

[Report 1962] / Medical Officer of Health, Spalding R.D.C.

Contributors

Spalding (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1962

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Spalding
Rural District Council

L.H.

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the

Year 1962



Spalding Rural District Council

Chairman : Mr. F. E. Casson, J.P., until April, 1962.

Mr. G. W. Machin, J.P., from May, 1962.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. G. W. Machin, until April, 1962.

Mr. A. G. Stocker, from May, 1962.

Clerk of the Council : Mr. M. W. Claye.

Members of the Council :

Mr. H. K. Braybrooks.	Mr. J. Pearson, until April, 1962.
Mrs. J. Brittain.	Mr. D. J. Riddington, B.A.
Miss E. L. Casswell.	Mr. F. W. Robinson.
Mr. A. E. Chappell, M.B.E., J.P.	Mr. H. E. Sneath.
Mr. T. H. Chatterton.	Mr. S. Sperring.
Mr. A. E. Clark.	Mr. A. L. Tansley.
Mr. W. E. Clark.	Mr. B. Thorpe.
Mr. C. F. Ford.	Mrs. L. Turner.
Mr. S. A. Goodyear.	Mr. G. F. Walker.
Mrs. L. H. Hardy, from May, 1962.	Mr. A. R. Ward, J.P.
Mr. H. J. M. Hilton.	Mr. A. J. Witherington.
Mr. J. F. Pannell.	Mr. H. G. Witherington.

Mr. G. H. Wray.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Chairman : Mr. A. G. Stocker, until April, 1962.

Mr. J. F. Pannell, from May, 1962.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. J. F. Pannell, until April, 1962.

Mr. F. W. Robinson, from May, 1962.

Mrs. J. Brittain.	Mr. J. Pearson, until April, 1962.
Miss E. L. Casswell.	Mr. A. L. Tansley.
Mr. A. E. Clark.	Mrs. L. Turner.
Mr. S. A. Goodyear.	Mr. G. F. Walker.
Mrs. L. Hardy, from May, 1962.	Mr. A. R. Ward.
Mr. H. J. M. Hilton.	Mr. A. J. Witherington.

Mr. H. G. Witherington.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Staff of the Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

Dr. K. S. Deas, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., until March, 1962.

Dr. J. M. Morfitt, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., from July, 1962.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

Mr. F. Luker, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Insp. of Food.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS—

Mr. W. E. Farley, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Insp. of Food, Testamur of Institute of Cleansing.

Mr. C. Boulton, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Insp. of Food, Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

Mr. P. Smith, until March, 1962.

GENERAL CLERK—

Miss J. M. Mann.

Spalding Rural District Council,

Council Offices,

Priory Road,

Spalding.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1962

To the Chairman and Members of the
Spalding Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the vital statistics, health and sanitary conditions of the Rural District for 1962.

In January 1962, smallpox was imported into Great Britain after several years of freedom from the disease. The Bradford and South Wales smallpox outbreaks received intensive coverage from the press and television, and as a result there was a great deal of public apprehension and demand for vaccination throughout the country. Although no contacts of smallpox were traced to this District, family doctors and clinics here were involved in the public clamour for vaccination.

I am sorry to say that the lesson of this smallpox "scare" has already been largely forgotten, and the percentage of children now being vaccinated is lower than we would wish. The Ministry of Health now recommends that the best time for a child to be vaccinated is in the second year of life, and I hope that more mothers will contact their family doctors or child welfare clinics to ensure that their children receive this protection.

In November and December, 1962, an outbreak of dysentery occurred in a number of schools in the District, and by the end of the year 140 cases had been confirmed. The control of this disease, which was fortunately mild, involved co-operation between the family doctors, schools, parents of school children, pharmacists, the County Medical Officer and his staff, and the staff of this Department. I would like to thank everyone concerned for their whole hearted co-operation in the measures taken to control this outbreak.

The dysentery germ seems to be able to spread through a whole family more readily where conservancy methods of sanitation are in use. This was seen in this outbreak when in Spalding Rural far more home contacts of affected children were found to be carrying the germ than was the case in the Spalding Urban District which has main sewage. Fortunately, despite early setbacks, progress is now being made in the schemes for main sewerage of the larger villages (see Page 21). While these sewerage schemes will not put a stop to dysentery, which seems to be basically a school problem, it is clear that they will bring advantages in health, as well as amenity.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. MATHER MORFITT,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 87,758 acres with a resident population (1961 census) of 19,188.

The estimated population given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates is 19,440.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate books is distributed as follows :—

Cowbit	.....	195
Crowland	.....	1011
Deeping St. Nicholas	.....	582
Donington	.....	670
Gosberton	.....	796
Moulton	.....	867
Pinchbeck	.....	1334
Quadring	.....	347
Surfleet	.....	350
Weston	.....	464
		<hr/>
		6616
		<hr/>

The rateable value of the district is £116,584 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £443.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	148	137	285
Illegitimate	10	8	18
	<hr/> 158	<hr/> 145	<hr/> 303

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 15.6.

Illegitimate live births 5.9% of total live births.

STILL BIRTHS :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 6

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births 19.4.

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS—309.

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	116	91	207

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.6.

