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Contributors

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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

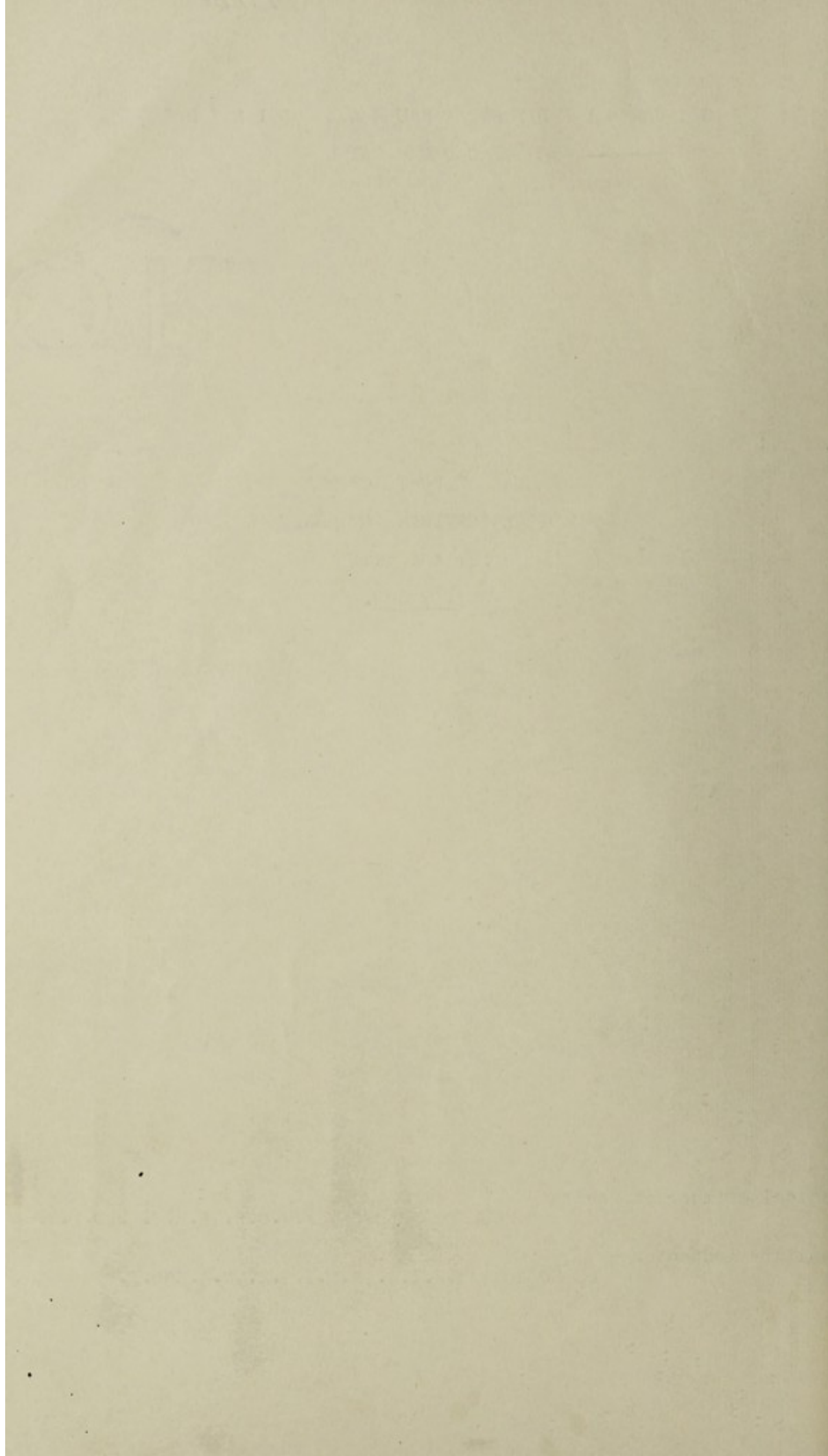
1952.

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -

F. HODSON, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.



Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1953.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1952.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained good and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

Elsewhere in the report I refer to the housing situation in the district, but at this point I should like to express the satisfaction which it has given me to be associated with a Council which has solved entirely the one major post war problem which faced every local district council in 1945.

I am indebted to Mr. Dean and Mr. Hodson, your Sanitary Inspectors, for their co-operation and help during the year and for their assistance in preparing this report and to my clerk, Miss. P. Goddard, for her efficient services throughout the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Steptoe, your Housing Manager, Miss. Bradley, and all the other members of your staff.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Lord E Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.

