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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1956

FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF SPILSBY

IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN - PARTS OF LINDSEY.

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L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Toynton Hall,
Spilsby,
Lincs.

June, 1957.

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

C.S.E. Wright, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

W. Bailey, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
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Clerk.

(Mrs) W. Harness.

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs Ward and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Spilsby Rural District for the year ending 31st December,1956.

I am pleased to be able to report once again that the general health of the district has been good throughout the year. The number of infectious diseases notified to me was not high, and mainly consisted of a small outbreak of whooping cough at the beginning of the year, and measles in the spring and summer. The steady improvement in sanitary conditions and housing standards continued but it is unfortunate that the economic squeeze has prevented the Treasury from permitting the Council to start the sewage disposal works that are so urgently needed at Ingoldmells, Wainfleet, Burgh and Anderby.

The year 1956 started on January 8th with a fall of very heavy snow that caused an immense amount of damage to house property and gardens, and, what was far more serious from the Council's point of view, a total breakdown of the whole electricity system of the district and all telephone communication. The complete failure of electricity both for light and power for several days caused major problems particularly in the Water Department, since in a few hours all supplies to the coastal area from the Mumby source ceased. Difficulties were intensified by the state of the roads and the failure of communication. Many people were without the use of their telephones for several weeks. I have never seen so much chaos resulting from about 10" of snow. This start of the year was followed by hard weather for several weeks. The spring was mild and dry and was followed by a cold, wet and miserable summer and autumn to the great detriment of agriculture and serious damage to the amenities for holiday makers in our vast coastal camping sites area.

The rainfall at Twentylands for the year was 24.63 inches, or an average of 2.05 inches per month. This figure compares with 23.89 inches for 1955, and 29.77 inches in 1954 (a very wet year). The main weight of rain was in the summer and autumn.

There were no changes in the staff of the Public Health Department of the Council during 1956.

Under the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act,1956, Sanitary Inspectors will in future be designated Public Health Inspectors. A change that is long overdue.

Vital Statistics.

Area.

The area of the District is 147,530 acres in 69 parishes.

Population.

The mid-year population is estimated at 23,500.

Density.

The density of population is .158 persons per acre.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value in mid 1956 was £206,300 and the product of a penny rate £448.

Houses.

The number of inhabited houses was 7,755.

Births.

The live births numbered 356, composed of an equal number of male and female infants. This figure compares with 359 in 1955, and 361 in 1954, a wonderfully consistent average of later years but a long way below the peak year of 1945 when there were 450 births. The figure of 356 includes 10 male and 6 female illegitimate children. The total number of live births represents a crude birth rate of 15.15 per thousand of the population. After the application of the comparability factor, which affords a means of adjustment to make allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, a birth rate of 16.61 is obtained. This latter figure compares with 15.7 for the whole of England and Wales.

The illegitimacy rate was 28.1 per thousand live births. A low figure when compared with the 46 for the whole country.

There were 6 still-births, 4 male and 2 female, and of these half of each sex were illegitimate.

Deaths.

The deaths numbered 308, and of these 145 were male and 163 female. This figure compares with 357 in 1955, and 313 in 1954. The crude death rate is 13.1 per thousand of the population and when the comparability factor is applied 8.77. This figure compares with 11.7 for the population of the whole country. The crude death rate is really not a fair index of the number of Spilsby district people who died in the year, since patients are sent into the Gables hospital from far outside our area. These are all old and sick people, and when they die, even if that should occur very shortly after admission, they are classed for registration as members of the Spilsby Rural District.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality, that is the deaths in children under one year of age, was 7. Five male and 2 female. This figure gives an infant mortality rate of 19.6 per thousand live births. The corresponding figure for the whole of England and Wales was 23.8. Of the 7 children who died 4 (3 male and 1 female) were under four weeks old. None of the 8 was illegitimate.

Causes of Deaths.

Of the 308 people who died during the year, the following table shows the causes of their deaths:-

Cause.	Male	Female.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	1	-
Infective or Parasitic disease.	-	1
Cancer of the Stomach.	5	2
Cancer of the Lungs or Bronchi.	4	-
Cancer of the Breast.	-	3
Cancer of the Uterus.	-	4
Cancer, other forms.	15	15
Leukaemia.	-	1
Diabetes.	-	2
Vascular diseases of the Nervous system.	15	33
Coronary disease of the heart, Angina.	22	20
Hypertension with heart disease.	3	5
Other forms of heart disease.	37	47
Other circulatory diseases.	7	5
Pneumonia.	2	2
Bronchitis.	4	1
Other diseases of the respiratory organs.	3	2
Gastric or Duodenal ulcer.	1	-
Gastritis and Enteritis.	1	3
Diseases of the kidney.	2	1
Disease of the Prostate.	5	-
Congenital Malformations.	1	1
Other defined or ill defined diseases.	8	12
C/Fwd.	136	160

	Male.	Female.
B/Fwd.	136	160
Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-
All other accidents.	4	1
Suicide.	2	2
	145	163

There were no deaths due to child birth or any maternal cause.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals, Clinics and Ambulances. These services remain unaltered and are working satisfactorily. It is however to be regretted, as I have mentioned in previous reports, that there is no ambulance centred on Spilsby. I have had, on various occasions, complaints from medical men practising in the district to that effect in recent times.

