistics for 1957 are set out in the following table:-

1.	Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	266
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	489
(2)	(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations .. .. .	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	Nil
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses needing further action:-	
	(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	4
	(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	247

2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
(a)	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	140
(b)	Number of defective dwellinghouses (excluding those shown in (a) above ), in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action .. .. .	106
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
A.	Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957.	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	Nil
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners .. .. .	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	3
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners .. .. .	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil
C.	Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957 (Demolition Orders).	
(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation .. .. .	4
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	Nil
(4)	Any action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ? If so, what ? .. .. .	Nil

D. Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957 (Closing Orders).		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	2	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	Nil	

E. Proceedings under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. (Clearance Areas).		
(1) Number of Clearance Areas represented during the year .. .. .	9	
(2) Number of houses included in these area .. .. .	49	
(3) Number of persons to be displaced .. .. .	67	
(4) Action taken during the year in respect of Clearance Areas:-		
(a) by Clearance Orders, number made .. .. .	Nil	
(b) by Compulsory Purchase Orders, number made .. .. .	Nil	
(5) Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished during the year .. .. .	Nil	
(6) Number of persons re-housed from houses demolished during the year .. .. .	Nil	

4. Overcrowding.		
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	18	
(2) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .	19	
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .	108	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	2	
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	5	
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	20	

5. New Houses.		
Number of new houses provided during the year:-		
By the Local Authority .. .. .	17	
By Private Enterprise .. .. .	Nil	

6. Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Rent Act, 1957.

Details of advances for the purpose of acquiring or constructing houses .. .. . Nil

Details of grants for conversion of buildings into new houses, or for altering, enlarging, repairing or improving houses:-

Applications .. .. .	22	Granted .. .. .	16
Rejected .. .. .	4	Withdrawn .. .. .	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Distribution

During the year the following licences were issued under the various Milk and Dairies Regulations:-

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	3
Supplementary Licences to Retail Tuberculin Tested Milk .. .. .	4
Supplementary Licences to Retail Sterilised Milk .. .. .	3
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Pasteurised .. .. .	14
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Tuberculin Tested .. .. .	4
Dealer's Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised .. .. .	10
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Sterilised .. .. .	25

The pasteurising establishment has now closed down and its future has not yet been determined.

A considerable amount of trouble has arisen due to the depositing of crates of milk prior to distribution in most unsatisfactory positions in yards, behind buildings, immediately off the highway, and this is most distressing especially after such an amount of work was put in during the past years in obviating this state of affairs. At the year end negotiations were considerably advanced with all interested parties, with a view to the setting up of either central depots or the collection of milk directly from the dairies. It is sincerely hoped that this very unsatisfactory dumping of milk on and around the highway will be non-existent in the coming year.

Milk Sampling

During the year 10 samples of designated milk were obtained from various suppliers retailing in the district. All the samples proved to be satisfactory.

## Food Inspection

The inspection of food shops, cafes and restaurants has again been carried out, and the details are set out in the following table:-

Butchers' Shops .. .. .	102
Butchers' Stalls .. .. .	51
Canteens .. .. .	3
Dairies and Milk Shops .. .. .	53
Fish Merchants and Poulterers .. .. .	5
Food Hygiene Regulations .. .. .	137
Food Preparing Establishments .. .. .	14
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .. .. .	3
Grocers .. .. .	20
Ice Cream Premises .. .. .	17
Public Houses .. .. .	9
Public Market .. .. .	152
Restaurants .. .. .	7
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	245
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts .. .. .	1
Miscellaneous Food Visits .. .. .	48
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	867
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The Food Hygiene Regulations became operative in 1955, but owing to pressure of work it was not possible to carry out detailed inspections of the food shops within the Urban District. During the year it has, however, been possible to deal with Butchers' Shops and Bakehouses and as a result I am pleased to state that there has been an upgrading of all butchers' shops within the Urban District. One of the shops unfortunately closed, but the remainder complied in every detail with the Regulations. Sinks with hot and cold water, together with washbowls, were provided, counter screens, the improvement of floors, walls and counters was carried out. Although some of the work was carried out with great reluctance, it was not necessary to serve any formal notices, and the reaction from the trade is now most favourable. It is hoped in the coming year to continue with these inspections.

As a result of the inspection of food shops, the following food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption.



	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat .. .. .	4	2	8	14
Fish .. .. .			3	-
Fruit .. .. .		2	9	11
Vegetables .. .. .		1	12	9
Soup .. .. .			9	8
Confectionery .. .. .			6	-
Cake .. .. .			16	-
Milk .. .. .			2	-
Liquorice Root .. .. .		2	18	-
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	6	2	1	10

Meat Inspection

The 2 private slaughterhouses within the district continue to operate, all meat from which is inspected prior to distribution. The majority of the meat within the Urban District is slaughtered at the Halifax Abattoir, the 2 slaughterhouses within the Urban District only catering for a very small part of the area.