General Office,
Birmingham, 1902.
Dear Sir,

1st June 1902.

To the Chairman and Members,
Birmingham and District Council.

Dear Sirs,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt for the year

1902.

The report is prepared and will be presented in accordance
with the requirements of the Statutory Orders (Birmingham
Regulations 1902 & 1901).

The report shows that the health of the district during the
year has remained good and that there has been no undue increase
of persons infectious diseases.

Whereas in the report I refer to the housing situation in
the district, but at this time I should like to express the
satisfaction which we have in the improvement which has been
made in the housing situation and the fact that the year has
passed without any serious outbreak of disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Lamb and Mr. Wilson, Joint Sanitary
Inspectors, for their co-operation and help during the year and
for their assistance in preparing this report and to Mr. Lamb,
Mr. P. Collins, for their efficient services throughout the year.

My I also acknowledge the help co-operation and assistance
I always receive from Mr. Lamb, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Lamb, and all the other members of the staff.

Trusting, I would like to thank you, Sir, for your
for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. Lamb

Medical Officer of Health.

STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1952.

A. Area - 45,364 acres.
Rateable value - £45,679.
Production of a penny rate - £180.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,566

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures	
				(a) Sturminster R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	72	74	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 15.5		
Legitimate	70	72			
Illegitimate	2	2		17.1	15.3

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	5		Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.5	0.5	0.3
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DEATHS.

Total	64	68	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.6	9.2	11.3
Deaths in infants under one year	6	6	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 41.0	41.0	27.6

Deaths from Tuberculosis - 2

Deaths from maternal causes - Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the Ambulance Service, continued to be provided by the County Council. The Public Health Laboratory Service has proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

Senior Sanitary Inspector - J.H. Dean, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
who also carries out duties of Waterworks & Sewerage Engineer.
Sanitary Inspector - F. Hodson, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.
This officer is engaged full time on sanitary duties.

Clerical Staff - one whole time clerk.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) quantity.

Total consumption from Council's own sources	146,804,000
Deduct bulk supplies to -	
Dorchester R.D.C. 1. Brockhampton	2,431,000
2. Buckland Newton	2,945,000
3. Consumers in Dorchester R.D. served direct from Sturminster R.D.C.'s main (approx) -	2,000,000
Sherborne R.D.C. 1. Holwell and Bishops Caundle	7,263,000
	14,639,000
	<u>132,165,000</u>
Add bulk supply from Wincanton R.D.C.	16,136,000
Net District Consumption	<u>148,301,000</u>
Total water afforded by metered supplies	55,789,000
Total unmetered water supplied (mainly domestic)	<u>92,512,000</u>
Average per head per day:- <u>27 gallons</u> based on Population of <u>9,279 persons.</u>	

Reliable Yields. The Council's own sources of water supply are from springs from greensand outcrops, and actual gaugings give the following reliable yields:-

Cookwell, Okeford Fitzpaine	150,000 g.p.d.
Duntish, Buckland Newton	96,000 g.p.d.
Ibberton	26,000 g.p.d.
Shillingstone	26,000 g.p.d.
Total -	<u>298,000 g.p.d.</u>

It was possible to avoid restriction of water supplies during 1952, chiefly owing to the progress of the works at Alton Pancras.

Water from the new boreholes was passed into the Buckland Newton reservoir supplying Glanvilles Footton, Mappowder, Hazelbury Bryan and Fifehead Neville, thereby relieving the call on the Council's Cookwell source at Okeford Fitzpaine.

There has been a steady increase, however, in consumption in the district, and also in the bulk supplies afforded to Dorchester and Sherborne R.D.Cs.

At the same time, there have been repeated requests from Wincanton R.D.C. to reduce consumption (approx 40,000 g.p.d.) in the bulk supply from the Wincanton mains at Priors Down, all of which create severe difficulties in the fall of the year. No relief can be obtained from these problems until Alton Pancras water is linked with the existing and new Stalbridge reservoirs, and it is hoped that this will be possible by August 1954.

(b) quality.

The quality of all the Council's supplies have remained in all respects satisfactory throughout the year. Regular monthly samples are submitted for bacteriological examination and a chemical examination is carried out each year.

(c) New Works. The following new works were carried out during the year and were almost completed:-

- (1) New 9", 4" and 2" water mains at Buckland Newton - King Stag, Shillingstone and Hazelbury Bryan.
- (2) New reservoir at Frith, Stalbridge.