INFANT DEATHS :

a. Deaths during first year of life :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	4	13
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 14

b. Neonatal deaths :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	2	9
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 10

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 46.2

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births (legitimate) 45.6

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births (illegitimate) 55.6

Neonatal (first 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births 33.0

Early neonatal (first 7 days) mortality rate per 1,000 live births 29.7

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births 48.5

Maternal deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1962

	M.	F.	Total
1. Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	1	1
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung bronchus	10	—	10
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	5	18
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	13	30
18. Coronary disease, angina	17	16	33
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
20. Other heart diseases	7	20	27
21. Other circulatory diseases	6	5	11
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	6	2	8
24. Bronchitis	5	2	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and illdefined diseases	13	14	27
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
34. All other accidents	3	2	5
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total	116	91	207

The infant mortality rate of 46.2 deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births greatly exceeded the national average. This rate is calculated on relatively small figures and has tended to fluctuate considerably from year to year.

There were 14 infant deaths—4 were due to prematurity, 3 to congenital abnormalities, 3 to haemorrhage inside the skull and the remaining 4 to asphyxia or lung infection. 9 of the deaths occurred in the first week of life.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates, in the Rural District of Spalding, 1948-1962.

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rates	Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
1948	335	18.0	171	9.2	53.7	17.8	10.6	39.9
1949	361	19.7	187	10.2	33.2			
1950	297	16.0	215	11.6	53.9			
1951	330	17.7	219	11.8	21.2			
1952	321	17.1	199	10.6	37.4			
1953	334	17.8	177	9.4	21.0	16.7	9.3	32.6
1954	321	17.0	152	8.1	40.5			
1955	312	16.5	181	9.6	25.6			
1956	283	15.0	189	10.0	38.9			
1957	323	17.1	178	9.4	37.2			
1958	325	17.1	189	10.0	27.7	16.2	9.7	26.9
1959	315	16.5	194	10.1	22.2			
1960	320	16.6	160	8.3	9.4			
1961	293	15.2	182	9.4	27.3			
1962	303	15.6	207	10.6	46.2			

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS

The figures for the Live Birth Rates and Death Rates given below have been corrected using the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General.

These factors allow for the differing age and sex composition of the various populations, and enable valid comparisons to be drawn.

	Live Birth rate	Death rate	Infant Mortality rate
Spalding Rural District	15.3	11.4	46.2
Holland County—Rural districts	15.1	10.8	26.8
Urban districts	16.1	10.9	18.6
All districts	15.5	10.9	23.5
England and Wales	18.0	11.9	20.7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Cases Notified

		Cases Notified		
		Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	.....	1	2	3
—other	.....	0	1	1
Scarlet Fever	.....	2	3	5
Whooping Cough	.....	0	2	2
Measles	.....	6	3	9
Acute Pneumonia	.....	0	1	1
Erysipelas	.....	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	.....	0	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	.....	0	0	0
Sonne Dysentery	.....	76	64	140
Food Poisoning	.....	0	0	0
Total		85	76	161

Analysis of Cases of Dysentery under Age Groups

Age Groups	Sonne Dysentery
Under 1 year	—
1—2 years	5
3—4 years	13
5—9 years	42
10—14 years	20
15—24 years	8
25 and over	20
Age unknown	32
Total	140

Incidence of Infectious Diseases in recent years

Disease		Year								
		1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Scarlet Fever	Cases	43	27	12	10	9	12	29	9	5
Diphtheria	Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Cases	5	364	18	562	36	190	8	741	9
Whooping Cough	Cases	14	52	13	19	113	4	4	30	2
Polio-Myelitis	Cases	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	1	—

COMMENTS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Dysentery

Early in October a number of schools in Spalding Urban District had many pupils absent because of diarrhoea and/or vomiting. Children from several parishes of this District, who attended schools in the Urban District also had these symptoms.

In the majority of cases, the illness was mild, and most children made a full recovery in 2-3 days. The pattern in the outbreak was for the infection to spread to the brothers and sisters of the affected children. In some cases the parents picked up the infection, and they often had a more severe type of illness.

The Public Health Departments were not informed about the existence of this outbreak until the end of October, and by this time the disease had spread widely. Samples taken from the children affected showed that many of them were carrying the organism of dysentery.

In November and December, the disease spread to several schools in this Rural District, and by the end of the year 31 adults and 109 children in the District had been confirmed as cases or carriers of dysentery. The schools affected were Moulton Chapel, Weston St. Mary, Pinchbeck East, Moulton, West Pinchbeck and Surfleet Seas End.

Dysentery is spread by contaminated hands. A person who has had even a mild attack of the disease may carry the germ in the bowels

for a number of weeks, and so can pass on the infection to others long after he had recovered from the diarrhoea.

In view of this all children who had suffered from gastro-enteritis since the start of October were asked to stay away from school until a sample test confirmed that they were free from infection. Several hundred children were excluded in Spalding Urban and Rural Districts and the Public Health Departments were faced with the gigantic task of visiting their homes to arrange for the collection of faeces samples. A task force of Public Health Inspectors, Health Visitors, Home Nurses and child care officers was mobilized to carry out these visits, and the Town Hall, Spalding was used as Headquarters for the collection and despatch of these samples. Dr. Croll, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln agreed to undertake the very large number of bacteriological tests and throughout the duration of the outbreak maintained a speedy and efficient service. 589 faeces samples had been submitted from this District by the end of the year.

About half the children who had diarrhoea and vomiting were found to be free from infection with the dysentery germ, and were allowed to return to school. It is possible that two types of infection were involved in this outbreak—1. dysentery and 2. "epidemic winter vomiting" which has been prevalent in South Holland in previous years.

Children who were carrying the dysentery germ were excluded from school until another test taken after medical treatment, was clear. The family doctors were faced with a great deal of extra work, prescribing antibiotic treatment for these children to clear the infection as quickly as possible. Over 90% of cases were cleared by a 5 day course of oral streptomycin. The pharmacists in the area had to arrange for extra consignments of antibiotics.