The shortage of beds for the aged and bedridden sick, though not so serious as at one time, is still much in evidence, and this is so in spite of the tendancy to overcrowding at the Gables Hospital.

Midwifery and Nursing Services. These services are unchanged and have worked satisfactorily throughout the year. Women for their first confinement can, if they wish, and others if home conditions are unsatisfactory, or the possibility of unusual difficulties being encountered, be admitted to the Spilsby, Louth or Skegness hospitals.

Home Help Service. As I mentioned in my last year's report, this important service is slowly being improved in the district but not yet nearly on the scale required. The difficulty is mainly in finding sufficient women, of the right type, for this sort of work. I hope that it will be possible to extend the scope of this work in the near future. Improved living conditions, education and medical science, is year by year increasing the proportion of old people to the rest of the community. With this the welfare of the aged sick and the helpless as well as the overworked housewife, when there is sickness in the home, is an ever increasing problem. Many of such cases that now have to be sent to an institution could be looked after at home if the right kind of help could be found, and this would be to the benefit of the patient as well as to the ratepayer's pocket.

National Assistance Act,1948. Section 47. Under this section of the Act, it was found necessary to take action in one case during the year. A woman who had been bedridden for some years.

Laboratory Examinations. These are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Lincoln, Grimsby and Boston. A great many samples for bacteriological examination are sent every year by the Council's Health Department, particularly samples of water, milk and ice-cream. This important and free service is also extensively used by medical men practising in the district. When the Council requires a complete chemical and bacteriological report on a water sample such is sent to Messrs. W.W. Taylor of Nottingham.

Infectious Diseases. All infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to Boston or Scarthoe Isolation Hospital, except in the cases of acute Poliomyelitis or Tuberculosis. The former are sent to the Long Leys Isolation Hospital at Lincoln, and the latter to whatever hospital is most appropriate to any particular case.

Venereal Diseases. Medical men practising in the district tell me that it is rare nowadays to see fresh cases of these diseases, and no cases were brought to my notice during the year. There is a special clinic for their treatment when necessary.

Prevalence of Disease. There were 240 cases of notifiable infectious diseases reported to me during 1956 compared with 472 in 1955, and 120 in 1954. Of these 240 cases Measles accounted for 146, and Whooping Cough 39. There were 9 cases of the very mild type of Scarlet Fever that we see in these days. All these cases were spread over the whole district without becoming epidemic anywhere. Of non-notifiable infectious diseases chicken-

pox and mumps were prevalent in most of the district during the year, but never to a serious extent. Towards the end of the year there were many cases of a gastric type of influenza from which many people took a considerable time to regain their strength.

There were 10 fresh cases of Tuberculosis notified, 6 of them of the pulmonary type. Throughout the country there are still many fresh cases reported each year, but most of them nowadays, with improved methods, are diagnosed and brought under treatment while still in the early stages and the mortality from this disease is rapidly and steadily falling. With continued improvement in physical and housing standards, and the spread of education, Tuberculosis, which used to be known as the 'white man's plague', is gradually being brought under control by the medical profession and public health authorities and will lose, in time, all its terrors.

As was to be expected in a wet summer and autumn there was little Poliomyelitis at that time of the year. There were however two cases of the paralytic type in the first three months of the year. An unusual time to get troubles of this sort. They both recovered.

There were no cases of food poisoning.

I am glad to be able to report again that there was no Diphtheria in our district during the year. That this disease has been almost stamped out of the country is undoubtedly due to the drive for immunisation that has gone on for the past sixteen years. There is a feeling now amongst many people that since Diphtheria is so rarely seen nowadays that it is not now necessary to have their children immunised. It is however most important that children should continue to be given this protection as without it the risk of a return of this most dreaded of all children's diseases might easily occur.

During the year 1956 in the Spilsby district 312 children under the age of five were immunised, and 100 between five and fifteen years; while 258 received 'booster' doses.

There were 39 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. I am glad to say that more and more parents are realising the great benefit of immunisation for this disease also. The protection is generally given at the same time as the immunisation against Diphtheria and the results are very encouraging. During the year 299 children received this protection.