New works to be done.

- (1) 8" main King Stag - Stalbridge.
- (2) 5" main Lydlinch Common to Sturminster Newton.
- (3) New 30,000 gallon reservoir at Fifehead Magdalen, together with a booster station near Marnhull Convent.

The above works are urgently required in order to make more use of Alton Pancras water, and so feed the deficiency in supply that occurs during the fall of the year.

Distribution.

PARISH	Council Mains			Private Mains.			Wells etc.	
	In	Out	Public Stand-pipes.	In	Out	Public Stand-pipes.	In	Out
Child Okeford	124	17	-	4	-	-	1	13
Fifehead Magdalen	26	3	-	4	-	-	1	13
Fifehead Neville	34	6	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hazelbury Bryan	120	18	-	1	-	-	1	9
Hanford	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hammoon	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hinton St. Mary	7	-	-	35	14	-	-	2
Ibberton	20	5	2	1	-	4	2	-
Lydlinch	58	18	-	-	-	-	1	2
Manston	34	8	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mappowder	37	-	2	-	-	-	1	7
Marnhull	230	22	11	5	-	-	2	31
Okeford Fitzpaine	112	4	8	7	-	-	-	-
Pulham	32	6	4	-	-	-	-	-
Stalbridge	270	19	18	-	-	-	-	5
Shillingstone	122	6	-	4	-	-	4	17
Stoke Wake	-	-	-	12	4	-	-	-
Stourton Caundle	49	-	10	2	-	-	1	7
Sturminster Newton	380	15	5	-	-	-	1	3
Woolland	-	-	-	16	3	1	-	7
Wootton Glanvilles	36	3	-	13	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	1714	153	60	104	21	5	16	122
Council Houses	1003							
TOTAL	2717	153	60	104	21	5	16	122

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New works. During 1952, work was completed on the Marnhull No. 2 scheme which involved 2 sewers and pumping station at Sodom Lane. The scheme is now in operation.

Substantial progress was made on the sewers in Child Okeford (contract No. 5) following completion of sewers for part of Child Okeford in contract No. 4.

The Mappowder scheme was completed.

Fifty-two sewerage connections were made during the year and 16 conversions of earth closets to W.C.s were carried out.

Existing Works. Maintenance at the small works at Marnhull, Manston, Stourton Caundle, Hazelbury Bryan, Pulham and Glanvilles

Wootton is carried out by a 'Flying Squad' which also carries out work with the Council's cesspool emptier.

The works at Stalbridge and Shillingstone have full time maintenance and are satisfactorily maintained.

Approved Schemes. The following schemes have been approved by the Ministry, but have not yet been commenced:-

- (a) Marnhull and Hinton St. Mary - remaining part of parishes - and extension of sewage disposal works.
- (b) Sturminster Newton - sewerage and sewage disposal works.
- (c) Hazelbury Bryan - remaining part of parish and extension of sewage disposal works.
- (d) Lydlinch - sewerage part of parish and provision of sewage disposal works.
- (e) Glanvilles Wootton - sewerage remainder of built up area.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. Controlled tipping of refuse commenced during the year at the new refuse tip at Fifehead Neville Common.

A tractor with mechanical bucket and hydraulic lift was purchased during the year to assist with the control of the tip and the covering of the surface with earth.

A small amount of tipping of refuse still takes place at the Copse House Quarry, Stalbridge. This is uncontrolled and should be abandoned.

(b) Salvage. The following materials were salvaged and sold during the year:-

	<u>Weight.</u>			<u>Value.</u>		
	t.	c.	q.	lbs.	£.	s.
Waste Paper	11.	17.	3.	0.	159.	8.
Newspaper		11.	0.	0.	12.	2.
Books		11.	0.	0.	9.	12.
Rags		19.	0.	3.	19.	2.
Bagging		1.	2.	22.		11.
Mixed Metal		6.	2.	6.	19.	11.
String		2.	3.	6.		14.
Carpet		2.	2.	0.		12.
Bones		4.	1.	23.	2.	19.
	14.	16.	3.	4.	£224.	14.

There was considerable difficulty caused during the year due to the collapse of the waste paper market and although as much paper was stored as possible, there is still difficulty in disposal and a good deal of this material has had to be burnt.

A scrap iron week campaign was held during the year, but the results were very poor owing to the fact that the district had been 'combed' by small dealers who were quite active in consideration of the profits obtainable.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The cesspool emptying service operated under Section 74 of the P.H.A. 1936 has been valuable during the year and has almost completely eliminated cesspool nuisances.