The home contacts of people who were carrying the dysentery germ were also tested. 42 out of 136 people who had been in contact with dysentery cases at home in this District were found to be symptomless carriers of the organism.

An important aspect of the control of dysentery, namely the supervision of disinfection of school toilets and wash-rooms, was undertaken by Mr. Fidling, the County Public Health Inspector. Paper towels were substituted for communal roller towels in the schools affected.

Food handlers

One resident of this District who worked in a food business in Spalding was excluded from work under Section 41 of the Public Health Act, 1961, on suspicion of dysentery. She was allowed to return after one week, the sample test proving negative.

TUBERCULOSIS

		M.	F.	Total
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/62	Pulmonary	36	27	63
	Non-pulmonary	2	5	7
Cases removed from the Register during 1962				
	— cured	—	—	—
	— diagnosis not confirmed	—	—	—
	— left District	2	—	2
	— died	—	1	1
Cases added to the Register during 1962				
	— new notifications	1	3	4
	— transfer into District	3	1	4

Details of cases on Tuberculosis Register 1946-62

Years	Cases at 31st December			Deaths during year	
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	New cases	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1946	58	35	27	3	2
1947	52	34	15	4	4
1948	60	31	18	5	2
1949	61	32	10	3	0
1950	62	29	9	3	0
1951	51	16	14	6	0
1952	54	21	20	0	1
1953	54	14	14	5	0
1954	48	5	5	1	0
1955	54	5	15	3	1
1956	55	3	5	1	0
1957	57	3	9	2	0
1958	58	3	4	1	0
1959	58	4	3	0	0
1960	58	4	3	0	0
1961	59	6	6	1	0
1962	63	7	8	1	0

While modern treatment has nearly finished tuberculosis as a killing disease there are still many cases on the register. These patients need advice about the precautions they should take against spread of the infection, and sometimes they need re-housing in premises that will allow them to have a separate bedroom.

I am grateful for the sympathetic consideration that members of the Council have given to these requests for re-housing.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Between the 1st January, 1962 and the 31st December, 1962, 233 children under 5 years of age, and 23 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years received the primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 448 children were given a "booster" or secondary injection.

The following table provided by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentages of the child population on 31/12/62 that had been immunised at any time during the period 1948-1962 inclusive.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5— 14 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough	132	30.7	834	62.4	3648	94.7
Spalding Urban	83	27.1	463	49.0	2023	95.9
Boston Rural	126	43.5	733	61.3	3137	92.1
East Elloe Rural	116	38.1	629	50.9	3155	90.7
Spalding Rural	90	32.1	596	51.3	2934	95.9
Totals	547	33.8	3255	51.9	14897	94.8

WATER SUPPLY

In October, 1962, the District Council ceased to administer its own water scheme, when the South Lincolnshire Water Board came into operation.

I am indebted to R. J. Cameron Stobie, Esq., the Board's Engineer and Manager, for most of the information in this section of the Report.

The following table shows the number of dwellinghouses and the approximate population supplied from the Council's mains in each parish :—

Parish	Dwellings in Valuation List	Dwellings Supplied	Population Supplied
Cowbit	195	185	544
Crowland	1011	969	2848
Deeping St. Nicholas	582	522	1535
Donington	670	659	1937
Gosberton	796	728	2140
Moulton	867	765	2249
Pinchbeck	1334	1205	3543
Quadring	347	309	908
Surfleet	350	319	938
Weston	464	445	1308
	<hr/> 6616 <hr/>	<hr/> 6106 <hr/>	<hr/> 17950 <hr/>

The percentage of dwellings supplied is 92.29%, including a number of houses which drew their supplies from stand taps.

The water supply of the District has continued to be satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Analyses of Water Supplies.

Bacteriological tests

46 samples of water from boreholes, water towers, and from household taps were taken by the staff of the Water Authority.

On examination by the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough, none of these samples was found to contain any coliform organisms.

Chemical tests

3 partial chemical analysis were carried out, and the results are shown overleaf.

2 estimations of iron content were made, on water samples from Donington Bridge End and Moulton Seas End. In both cases iron was absent.

This District has never been troubled with water supplies which were plumbo-solvent, and precautions against lead contamination have not been needed.

Fluoride content of water

Fluoride is present to some degree in almost all drinking waters and in most foods, and it is a normal constituent of teeth and bones.

Studies in Britain and other countries have shown that children born and brought up in areas where the water supply naturally contains fluoride at a level of 1 part per million have less than half the dental decay of children in areas where there is only a trace of fluoride.

Water from the Deeping St. Nicholas and Deeping St. James boreholes contains naturally occurring fluoride, about 3 parts per million being found on chemical analysis.

This is rather higher than the recommended optimum level, and results in mottling of the teeth. Nevertheless, the amount of dental decay among children in the Crowland area (supplied from these boreholes) is much less than in areas of Holland County where the water is deficient in fluoride. This is found not only in infant schools but throughout school life. (Information received from Mr. H. A. Bolton, Principal School Dental Officer, Holland County).

Action taken in respect of contamination

During the year no contamination in any form has been experienced either at the sources, or in the distribution system.

PARTIAL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

of Three Samples of Water

Results : parts per million.