Vaccination. There were 136 primary vaccinations, and 14 re-vaccinations against Small-pox during the year. The risk of this disease breaking out in England has considerably increased with the speed of modern methods of travel. I regret that so few people in these days avail themselves of the protection given by vaccination.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases in the Spilsby Rural District throughout the year:-

Scarlet Fever.	9
Whooping cough	39
Acute Poliomyelitis	
paralytic	2
non-paralytic	-
Measles.	146
Pneumonia.	20
Dysentry.	11
Meningococcal Infection.	1
Erysipelas	2
Tuberculosis	
Pulmonary	6
Non-pulmonary	4
Total	240

Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

Water Supplies.

Regular tests of the water supplied by the various water undertakings belonging to the Council showed that in all cases the quality continues to be satisfactory. The increased hardness of the water from the Spilsby sandstone, which has been noted for the past few years, has continued, and other Authorities drawing water from the same source have noticed the same change. This state of affairs, while not affecting the purity of the water for drinking purposes, does, in many cases, create a problem in boilers and circulating pipes of domestic hot water systems.

Nowhere in the district was there a shortage of water.

During 1956 the Council's Water Undertakings distributed some 161,527,700 gallons of water in their statutory area at an average of 441,332 gallons per day. This figure is over 4 million gallons more than in 1955. The estimated population supplied was 17,350, and the amount recorded averages a consumption of 25.43 gallons a day per head for all purposes.

Of the total volume supplied 136,049,440 gallons were produced from the Council's own sources, and 25,478,260 gallons from neighbouring Authorities. This latter figure is nearly three million gallons less than the preceding year.

Approximately 29 miles of distribution mains were laid in 1956, bringing the total length of mains in operation, at the close of the year to about 247 miles.

The pressure of water in Spilsby and Hundleby, which has been a matter of anxiety for some years, is now much improved, and with the Driby supply coming into operation, there should be no more trouble on that score. The mains in Spilsby and Hundleby are very old and not in good condition and the time is not far off when they will have to be relaid.

Unquestionably the most memorable event of the Council year was the coming into service of the beginning of the first phase of the immense comprehensive scheme. This scheme is to provide an adequate supply of good water to the whole Spilsby Rural District statutory area from bores at Driby bottom.

During the year the pumping station at Driby was completed and also two cottages for the workmen. The three bores supplying the pumping station are capable of providing a million gallons of excellent water a day.

The two main reservoirs, each to hold a million gallons, were also completed and filled and at the end of the year were undergoing tests. One reservoir is at Scotland House and the other at Skendleby.

An iron removal plant has been installed at the sourceworks, and a clorination plant has been incorporated together with plant for the addition of Calgon, to stabilise the pH values. Thus the water as it goes into supply is of a neutral character.

The whole scheme is divided into three phases, and the filling of part of Scotland House reservoir on 7th July,1956, to supply Spilsby, Hundleby and Partney as an emergency measure was part of the first phase and is a most important mile-stone in the development of water undertakings in East Lincolnshire.

It is hoped to complete the first phase during 1957. The cost to date is £239,365. 17. 9d.

In August,1956, the second phase of the scheme was started. It will provide an interconnection between the new Driby source and the Coastal Area by means of a 12 inch main. This phase is due for completion in May,1957. Up to date this phase has cost £30,462. 14. 2d.

The third and final phase of this scheme has been approved by the Ministry and is awaiting their final permission to proceed. The Council are anxious to make a start as soon as possible and its completion would result in our statutory area being 100% supplied with piped water.

The advent of the comprehensive scheme will centralise, to a very large extent, the Council's source of water supply, and the direct result of its coming into operation will enable the Council to close down several of the smaller pumping stations. Some of these latter will be maintained as stand-bys in case of emergency.

Housing.

During the year the Council completed 44 new houses consisting of:-

(a) 14 three-bedroomed houses
(b) 30 bungalows

The Council is now concentrating upon two-bedroomed bungalows as these are cheaper in construction and therefore lower rented, and further it will enable the Council to transfer small families from existing houses.

A special residence for elderly persons has been designed and work has commenced where the occupiers will have a part-time Warden to look after them. This will be particularly suitable for persons who are not sufficiently incapacitated to require full residential care. The Lindsey County Council Welfare Department will assist in the welfare services to be provided. This type of plan is specially designed for village communities and is being built in blocks of six. This should prove a substantial contribution to the care and well-being of the elderly and is suitable for adoption on national scale.

A total of 1018 families are now housed by the Council under the following categories:-

(a)	Council dwellings (brick)	876
(b)	" " (non traditional Airy)	40
(c)	" " (" " Prefab.)	60
(d)	" " (" " Swedish).	8
(e)	Dwellings (converted Land Army Hostel).	10
(f)	Old Council offices (now four flats)	4
(g)	Hutments (Camp sites etc.,)	20

During the year 122 families were re-housed by the Council in the following categories:-

1.	Families removed from overcrowded or sublets.	29
2.	Families removed from houses classified in Category 4 of the Housing Rural Survey.	24
3.	Families removed from houses classified in Category 5 of the Housing Rural Survey.	14
4.	Families rehoused from hutment camping sites.	2
5.	Families re-housed other than above.	53

Improvement Grants.