Details of meat inspection in the district are set out in the following table:-

	Cows	Cattle other than Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered .. .. .	22	293	48	752	186
Number inspected .. .. .	22	293	48	752	186
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	5	6	2	1	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	22.72%	2.05%	4.17%	-	-
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	4	13	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	18.17%	4.43%	-	-	-
Number of visits for meat inspection purposes .. .. .					234
Weight of meat condemned at slaughterhouses .. .. .					567 lbs.

## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Application has been received from 14 butchers for a Licence to Slaughter Animals under the above Act. All these were granted.

## Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream within the Urban District, all the shops retailing wrapped ice cream. Vans which are touring the area do, however, have both loose and wrapped ice cream available, but these without exception have washing facilities and comply in all respects with the Regulations.

During the year 17 visits were made to retailers in the district, and 6 samples were obtained, all of which were satisfactory.

There are 56 establishments retailing Ice Cream within the Urban District.

## FOOD PREPARING ESTABLISHMENTS

### Bakehouses

During the year 41 inspections of bakehouses within the area have been made. These were in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. 2 of the larger bakehouses decided to close, leaving 13 on the register at the end of the year. These bakehouses have now been completely overhauled and comply in every respect with the Food Hygiene Regulations. The position in this respect is most satisfactory.

There are 6 cafes and restaurants within the district, and during the year 5 visits have been made to the same. The standard of cleanliness was satisfactory, but improvements will be necessary in the light of the new Regulations.

### Market

The open market, which is open on Tuesdays and Fridays, is controlled by the Council and continues to work satisfactorily. The food stalls, which were completely overhauled and brought into line with the Food Hygiene Regulations, continue to give satisfaction, whilst other open stalls have been improved.

### Food Poisoning

There has been one outbreak of food poisoning during the year, which has been fully investigated.

## Food Hawkers

At the present time there are 28 Food Hawkers on the register, which is kept under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. Details of the registrations are as follows:-

- 11 dealing in Bread and Confectionery
- 8 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish
- 7 dealing in Ice Cream
- 2 dealing in General Foodstuffs

## GENERAL ITEMS

### Petroleum Acts and Orders

At the commencement of the year the following Licences were issued:-

Storage of Petroleum .. .. .	40
Storage of Cellulose Paint and Petroleum Mixtures .. .. .	4
Storage of Carbide of Calcium .. .. .	2

During the year 40 inspections were made at the Petrol Stations and Factories, in connection with the issuing of these Licences.

### Rodent Control

The work of rodent control is still carried out by a part-time operative, and a considerable amount of time is devoted to this work by the Inspectors.

During the year 115 dwellinghouses, 82 business premises and 19 Local Authority properties have been inspected and treated. All these infestations were of a minor nature. The number of visits made to the premises in question were 463. This does not include any work in connection with sewer baiting.

A certain amount of re-infestation of rabbits has occurred at the Sowerby Bridge Cemetery, and these are being dealt with by the Pests Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The treatment of sewers has again been undertaken, and details are set out in the following table:-

Section	No. of Man-holes	No. not baited	No. baited	Pre-bait takes			
				C	P	Total Takes	N.T.
Millbank/Triangle .. .. .	69	47	22	1	2	3	19
Sowerby/Triangle .. .. .	65	57	8	1	2	3	5
Luddenden Foot District .. ..	77	67	10	-	-	-	10
Midgley .. .. .	67	60	7	-	-	-	7
Beechwood .. .. .	92	84	8	-	-	-	8
Sowerby/Luddenden Foot .. ..	99	89	10	-	-	-	10
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 1 .. ..	92	83	9	-	-	-	9
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 2 .. ..	124	103	21	1	2	3	18
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 3 .. ..	121	100	21	-	9	9	12

C - Complete Take

P - Partial Take

N.T. - No Take

The dwellinghouses in the district continue to be treated free of charge, whilst the business premises and factories are charged at a rate depending upon the length of time devoted to the work, and the amount of material used. The service is appreciated by the householders, and also the factory managers where complete disinfection has resulted.

The details of the treatments during the year are set out below:-

Refuse Disposal Sites .. .. .	-
Salvage Depot .. .. .	-
Recreation Grounds .. .. .	2
Private Dwellings .. .. .	25
Business Premises .. .. .	21
Farms .. .. .	-
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	48
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