SOURCE :	Jockey Pumping Station Cascade—Pinchbeck West	Deeping St. James Pumping Station	Donington Bore Head
Date and Time of sampling	13.3.62 2.45.p.m.	12.3.62 4 p.m.	13.3.62 3.30 p.m.
Appearance :	Very faint opalescence with particles	Very slight opalescence with particles	Faint opalescence with particles
Total alkalinity	240	340	240
Total hardness :	290	65	290
Ammoniacal Nitrogen :	0.10	0.54	0.000
Oxygen absorbed :	0.30	0.50	0.30
Totals : Iron :	0.04	1.1	0.16
Flouride (F) :	0.5	3.0	0.5

The results are similar to those previously recorded.
Sample from Deeping St. Nicholas lost due to breakage in transit.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories,
Thresh House, Verulam Street,
Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

County Council Services

i. **Domiciliary Midwives.**

In this county, over one third of babies are delivered at home by domiciliary midwives.

ii. **Health Visiting.**

The main function of a health visitor is to bring health teaching into the home. She is particularly concerned with advising mothers of young children, and as a routine, visits every home where a birth has been notified to the County Medical Officer of Health. Three health visitors, cover the Spalding Rural Area.

iii. **Clinic Centres.**

Infant Welfare Clinics and Antenatal Clinics are held at Donington, Crowland, Gosberton, Moulton, Deeping St. Nicholas and Pinchbeck. Vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis, and immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is available at these clinics.

iv. **School Health Service.**

All pupils are medically inspected three times in their school life—at entry, at 11 years old, and before leaving school. Any child found to have defective vision is referred to a consultant eye doctor, who attends at Spalding Clinic. Speech therapy is also provided by appointment at Spalding Clinic.

An important part of the work of the School Health Service is the supervision and school placement of handicapped pupils.

v. **Home Help**

The aged account for over half the work done by County Home Helps, who carry out ordinary household work for patients who cannot manage to do this without help, e.g. during illness. This service is not free, but in many cases a reduced charge is made, depending on income.

vi. **Home Nursing**

Over half the patients attended by Home Nurses are 65 years old or over. Home nursing, with the aid of Home Help, enables patients to be nursed at home, often saving the cost to the nation of a long stay in hospital.

vii. **Chiropody.**

Elderly people, with stiff joints often have difficulty in looking after their feet. The County Chiropody Service, which started in 1960, is available to three types of person—the aged ; pregnant mothers ; and the physically disabled. Treatments are undertaken at surgeries and clinics in Spalding and Donington. Where absolutely necessary, transport is provided, and in exceptional cases treatment may be arranged at home.

viii. **Ambulance Service.**

This district is served by ambulance stations at Spalding and Crowland. The Spalding station is staffed by 7 wholetime driver/attendants and has an establishment of 2 ambulances, 2 cars and one utility ambulance. All the ambulances are of modern design and are equipped with oxygen therapy apparatus. A Minuteman portable mechanical resuscitator is kept at the Spalding station, and equipment for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is carried in all ambulances.

The Crowland station has one ambulance, which is operated by volunteers. Not only does this give a much quicker service to the residents of Crowland and district, who look mainly to Peterborough as their hospital centre, but it has relieved the pressure on the Spalding ambulance station.

Hospitals.

This district is served by two general practitioner hospitals, the Johnson Hospital and Pinchbeck Road Hospital, Spalding. A full range of out-patient sessions is provided at the Johnson Hospital by visiting consultants, and there is a casualty department with X-ray facilities. Under the 10 year plan for Hospital Services, the Pinchbeck Road Hospital will eventually be closed and the Johnson Hospital will be used for the aged, chronic sick, although the maternity unit will continue in use. The policy favoured by the Ministry of Health involves the building of large District General Hospitals, which will provide full facilities for modern medicine. One of these large hospitals is to be built at Boston and this will involve journeys of up to 15-20 miles for patients and their visitors from this Rural District.

In October 1962 the Council considered a letter from the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board giving details of the proposed hospital plan relating to the Lincoln Area and instructed the Clerk to formally protest to the Ministry of Health against the closing of the acute medical and surgical beds at the Johnson Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln, and samples of foods, water and specimens for bacteriological examination have been despatched there. These facilities are invaluable for the investigation and control of outbreaks of infectious diseases (see Page 8).

MISCELLANEOUS**Medical examination of Council Staff.**

During the year 4 people were examined to assess their fitness for Superannuable employment. 6 people were examined for admission into the Sickness Pay Scheme, and 6 people were re-examined in connection with the Scheme.

Workmen of the various departments of the Council are kept under medical supervision, and are examined at yearly intervals.

Persons in need of care and attention.

Provision is made under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for people who are in need of care and attention, and who are unable to look after themselves. It sometimes happens that an old person is living alone under terribly insanitary conditions, or is gravely ill, and yet refuses to go into a welfare home or hospital. In his own interests it is sometimes necessary to use the National Assistance Act compulsory powers to make such a person go into a place where he can be looked after properly.

Needless to say, this step is only taken as a last resort. The decision is made by a magistrate and both the family doctor and the District Medical Officer of Health have to agree that removal is urgently needed.

As the proportion of the elderly in the community is rising, this aspect of the work of the M.O.H. is becoming more important. Many visits are made to such people who are living alone, and starting to run into difficulties. In many cases, these difficulties can be ameliorated by making use of the County Council home help, home nursing, chiropody and welfare services. Many workers, statutory and voluntary are involved in this highly important job of keeping the elderly going in their own homes, and there is good co-operation between them.

During the year one woman was removed to hospital under a magistrate's Emergency Order.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA AS REPORTED BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the
Spalding Rural District Council.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I respectfully submit my report on the sanitary circumstances of the Area for the year 1962. The table of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors continues to show that the type of work carried out in the Department is, to a very large extent, dictated by the pressure of day-to-day duties. This influence will inevitably continue for a number of years until the major sanitary reforms, resulting from the provision of the large public sewerage schemes, have been completed. It is essential, for the well-being of the urbanised areas of the district, that these sanitary reforms be carried out and the provision, in the older houses, of water closets, baths, etc., is really long over-due. In this respect we are suffering from upheavals similar to those which affected the large centres of population during the early part of the century.