Rapid progress continues with improvement of properties, and during the year 1956, 204 applications were granted, of which 5, subsequently, were withdrawn. The works covered new bathrooms, drainage, floors, staircases, damp proof courses, additional bedrooms and artificial lighting, and a small number of large houses have been converted for two families. The total amount of grants paid is £55,446, representing an average of £273. 2. 0d per house, which is equivalent to 32.8% of the total cost.

Sub-Standard Houses.

The provisional housing programme is based on the re-housing needs in those parishes which are subject to recommended action under the Housing Act dealing with condemned property.

As a result of the Housing Survey carried out in the past two years 1,958 properties were grouped in categories 4 and 5. Of this figure, 540 were provisionally scheduled for demolition under Section 11 of the Housing Act,1936, they being found to be of such a poor standard that they could not be made fit for human habitation at a reasonable expense. It was considered that the rest of these properties could, with grants, be brought up to the required standard.

It is not only a physical, but also a financial impossibility, to re-house, within a short period, all the families at present living in unfit premises. Careful consideration has therefore been given to the most urgent cases. A planned programme over a five to seven year period has been entered upon, with a view to erecting approximately 60 houses or bungalows each year for the re-housing of families living in slum premises.

Every effort is being made to disturb as little as possible those aged people who are living in sub-standard conditions but are most anxious to end their days in their present houses.

The problem that faces us to-day is the large number of houses in which families must live, indeed in which the major proportion desire to live, for many years to come but which definitely need re-conditioning.

From conversations with tenants and owners, during the housing survey, we have noted the interesting and different aspects of their problems. There is the tenant who feels that he is missing and being robbed of his comforts in life by the lack of desirable amenities in his home. There is the owner of property quite content to forego the amenities, which should be desirable in his home, and contends that such luxuries are not required by houses owned by him. There is also the owner who has had handed down to him property which has from one cause or another been neglected, and will now incur him in a heavier burden than he can afford, even with a 50% grant.

It is satisfactory that there has been a steady increase in the number of properties for which an Improvement Grant has been applied. If the present rate continues and houses are built to replace slum properties as scheduled, one can look forward with confidence to a time, not so very far off, when the people of this wide rural area will all be living under good conditions.

Scavenging Services.

Domestic refuse is collected in all parishes throughout the district, that is sixty-nine parishes. There is a once weekly collection in seven built up parishes, and in the other sixty-two there is a collection once in every three weeks.

Situated throughout the district the Council has eight refuse tips. Due to the vast amount of refuse from Butlins Holiday Camp (population estimated at 9,000 during the peak of the season) it is advisable to adopt the trench method of tipping and covering that was inaugurated by the Council four years ago. The Council agreed to the Public Health Committee's recommendations that an extra man be engaged at the main Coastal tip at Hogsthorpe to cope with the large increase of refuse from the camping areas in the summer time. Unfortunately, this was not done owing to the difficulty of finding the necessary labour. This extra help must be forthcoming for 1957 if the Hogsthorpe refuse tip is to be kept in satisfactory condition. This tip cannot be kept as it should be without sufficient manual labour and the necessary machinery.

During the summer the Council purchased a tractor for work at the tips. This service - man and tractor - when working properly will provide efficient control of our tips.

Other refuse tips at Langrick, Burgh, New Bolingbroke, Stickney, Friskney, Bilsby and in particular Spilsby, serve a most useful purpose. The Spilsby tip, central for many parishes, causes little trouble and should be useful for many years. It is easy to run, economical and efficient.

Co-operation by the various camp site owners in placing the ashbins at agreed positions was found most helpful to the workmen, and if all owners could be required to adopt this recommendation as stressed by the Chief Public Health Inspector there could be a definite saving in the cost of running this service.

The time has definitely come when a larger refuse vehicle is needed. The present 10-12 cubic capacity vehicle requires too many journeys to and from the tip, thus time and expense are wasted. In 1956 there were some 4,356 caravans on our highly developed camp sites. Each caravan has its own dustbin packed with refuse, that consists of 80% - 85% paper so that a refuse vehicle is soon filled.

The modern type of 18-20 cubic yard, fore and aft, refuse collection vehicle, with combined large capacity and easy loading, would give better and more

efficient results. Too much time is wasted by the present method of pressing the light combustible refuse material whereas the modern dustless loading type with fore and aft tipper consolidates the refuse. This diesel engine type of vehicle would repay itself very soon.

Sewerage.