This cesspool emptier is also used in connection with the maintenance of small sewage disposal works in small villages and on housing estates and also operates at the request of adjoining Rural District Councils.

No of cesspools emptied during the year - 657.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Pollution of the River Stour from the untreated sewage and

milk factory effluent at Sturminster Newton continues. The proposed scheme for the provision of treatment works will eliminate this pollution.

Minor degrees of stream pollution take place in those parishes not yet provided with adequate sewerage schemes.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	21
No. of defects found	4
No. of notices served	3
No. of notices complied with	2

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	20	5
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	28	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	23	36	5
Total -	67	84	12

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>	
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness	6	5
Sanitary Conveniences -		
(a) Insufficient	4	3
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2
	12	10

No. of outworkers = 47.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access.

10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No camping sites were licensed, but eight licences were granted permitting individual caravans to be stationed on specified sites.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The following infestations have been dealt with during the year:-

<u>Ants.</u>	<u>Cockroaches.</u>	<u>Fleas.</u>	<u>Furniture Beetles.</u>
1	9	11	1

The method used in connection with these infestations and which has proved satisfactory has been the use of Pybruthrin Powder.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The Rodent Officer and his staff of two operatives are available for the treatment of infestations and the organisation has worked smoothly during the year.

The number of inspections carried out by the district Council totalled 121 and the number of treatments carried out by the Joint Committee were 260. Infestations at the Council's Sewage disposal works were successfully treated with a Warfarin base poison.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises (if any)	Nil
No. of licensed premises (if any)	Nil
No. of inspections carried out in respect to such premises	Nil

14. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Inspection of the sanitary condition of the schools and school canteens in the area was carried out. With the provision of village sewerage schemes, more satisfactory conservancy arrangements have been provided in a number of schools. The antiquated latrines at the Manston Primary School remain unsatisfactory and unhygienic and attention should be given to this matter at an early date.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of persons requiring institutional or hospital care.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	502
No. of inspections made	695
No. of informal notices served	36
No. of informal notices complied with	34
No. of statutory notices served	10
No. of statutory notices complied with	10

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	10
Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -	

Demolition Orders made	1
Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	Nil
(ii) Reconditioning	9

The representation of houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 often creates the impression that the Sanitary Officers are anxious to secure the demolition of unfit property when, in fact, the opposite result is reached as these figures demonstrate. Instead of 10 houses, no longer fit for human habitation, being used, one only was demolished and the remaining 9 were re-conditioned and made fit for use.

Most of the 'unfit' property in the district is occupied by old people (many owner occupiers) who are content with the conditions under which they are living and in respect to whom hardship would be caused by any action being taken to deal with

such property. No action has, therefore, been initiated in respect to such property until it has become vacated and the property has become potential homes for young families.

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	1
No. of cases of over-crowding abated	1
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

No. of Houses in the District.

No. of houses owned by the Council	1,003
No. of houses privately owned	2,229
Total	3,232

Rural Housing Survey.

No. inspected (with classification)	Preliminary.	Detailed.
Category 1	1048	53
" 2	707	483
" 3	303	312
" 4	171	322
	2229	1170

Requisitioned Premises etc.

No. of houses held under requisition at end of year	15
No. of houses on which Demolition Orders or Closing Orders had been made, occupied under licence at end of year	4

Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
(a) During 1952	-	-	104	-
(b) Post-war	35	20	626	22

Total No. of families re-housed during the year 245

At the end of the year there were 110 applicants for Council houses compared with 120 at the end of 1951 and 180 at the end of 1950.

During the year 18 recommendations for the granting of priority on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 19 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Improvement Grants - Housing Acts 1949 & 1952.

No applications for Improvement grants under the above mentioned Acts were received during the year.

Forty-five houses, however, were improved by addition of amenities such as bathrooms, sinks, and drainage facilities and four were completely reconditioned without resort to formal action.

New sanitary conveniences were provided at four public houses and one at the milk factory.

General Remarks.

I consider that the time has come when it can be fairly stated that you have no serious housing problem remaining in your district. This is reflected in the diminishing number of cases which I am asked to visit and investigate the circumstances of applicants in order to assess their relative housing needs on medical grounds and the higher standard of accommodation already occupied by those applicants. It is also reflected in the attitude adopted by an increasing number of applicants who no longer eagerly accept the house offered to them but who are only prepared to accept a house of a particular type or particularly sited.