It is gratifying to note the many improvements effected in the Area during the post-war years but the magnitude of the problems still to be tackled prevents any feeling of complacency.

In the field of housing alone there is much to be done and in my opinion this work must continue through the foreseeable future until the householders in the Rural District have the benefit of those sanitary fittings which their contemporaries in the cities accept as commonplace. How this end is to be reached depends, to a large extent, on the attitude of property owners, if they will accept the generous financial help given by the Improvement Grant Scheme and at the same time generally maintain their property, demolition may be averted and many of the older houses retained. Failure to improve and maintain the old houses will inevitably result in them being judged "unfit" and demolished.

In addition to the duties arising as a result of these changing conditions every effort has been made to keep up with the other branches of public health work but it has been found impossible to make many routine visits to food premises, factories, offices and shops.

I wish to express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance which I have received from Members of the Council and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, also to the staff for the excellent support which they have given me during the year.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. LUKER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following table shows the number of visits made during the year by the Public Health Inspectors.

Subject of Visit	Initial Visits	Routine or Re-visits
Housing Act, 1957	125	197
Water Supplies ; water samples	5	—
Overcrowding Complaints	1	1
Moveable Dwellings ; Camps	16	11
Food Samples	—	—
Food Hygiene	42	73
Factories and Workplaces	6	3
Public Conveniences	6	86
Infectious Diseases	27	17
Disinfection after I.D.	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	29	6
Disinfestation	7	1
Drain Tests	196	158
Housing Site Sewerage Schemes	42	9
Refuse Service	58	45
Night Soil and Cesspool Emptying Service	12	19
Slaughterhouses	14	7
Public Sewerage Schemes	68	1007
Improvement Grants	164	209
Nuisances—General	59	89
Miscellaneous	86	40
Meat Inspection	10	1391
Food Inspection	3	—
Total :	976	3369

SANITARY SERVICES

Cesspool Emptying

Details of work done by the two cesspool emptying machines are as follows :—

Cesspools	Vault Closets	Cisterns, tanks, etc.
2,875	241	45

On 91 occasions the cesspool machines were used to remove the sludge from the settlement and humus tanks at the sewage disposal works for the Council's housing estates : and on 5 occasions the sludge was removed from the temporary sewage works at Fosters Estate, Pinchbeck.

It is quite obvious that the work of cesspool emptying will have to be maintained even when the main sewerage schemes for the five larger villages have been completed and if the improvement grant

scheme extends, as it is hoped it will, the amount of work to be done in this field will increase.

The cesspool emptiers act rather like " maids of all work " in the sanitary field, they are used for flushing sewers, carting thick sludge to disposal sites and, in the case of break down of the machinery at the numerous sewage disposal works, serious inconvenience and nuisance is avoided by lifting and carting away sewage, with these machines. In addition they are used to extinguish fires which sometimes break out on the refuse tips and on many occasions have averted serious trouble in the tips.

One of the older cesspool emptiers has been replaced with a modern diesel powered machine and a second is on order. This policy of maintaining modern, reliable vehicles is essential if the service is to be maintained.

Pail Closet Emptying

This work is carried out with the oldest of the three cesspool emptiers and the machine is employed full-time. The objectionable character of the work makes it difficult to recruit staff for it. One object of the housing improvement work is the abolition of these most insanitary conveniences, and in all cases, when houses are improved by means of grant, all pails or vault closets have to be abolished or converted to W.C.'s.

The continued absence of complaints regarding this work reflects credit on the men engaged in it.

Refuse Collection

There has been little change in the circumstances of this service during the year. Owing to the increase in the number of houses at Pinchbeck and to the fact that the refuse tip at Donington has become full up it has been necessary to do part of these collections with the relief vehicle. In Pinchbeck the Brownlow Crescent area is collected by this second vehicle and at Donington the Park Lane estate is done in this way.

The sale of material salvaged from refuse during the year brought a total revenue of £1,004/8/1d. of which 25% was paid out to the workmen as Salvage Bonus. This figure shows a reduction of more than £800 on that for 1961 and has been caused by the recession in the waste paper trade coupled with a drop in market prices for other materials.

It is hoped that 1963 will bring a return to more normal conditions in the waste trade market.

Drainage and Sewerage—Council Houses.

During the year Health Department workmen cleared 86 blocked drains on Council Estates.

The Housing Committee have again continued with the scheme of improving the older Council houses. The position, as supplied by the Housing Manager, at 31st December, 1962, was as follows :—

Houses fully improved with bathrooms, W.C.'s, etc.	243
Houses provided with W.C.'s but not bathrooms	144
Houses still without W.C.'s or bathrooms	265
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	652
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The Committee's systematic approach to this work is an example to the owners of private property in the District.

Public Sewerage.

The main sewerage scheme at Donington and the sewage works improvement scheme at Crowland have both shown reasonable progress during 1962 but none of the contracts had been completed by the end of the year. Adverse weather conditions have affected both contracts. The Crowland scheme should be completed during the early part of 1963 and it is hoped that the Donington scheme will also be in operation during the same year.

The Consulting Engineers have prepared the plans for sewerage Gosberton and it is hoped that work will commence in 1963.