The gradual spreading of our water mains all over the Spilsby district, and the steady improvement of housing conditions by the gradual elimination of slum property, the building of new houses with modern amenities, and the improvement of large numbers of sub-standard houses with the provision of bathrooms, water lavatories, sinks, etc., brings with it the urgent necessity of providing modern sewerage and sewage disposal works. As I have stressed in previous reports the need for the eradication of our out-dated, unsatisfactory, and over-loaded present methods of disposal in certain parts of the district, is a matter which cannot continue to be postponed. The Council is well aware of the urgency of this matter and for long has been pressing the Ministry to allow modern works to be installed but progress is deplorably slow owing to the financial stringency.

I am glad to be able to report that during the year the sewage disposal schemes for Chapel St. Leonards and Hogsthorpe made marked progress, and it is hoped that they will be completed and in operation early in 1957. It is however to be regretted that the camp site area in Chapel St. Leonards was not included in the scheme.

I am sorry to have to report that there has been no further progress with the other main schemes.

Ingoldmells.

During the year I have, on request from the Ministry, submitted two full and comprehensive reports on the vital and extreme urgency of approval for sewers and sewage disposal works for the parish of Ingoldmells. This particular seaside resort is rapidly growing in its built-up area, and has a large number of camping sites which in the summer contain many thousands of caravans. A brief survey by car along the Roman Bank, Sea Lane, Anchor Lane and Walls Lane, is sufficient to convince anyone of the urgent need for modern amenities such as sewage works.

One sincerely trusts that the Ministry will not long delay its approval for this scheme, and that 1957 will see the commencement of works in this direction.

Burgh and Wainfleet.

At a time when the Council's building expansion programme is in full swing and every effort is being made to improve living conditions, it is most unfortunate that financial stringency should be so acute.

Conditions at the disposal works at Burgh and Wainfleet are so unsatisfactory that one feels that in spite of this stringency the Council should continue to impress on the Ministry the urgent necessity for new sewage disposal works to take the place of the present shockingly out-dated works in these two rapidly growing built-up areas.

Spilsby.

It was not found possible during 1956 to renew the third filter bed in the Spilsby disposal works. The large number of new houses recently built in Spilsby have considerably over-loaded these works and to ensure a satisfactory effluent during the coming year it is essential that all three filter beds should be in full working order.

Anderby Creek.

Approval for the start of this scheme has not yet been given, I regret to say, by the Minister.

Candlesby.

Outline proposals for sewage disposal plant for this village are under consideration.

Night Soil Collection.

In the Coastal villages of Ingoldmells, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe and Anderby, all premises including camp sites where there are pail closets receive a twice weekly collection during the summer holiday period and a weekly service during the remainder of the year.

Spilsby, Wainfleet All Saints, Wainfleet St. Mary and Burgh have a once weekly collection throughout the year.

When the main drainage scheme for Chapel St. Leonards and Hogsthorpe is completed there will still be a considerable amount of work for the night soil vehicle since, unfortunately, for the large camp site area permission was not granted for sewers to be laid. This area being put outside the drainage scheme.

The disposal of night soil is at times of prolonged wet weather a matter of great difficulty since the fields placed at the disposal of the Council for that purpose are liable to become sodden and so impossible for our vehicles to enter.

In addition to pail closets there are in the district and on many camp sites a large number of cesspools, the contents of which must be emptied from time to time. During the year 515 such cesspools were emptied.

When the disposal of night soil on fields becomes impossible the contents of the vehicles are emptied into the covered refuse filled trenches, and in this way disposed of in a satisfactory manner.

The completion of the new sewage disposal works for Chapel St. Leonards and Hogsthorpe in 1957 will overcome, to a great extent, our present difficulties.

Camp Sites.

The popularity of a camping holiday amongst the populace shows no signs of decreasing. On the contrary there is a marked increase in this family holiday movement. This is evinced by our controlled Coastal land for camping sites being used almost in its entirety.

During the year 97 camp sites were licensed, and it is estimated that there were 4,453 caravans on these sites. These figures do not take into account the sites used by the Lads Brigade, Boy Scouts, etc., and in particular tents pitched by holiday makers during the August Bank Holiday period.

By the composite nature of the land almost every camp site is potentially a future source of nuisance in some degree. The very nature of the marsh lands causes dykes and drains to be adjacent or in close proximity to the camp sites. Thus without proper sewers, and a modern constructed sewage works, these open dykes and drains are always a potential source of danger to health. The water in the dykes is held up during the summer months, with the result that in addition to dead vegetation in the open drains and dykes, there is also too much indiscriminate discharge of offensive liquids from careless and irresponsible persons occupying caravans near these dykes. The only solution and practical remedy is for the Ministry to expedite permission for the Council to lay sewers which will allow camp sites to discharge all effluent to these sewers, and eventually to a modern constructed sewage works. Due to the curtailment of Exchequer Grants it seems likely that we may have to await a longer period than we had visualised for these amenities. Such being the case it is a matter for consideration as to whether it is not possible for the contaminated water in the dykes, and open drains around the camp sites held up during the summer months, to discharge into the sea without detriment to the farms and the cattle that are dependent on a high summer dyke level for many miles inland. By this means the offensive odours from the effluent would certainly be reduced.