A steady demand for houses continues to come from newly married couples. It can no longer be said, however, that the Council houses are their only hope of a home of their own for more old property is now coming into the open market and increasing facilities exist to bring old property up to a modern standard of amenity with financial assistance available. Newly married couples might well consider whether it would not be to their advantage, financially or otherwise, to seek by this means to make a home of their own rather than to rely on the Council to provide one.

The Council has recognised that many people already owning a house of their own may be in housing need for the type of accommodation provided by the Council. An example of this is elderly people who are no longer capable of managing their large house and garden but who require the limited accommodation provided in the Council's old peoples' bungalows and flats. In order that the needs of such applicants can be satisfied and, at the same time, the accommodation vacated can be made available to assist in meeting the housing needs of the district, the Council requires such applicants to allow the Council to acquire the property vacated.

The Problem of Evicted Families.

Even when a Housing Authority has met the housing needs in its district one problem remains and that is the tenant who persistently fails to pay his rent. Sometimes this may be because the rent is a too high a proportion of the tenant's income, but more often it is due to mismanagement of the family resources. No Housing Authority can afford to allow its houses to be occupied by tenants who persistently fail to pay the rent and eviction must follow.

Unfortunately, only too often in such cases, the children of the evicted tenant are likely to be the greatest sufferers, for the only accommodation available for such families are vacant cottages so unfit for habitation that no other tenant will live in them.

If the National Assistance Board could pay directly to the Housing Authority any payments made in respect to a tenant's rent and, if a Housing Authority could claim a tenant's rent direct from the tenant's employer as a deduction from his wages, many eviction cases would be avoided.

It is suggested that, for the temporary accommodation of evicted families until such time as means could be found to ensure the regular payment of a higher rent or as permanent accommodation for those tenants unable or unwilling to accept better accommodation, a Housing Authority might well have a pool of low standard houses which could be let at a low economic rent.

This accommodation could either be new buildings of austere

design or old property of sound structure provided with the minimum sanitary facilities compatible with fitness for human habitation.

By the selective use of such property some eviction cases might well be avoided.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulation 1949 3

No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 3

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 6

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 8

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculin Tested	21	1	22
Accredited	5	-	5
Pasteurised	75	2	77
Non-designated	39	8	47

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 103

No. being - restaurant kitchens 4
hotel kitchens 24
food factories 12

No. of inspections - restaurant kitchens 11
hotel kitchens 16
food factories 16

No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 43

No. of such premises registered in respect to -
(a) Ice-cream 31
(b) Sausages and prepared meats 10

No. of premises inspected during the year 61

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test 56

Results:- Grade 1. 44.
" 2. 7.
" 3. 4.
" 4. 1.

No. of inspections of food stalls 69

Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. Nil.

(b) Butchers and other shops. Quantities condemned:-

Ham and pork	-	24 lbs. 2 ozs.
Home killed beef	-	219 lbs. 8 ozs.
Offal	-	8 lbs. 2 ozs.

Other Food - Quantities condemned:-

Tins and jars of food - 287 lbs.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	Nil
No. of disinfections carried out	Nil

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2004
Total No. of Informal notices served	75
Total No. of Informal notices complied with	73
Total No. of Statutory notices served	3
Total No. of Statutory notices complied with	3
No. of prosecutions	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Whooping Cough	38
Scarlet Fever	12
Diphtheria	1 (Diagnosis not confirmed)
Measles	57
Poliomyelitis	1

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
7	4	2	-

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

PROTECTIVE INNOCULATION.

The value of protective inoculation against Diphtheria has proved itself to such an extent that, except in the largest centres of population, Diphtheria is virtually unknown. This satisfactory position can only be maintained providing at least 75% of the babies born are immunised against Diphtheria. The response to immunisation in the district does not achieve this figure which, to some extent, is probably due to the fact that a generation of parents to whom Diphtheria is only a name cannot be expected to respond to appeals to have their children immunised as parents did ten years ago.

Increasing demands come from parents, fully aware of the distress and suffering occasioned by an attack of Whooping Cough, for their offspring to have protective inoculation against this disease.

It is suggested that the results so far achieved in connection with the protection of children against the worst effects of Whooping Cough by prophylactic inoculation justifies immunisation against this disease being adopted to the same extent as that against Diphtheria.

If immunisation against Whooping Cough was combined with immunisation against Diphtheria (which has been shown to be possible) then it is suggested that not only will benefits be obtained in respect to Whooping Cough, but also that the level of immunisations against Diphtheria would be maintained at a higher level than can otherwise reasonably be expected.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