The completion of the main sewerage schemes for the five larger villages in the Area will meet an urgent public need for improved drainage. At the same time they will bring an increasing amount of work to the Inspecting staff in arranging and testing the many new domestic systems which will have to be provided as property owners take advantage of the public sewerage facilities.

Maintenance of the public sewerage schemes and housing sewerage works is carried out, at the present time, by two workmen with a Ford van for transport. As the parish schemes and proposed additional housing site works come into operation, additional labour will have to be available to service them. My suggestions to cope with this situation have been considered and approved by the Council, i.e.

1. Employ the labourer at Crowland five days each week instead of four as at present.
2. Appoint an additional labourer.
3. Provide an additional service van, to be taken over by the present assistant maintenance man, and appoint two further labourers to act as maintenance assistants :—

and these suggestions will be implemented, as the need arises, in consultation with the Public Health Committee.

The Rivers (Pollution Prevention) Act 1961 gives the River Boards authority to impose conditions on effluent discharges which were in operation prior to 1951 and this, together with the more rigid standards that are being imposed on all new discharge consents, will also increase

the amount of maintenance work that is required, particularly with the older estate sewage works. To keep sewage effluents up to, or better than, Royal Commission Standard it will be necessary to install sand filters, or some equally effective treatment, to the final effluents of the housing estate sewage works.

In this District the work of sewage disposal is expanding rapidly at the same time as the standard for effluents is becoming more difficult to maintain.

If we are to observe the statutory requirements and maintain good relations with the River Boards it will be necessary to provide an adequate and well trained sewage works maintenance staff.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3541	77	11	9733	6808
Number inspected	3541	77	11	9733	6808
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>		MEAT	REJECTED		
Whole carcasses rejected	5	4	—	5	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected.	900	16	1	23	569
Percentage of carcasses affected	25.55%	25.97%	9.09%	0.28%	8.44%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses rejected	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	8	—	—	—	100
Percentage of carcasses affected	0.22%	—	—	—	1.48%

Cysticercus Bovis

17 Beasts Carcasses and Offals were found to be affected with Cysts of the tapeworm Taenia Saginata. The infections were all localised and the carcass and offals were consigned to "deep freeze" treatment. The percentage of carcasses found to be affected with Cysticercus Bovis was 0.47%.

Tuberculosis

It is pleasing to again note the almost complete absence of bovine tuberculosis in the animals slaughtered, although the incidence of other diseases and conditions, rendering the meat unfit for food, emphasizes the need for this service.

A 100% meat inspection has again been carried out during the year and I wish to record that the majority of this work is still carried out by the Additional Public Health Inspectors in the evenings and at the week-ends. Meat Inspection continues to be the heaviest single duty of the Public Health Inspectors.

Details of Meat and Offals rejected are contained in the following lists :—

Article	Disease or Condition found
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	Moribund
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	Fever and Bruising
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	Emaciation and Bruising
1 Cow Carcase and Offal	Generalised Melanosis
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	Very severe and widespread bruising
2 Beast Carcase and Offal	Moribund and Fevered
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	Uraemia
1 Beast Carcase and Offal	Septic Peritonitis
3 cwt. Beef Trimmings	Bruised and Oedematous
1 Pig Carcase and Offal	Septicaemia
1 Sow Carcase and Offal	Generalised Tuberculosis
2 Pig Carcase and Offal	Pyæmia and Emaciation
1 Pig Carcase and Offal	Moribund and Unwholesome
1 Pig Carcase and Offal	Fevered
1 Sheep Carcase and Offal	Septic Mastitis
1 Sheep Carcase and Offal	Generalised Oedema
1 Sheep Carcase and Offal	Fevered
1 Sheep Carcase and Offal	Generalised Pyæmia
1 Sheep Carcase and Offal	Emaciation

The following offals were rejected for various reasons too numerous to be set out in detail :—

90 Beasts Heads.	3 Beast Tongues.
441 Beasts Livers.	4 Beast Spleens.
20 Beasts Lungs.	115 Pigs Heads.
4 Beasts Hearts.	221 Pig Livers.
352 Part Beast Livers.	265 Pigs Lungs.
1 Pair of Beast Lungs	177 Pigs Hearts.
2 Cows Heads.	9 Pigs Mesenteries.
2 Beasts Skirts.	11 Pigs Kidneys.
2 Cows Kidneys.	8 Pigs Feet.
14 Cows Livers.	20 Sheeps Livers.
9 Beasts Kidneys.	2 Sheeps Feet.
1 Beast Mesentery.	1 Sheeps Udder.
1 Pair Calf Lungs.	1 Sheeps Hind Leg.
	1 Sheeps Kidney.

Details of other foods found to be unfit :—

1 x 11 lb. Tin of Ham	....	....	Decomposition.
2 x 14 lb. Tins of Ham	....	....	Decomposition.
2 x 10 lb. Tins of Ham	....	....	Decomposition.
2 x 10 lb. Tins of Ham	....	....	Decomposition.
1 x 12 lb. 10 ozs. Tin of Ham	....	....	Decomposition.

Food Premises

Food shops and manufacturing premises in the district are of the small "family business" type, they were found to be generally satisfactory and such minor items as needed attention were dealt with by the occupiers.

Retail sale of ice-cream has again been restricted to the sale of portions pre-packed by the manufacturer. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district.

Slaughterhouses

Some improvement in the hygiene of the slaughterhouses in the area has been obtained during the year. As had been anticipated it has been found that "old practices die hard" and with only very irregular supervision it has been found impossible to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations are being properly carried out.