The extremely wet summer caused considerable difficulty to the Council's workmen engaged on dry refuse and night soil removal on camp sites. Owners of new camp sites should not be allowed to place a caravan on the site until the public health officials are satisfied that there are:-

(1) wide entrances - minimum 12 feet in width - laid with hard materials, and
(2) a perimeter road to be of hard material and sufficient width.

Generally speaking camp sites on our coastal belt have been greatly improved by the owners, and in most cases are now up to a very satisfactory standard, but there are still some owners who appear to take little pride in the appearance of their camp or the amenities they provide. In the south of the district some camps that are mainly used for fishing holidays were found by the Officials to be in such an unsatisfactory state as to cause considerable concern to the Health Department. Gross overcrowding and insanitary conditions were present and a serious warning had to be administered.

Food Hygiene.

The changes in the Food and Drugs legislation for controlling the composition, labelling, fitness and hygienic handling of food, and also the Food Hygiene Regulations for the enforcement of food hygiene practice, has considerably strengthened the safeguards necessary to minimise, and ultimately reduce, the considerable increase in cases of food poisoning that has been so marked in recent years.

As confirmed by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, processed and made up meats, meat pies, pressed meats, brawn, stews and sausages are the chief articles that have been causing outbreaks of food poisoning. It was essential therefore that the efforts of the Public Health Department should be directed towards establishments preparing such foods for sale.

The Officers of the Public Health Department of the Council concentrated much time on this work in 1956 with good results as evinced by the monthly reports that were submitted to the Committee by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Propaganda in hygiene education was also carried out at the same time as the routine inspection of premises.

Immediately the Food Hygiene Regulations,1955, came into operation on the 1st January,1956, detailed informative circulars were prepared concerning equipment and food handling and these were distributed to hotels, public houses, catering premises, cafes, fish shops, butchers premises, grocers, confectionery shops, stall holders, etc. All such properties were circularised in March, and later visited, and advice given on what essential alterations must be done.

Typical of a rural district we have no large industrial businesses where food is manufactured, prepared or sold. Our shops are mainly the family owned establishments, and personal contact is thus easily established. A casual conversation during inspection on the faults and shortcomings that are found, and the reasons why changes are essential, serves a useful purpose. Gradually there is being built up a satisfactory confidence between the Council's Officers and the owners of such premises and this is bringing good results.

Also as a result of the Food Hygiene Regulations requirements we insisted upon certain improvements at the large annual events held in the open air during the summer with results that were, I believe, to the satisfaction of the public and also the organisers. Prior to the event personal visits were made to the marquees and tents where food was prepared or distributed, and as a result while utensils, apparatus etc., was not elaborate, the temporary arrangements were in compliance with the Regulations and to our satisfaction. Much was done by these visits and undoubtedly in future years further improvements will be accomplished.

It is not without regret that I report that it was found necessary to close down two family bakehouses. These premises have for long been a source of worry and despite our efforts and patience to help them improve their standards of cleanliness it was not found possible to bring them up to the required conditions.

From time to time one hears vague rumours that at one or other of the less satisfactory food premises dirty cutlery and crockery are to be seen. The cure for such troubles is very largely in the hands of the public themselves. If people finding such unsatisfactory conditions will demand to see the management at once, walk out of the premises and report the matter to the Health Authority, it will be of immense help to the Inspectors in their work. If the community will insist upon clean food and hygienic conditions in catering establishments and will co-operate with the Health Officials in this matter they will get what we and they want.

Ice Cream.

Ice cream continues to be a popular stable food, and in our seaside resorts there is, in the summer months, heavy sales of this commodity. New premises registered during the year totalled twelve, all selling wrapped ice cream. There are now 103 registered premises in the district, all retailing ice cream, and there is one registered premise for the making of ice cream.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 9 licensed premises, situated in various parts of the Spilsby Rural District. Slaughtering varies at different days and times, with the result that it is just not possible to inspect all carcases and organs within the statutory time permitted for the removal of such carcases and organs. The Health Officials are aware that meat inspection is one of the most important duties of public health administration and as much time as possible is given to this side of their work. Generally speaking about 30% of the carcases and organs are inspected at the time of slaughtering, and about 45% of the remainder of animals slaughtered, i.e., part carcases etc., in the refrigerator or slaughterhouses, by late inspections.

A contravention did occur at one slaughterhouse. During killing an abscess was noticed by the slaughterman in a bovine liver. Instead of notifying the Local Authority as to the diseased condition he had found (as is required in the Regulations) the butcher cut out the diseased part. It was during an inspection of the contents of the refrigerator that one of the Officers observed a part of the liver and his suspicion was aroused. A search amongst the offal manure contents revealed the missing diseased liver. A very serious warning was given to the butcher by the Council.