Owing to the pressure of other work it is difficult to make inspections other than those needed for meat inspection and when these are carried out the slaughtering and cleaning up work are usually completed. Generally the cleanliness of the premises is satisfactory and it is hoped that further improvement in hygiene will be obtained. It must be admitted that in the end this can only be achieved with the co-operation of the occupiers of the premises and their employees. Every effort has been made and will continue to be made towards this end.

Milk and Dairies

All milk retailed in the area is "Designated" milk in bottles.

As a member of the Milk Sub-Committee of the County Agricultural Executive Committee I work in close collaboration with the Divisional Milk Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, both in Committee and in the District.

There is one pasteurising plant in the District, this is licensed and controlled by the County Council.

COUNTY FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

Mr. R. Fidling, the County Health Inspector is also the Food and Drugs Sampling Officer, and I am indebted to him for this report, which refers to work carried out over the whole of the County of Holland.

FOOD

During the year 304 samples of food were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, and in addition 123 samples of milk were examined by County Health Department staff.

The number of unsatisfactory samples reported by the Analyst continues to decline, i.e. of all samples submitted 1.3% showed some irregularity compared with 2% last year and 5.8% in the previous year.

The 194 Formal and 110 Informal samples submitted to the Analyst covered a very wide range, including raw fruits, sweets, beer, mineral waters and spirits, as well as most common foods.

Complaints.

Mincemeat.

A customer found what appeared to be four teeth from a human artificial denture. The objects had a remarkable resemblance to teeth, but turned out to be fractured portions of stone from a small variety of date used in the manufacture of mincemeat.

At the time other complaints arose from customers who thought they had found teeth in their mincemeat.

The firm was contacted and a representative made a visit to the County Health Inspectors Office and then withdrew the stocks of this commodity held by traders. The firm investigated their processing arrangements and were devising a machine to exclude any further fractured date stones getting into the finished article.

Toffees.

Some toffees were alleged to have caused sickness immediately after two had been eaten.

The Analyst was unable to find any chemical substance present capable of causing sickness, but was of opinion that the particularly strong flavour present could have had an adverse psychological effect on a sensitive palate.

Tinned Salmon.

A customer found what appeared to be glass particles in a can of salmon.

This particular type of complaint crops up at rare intervals. By means of a simple chemical test carried out in the office it was possible to prove the particles were not glass as the customer thought, but were crystals of ammonium or magnesium phosphate which sometimes form during the cooling process of the canned product. The crystals are completely innocuous.

Prosecutions for Food and Drug Offences.

1. Cream Sponge.

The Analyst reported that at least 98% of the so called " Cream " was not derived from milk.

Fined £10 with total costs of £9 11s.

The defendant company endeavoured to cross summons an employee as being responsible for the offence, but the Court rejected this action.

2. Cream Filling.

The Analyst reported the whole of this commodity consisted of imitation cream.

Fined £5 with costs of £3 5s.

MILK

Composition.

The general standard of compositional quality of milk retailed in this area remains good. 120 samples of ordinary milk and 17 samples of "Channel Island" milk were found to conform to legal standards of Milk Fat, and Solids Not Fat percentages.

In the country as a whole there has been much less deliberate adulteration of milk supplies during the last few years.

Only one milk sample was reported by the Analyst as being considered to be adulterated. This was an informal ex-farm sample and showed 2% Milk Fat deficiency and 2½% extraneous water. Unfortunately the milk was sour on arrival and the Analyst was therefore unable to prove conclusively that water had been added.

The milk was resampled and found to be of satisfactory standard.

Two other milk samples which had a satisfactory milk fat content but showed a low Solids not Fat content were found to be genuine milks as given by the cows although of low quality. Appeal to the Cow Samples were obtained and checked and these confirmed that the cows were giving low quality milk.

As the producer was leaving the district the herd was sold soon afterwards.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960.

Two Milk Pasteurising premises and 141 Milk Dealers are licenced by the County Council.

The County Health Inspector makes supervisory visits to premises and also submits samples to the Public Health Laboratory Lincoln for tests to be carried out to check the adequacy of Heat Treatment and keeping quality of the milk retailed.

The following samples were submitted.

Type of Sample	No. of Samples	Samples Failing	Reason for Failure :	
			Keeping Quality	Heat Treatment
Pasteurised	243	2	2	1
Pasteurised TT	171	2	2	1
Sterilised	39	—	—	—
Raw TT	53	1	1	—
Totals	506	5	5	2

Causes of failure are investigated and regular visits are made to the Milk Pasteurising Depots where inspections are made of the processing plants, heat recorders and thermometers. Attention is also paid to the efficiency of mechanical washing plants, cleanliness of bottles and churns.

Biological Milk Sampling.

12 Samples of raw milk being retailed were submitted for biological testing all were negative for Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus.

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property					
	Local Authority	Dwelling-Houses	Agricultural	Other Properties	Total	
Total No. of properties in the District	37	6550	1899	903	9389	
No. of properties inspected.	Following Complaints	16	449	163	38	666
	Otherwise	21	562	206	37	826
No. of properties found to be infested with rats	Major	4	2	24	3	33
	Minor	28	133	21	9	191
No. of properties found to be infested with mice	—	—	—	—	—	
No. of infested properties treated	32	150	45	12	239	
No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act	Requiring treatment	—	—	—	—	—
	Requiring structural works	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases in which work was carried out in default	—	—	—	—	—	
Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—	
No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	36					

The work carried out during the year has been essentially the same as that during 1961 and this is confirmed by the details of visits in the

above table. In many parts of the District rat infestation has again been heavy and the amount of work carried out reflects credit on the Rodent Operator. He has again been in demand to give advice and in some cases carry out disinfestation on business premises. His work is much appreciated.