Condemned Food.

The following food was destroyed as unfit for human consumption:-

Bovines.	
2 carcases.	585 lb.
7 parts of carcases.	269½lb.
Pigs.	
1 whole carcase.	260 lb.
Sundry Foods.	
3 tins ham.	34¼lb.
33 tins assorted foods.	

The disposal of condemned food varies. Diseased meat is rendered unsaleable by coloured liquid and dispatched to a well known hide and skin merchant should the owner express a desire for this procedure. Otherwise the meat is sent to the kennels. All tinned foods are satisfactorily disposed of.

Salvage.

The following salvage was collected during the year:-

	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Baled paper and cardboard.	24.	16.	3.	189.	7.	10.
Books and magazines.	17.	19.	3.	164.	3.	5.
Fibreboard Containers.	25.	7.	0.	244.	6.	11.
Newspapers.	26.	0.	0.	263.	3.	11.
	94.	3.	2.	861.	2.	1.
Mixed scrap iron, metal, rags and bottles.				18.	0.	9.
				£879.	2.	10.

Rodent Inspections and Treatments.

	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural Premises.	All others including business and industrial premises.
(a) Inspections.	316	649	151
(b) Treatments			
(Rats)			
major	-	3	-
minor	52	75	19
(Mice)			
minor	2	-	1

Finally may I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for the active interest they have taken in Public Health work, and also in particular the Members of the Staff for the immense amount of loyal work they have put in during the year in maintaining and improving the efficiency of the health services of the Spilsby Rural District.

I have the honour to be Mr. Chairman, Mrs Ward and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department.

Report of work done by Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1956.

HOUSING.

Total number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1)	By the Local Authority	44
(11)	By other Local Authorities	1
(111)	By other bodies or persons	55

Housing Repairs and Rents Act,1954.

(i)	No. of houses scheduled for demolition but retained by formal action under Secs. 2, 3, 4 or 6.	Nil.
(ii)	No. of certificates of disrepair issued.	Nil.

Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	174
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	193

Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	176

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act,1936:-

(1)	No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
(2)	No. 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)	No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2)	No. of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) by owners ... Nil. (b) by local authority in default of owners ...	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act,1936:-

(1)	No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	13
(2)	No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5
(3)	No. of dwellinghouses subject to undertakings or Closing Orders	10

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act,1936:-

(1)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit.	Nil

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:-

(1)	No. of Clearance Orders made. ...	Nil
(2)	No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance thereof	Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)	(I) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	18
	(II) No. of persons concerned in such cases	96
(b)	(I) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	Not known.
	(II) No. of families dwelling therein ...	-
	(III) No. of persons dwelling therein ...	-

Housing Act, 1949.

No. of houses for which applications for grants have been received.	204
No. of houses subject to grant. ...	203
No. of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry ...	Nil

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.	No. of site licences ...	97
	Permitted number of caravans on licensed sites.	4453
	No. of inspections during the year - Sites	480
	- Dwellings	-
	No. of contraventions remedied.	10

FOOD PREMISES.

Bakehouses.	No. in district. ...	25
	No. of inspections. ...	31
	No. of contraventions ...	2
	Defects remedied ...	2
Milk Supplies.	No. of distributors on register - Sterilised	3
	Past: 5. T.T. 7. N/D 18.	
	No. of samples of milk taken in course of delivery (other than biological) Sterilised	-
	Past: -. T.T. -. N/D -	
	No. of samples satisfactory - Sterilised	-
	Past -. T.T. -. N/D -	
	No. of inspections of dairy premises.	73
	Contraventions remedied ...	-
Ice Cream.	No. of manufacturers on register	1
	No. of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	103
	No. of inspections of premises made	93
	No. of contraventions found ...	-
	-do- remedied ...	-
	No. of samples taken - Grade I - Grade II -	
	Grade III - Grade IV -	
Meat Products.	No. of premises registered for manufacture of meat products. ...	22
	No. of inspections made ...	541
	No. of contraventions found ...	10
	-do- remedied ...	8
Other Food Premises.	No. of inspections (made under the Food Hygiene Regulations)	255
	No. of contraventions found ...	57
	No. of contraventions remedied ...	47
Slaughterhouses.	No. licensed - Abattoir type ...	Nil
	- Private (individual)	9
	No. operated by local authority ...	Nil

UNSOUND FOOD.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
No. killed (if known)		N O T	K N O W N.			
No. inspected.	363	2	10	217	336	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci -						
Whole carcases condemned.	2	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only -						
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticerosis -						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other Foods Condemned.

34½ lb. tinned ham.
33 tins assorted foods.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food -

Meat (a) Hide and skin merchant.
(b) Kennels.