HOUSING

NUISANCES

52 cases of inadequate water supplies, housing defects, drainage and refuse nuisances were investigated during the year and informal notices were served as necessary.

SLUM CLEARANCE, HOUSING ACT, 1957.

During the year 32 unfit houses were reported to the Council and the following statutory procedure was taken :—

27 Notices of " Time and Place " were served.

12 Demolition Orders were made.

3 Undertakings not to re-let were accepted.

8 Closing Orders were made.

The Minister's decision on the West Street and Albion Street No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order was received on May 5th, 1962, and it is recorded with mixed feeling that he decided to exclude 7 of the 34 houses from the Order. The decision to exclude the five houses in Albion Street, Nos. 41-49 inclusive, was, in my opinion, unfortunate as it is now difficult to get a really good re-development and improvement of Albion Street, as a whole. In my opinion time will show the exclusion of these seven houses, (14 and 32 West Street and 41-49 Albion Street), from the Order was a mistake. In view of the advice given by the Inspector holding the Public Inquiry it is difficult to understand how the Minister arrived at his decision in this Order.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1957

Improvement Grants-Discretionary

Houses inspected in full details	12
Formal applications received for Improvement Grant	7
Improvement Grants Approved	6

Standard Grants

Formal applications received for Standard Grant	42
Standard Grants Approved	39

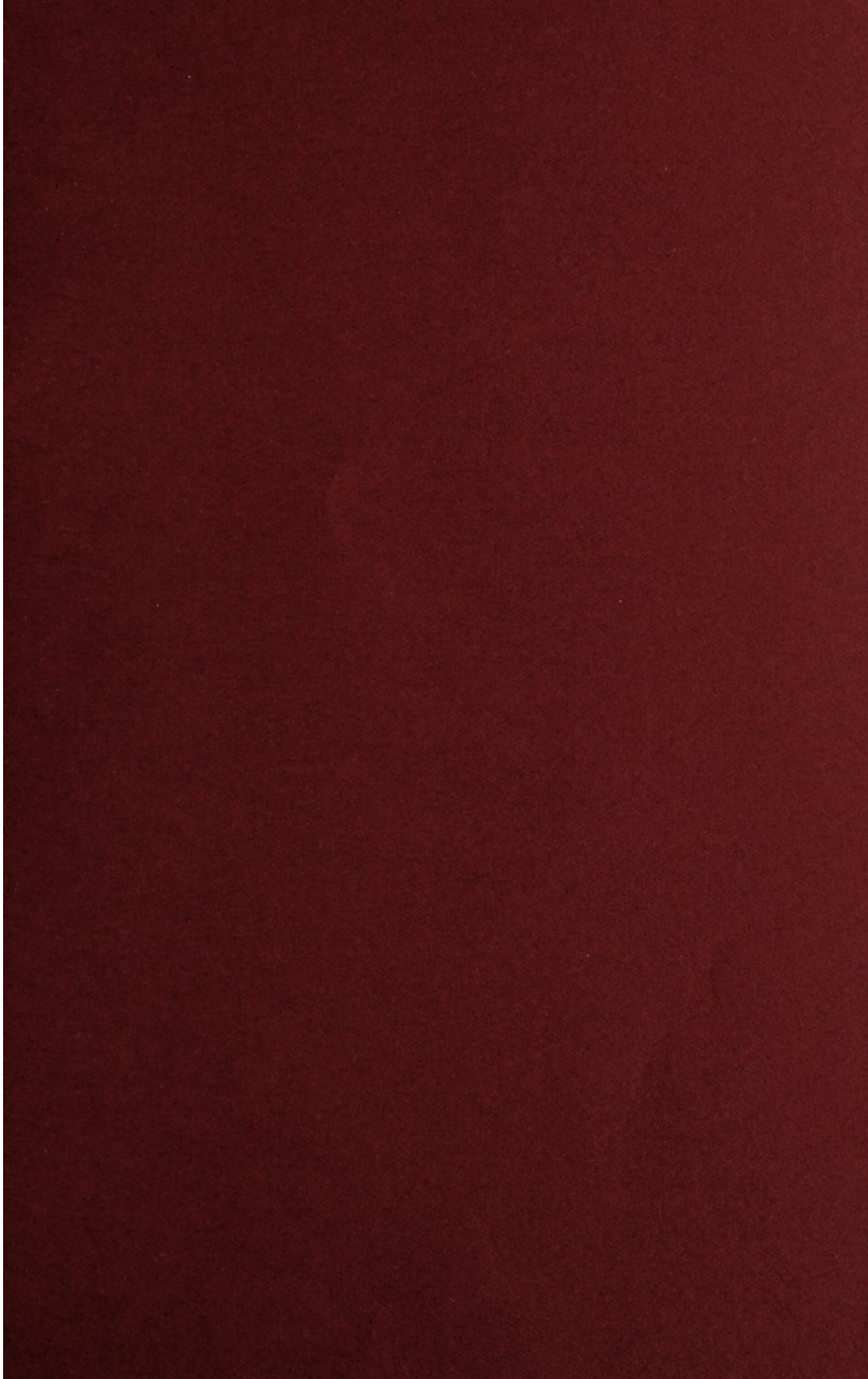
OVERCROWDING

No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year.

NEW HOUSES

A total of 24 houses were commenced on the Council's Estates during the year and 32 properties were completed.

69 dwellings were erected by private developers and a further 83 were commenced.



Printed by WARNERS
(Midlands) Ltd.
Stamford and Bourne