Other Foods - Burning.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Closets.	No. of houses with privy vaults in district.	2242
	No. of houses with pail closets in district.	2848
	No. of houses with water closets in district.	2539
	No. of water closets substituted for pail closets and privy vaults.	132
Cesspools and Septic Tanks.	No. of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc. ...	515
	No. of cesspools & septic tanks abolished	-
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.	Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewerage arrangements improved	Chapel St. Leonards and Hogsthorpe.
	Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved.	-do-
	Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons	Anderby, Ingoldmells, Burgh-le-Marsh and Wainfleet All Saints.
Water Supplies.	Domestic -	
	No. of houses supplied from public mains - in house	5327
	standpipe/outside tap	75
	No. of houses supplied from private sources - in house	Not known.
	not in house	Not known.
	New sources of supply and location - public	Driby.
	No. of new sources of supply and location - private.	Nil.
	No. of houses supplied therefrom.	Not known.
	No. of public supplies closed as (i) polluted	-
	(ii) other reasons	-
	Any part of district requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for public health reasons.	-
	No. of samples taken for chemical examination:-	
	from public supplies - Satisfactory	2
	- unsatisfactory	-
	from private supplies - satisfactory	7
	- unsatisfactory	-

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination:-

	Cl.I.	Cl.II.	Cl.III.	Cl.IV.
from public supplies.	68	67	4	3
from private supplies.	2	13	3	17

Swimming Pools.	No. of public swimming pools in operation	-
	No. fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination ...	-
	No. of samples of swimming pool water taken for chemical examination. (a) Satisfactory.	-
	(b) Not -do-	-
	No. of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination - (a) Satisfactory.	-
	(b) Not satisfactory.	-

GENERAL.

Offensive Trades.	No. of premises in district ...	-
	No. of inspections ...	-
	Contraventions remedied ...	-
Knackers Yards.	No. licensed. ...	-
	No. of inspections ...	-
	Contraventions remedied ...	-
Shops Act, 1950.	No. of shops inspected ...	-
	Contraventions remedied ...	-

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Rooms or premises disinfected -	
(a) infectious disease other than tuberculosis.	11
(b) tuberculosis. ...	2
No. of premises subject to disinfestation	7

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Parishes served by scavenging scheme -
Spilsby, Wainfleet All Saints, Burgh-le-Marsh, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe, Ingoldmells, Anderby, Bilsby, Partney, Stickford, Stickney, East Kirkby, New Bolingbroke, Friskney, Wainfleet St. Mary, Addlethorpe, Welton-le-Marsh, Orby, Eastville, New Leake, Toynton All Saints, East Keal, Mumby, Hundleby, Huttoft, Sibsey, Great Steeping, Willoughby, Little Steeping, Firsby, Candlesby, Croft, Brinkhill, Irby, Gunby, Scremby, Skendleby, Ashby, Halton, Toynton St. Peter, Old Bolingbroke, Raithby, West Keal, Frithville, Midville, Bratoft, Hagnaby, Aswardby, Ulceby, Thorpe St. Peter, Thornton-le-Fen, South Ormsby, Rigsby, Markby, Langton, Calceby, Carrington, Claxby, Cumberworth, Dalby, Driby, Farlesthorpe, Hareby, Harrington, Langriville, Mavis Enderby, Sausthorpe, Westville and Well, West Fen.

How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	Once weekly in the parishes of Spilsby, Wainfleet All Saints, Burgh-le-Marsh, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe, Ingoldmells, Hundleby and the remaining 62 parishes, once every three weeks.
Method of disposal.	(a) Open controlled tipping. (b) Trench controlled tipping.
Is this satisfactory?	Yes.
Is collection by Local Authority or Contract.	Local Authority.

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during year :	
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Public Health Inspector.	530
(2) Reported to Council - Statutory notice issued.	2
Statutory notice not issued.	-

Details of Nuisances abated.

	After informal intimation	After statutory notice.
Refuse.	3	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water.	18	-
Drainage	515	-
Poultry and Animals	2	-
Dangerous premises	-	-
Miscellaneous Nuisances.	2	-

Rats and Mice Destruction.

No. of rodent operatives employed.	1
No. of premises treated:-	
(a) dwellinghouses.	58
(b) other premises.	102
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district?	No.

Atmospheric Pollution.

No. of visits. ...	Nil.
No. of nuisances found ...	Nil.
No. of nuisances abated ...	Nil.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

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

Premises.	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted	M/c line No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	22	4	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	104	81	4	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total.		126	85	4	-	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	M/c line No.	No. of cases in which defects were found. Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	Referred By H.M. Inspector.	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	M/c line No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	-	1	-	1	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7). (a) insufficient.	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	10	3	-	-	3	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes.	11	1	-	-	1	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Total.	60	4	1	-	5	-	60

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111.

NIL.