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BOROUGH OF SUDBURY



in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

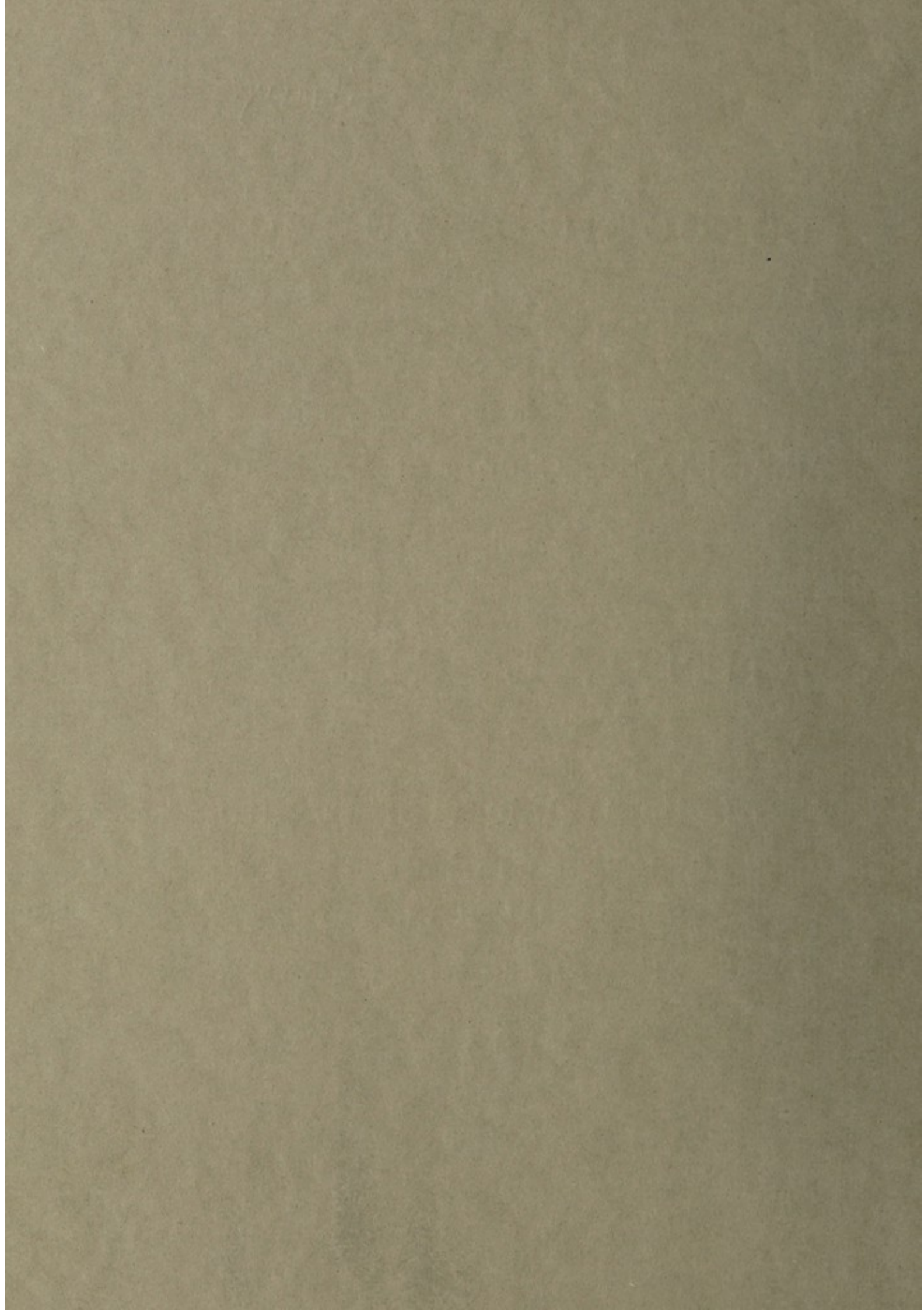
Medical Officer of Health

including the report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1958



MEMBERS OF THE DRAINAGE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman L.W. McQuhae

The Mayor: Councillor R.C. Oliver J.P.

Alderman C.E. Grimwood J.P.

Councillor A.E.W. Bird

Councillor E.A. Essex

Councillor Mrs. K.M. Hitchcock

Councillor H. Talbot

Councillor Col. G.L.J. Tuck, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A.

Councillor Mrs. Rhodes Smith

All members of the Drainage and Health Committee were nominated to stand on the House Inspections Sub-Committee.

STAFF

Dr. G.P. Barclay M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health

(note) Dr. Barclay is also M.O.H. for four other districts)

Mr. C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Public Health Inspector and Housing Maintenance Officer.

Miss A. Bryant - Clerical Assistant and shorthand typist.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:-

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Public Health Services for the year 1958.

The estimate of the Registrar General of the population of Sudbury shows that the trends of recent years toward a decline has apparently been halted, at least the vital statistics are not greatly at variance with those of the nation as a whole or with the Urban Aggregate of the County of West Suffolk.

Very few notifiable diseases occurred and apart from pneumonia and a single death from pulmonary tuberculosis there were no fatalities from these diseases. No deaths from leukaemia occurred. I am pleased to see my tuberculosis file becoming steadily thinner.

Progress with the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme was very good, but, of course, much remains to be done.

I would like to express my appreciation of the interest taken and the encouragement given by the Chairman Alderman L.W. McQuhae, and members of the Public Health Committee and to thank very sincerely the town clerk Mr. R. Coates, the borough surveyor Mr. S.J. Blackwell and the public health inspector Mr. C.H.M. Hazlewood for willing assistance during the year 1958.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, lady and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

G.P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year.

Population, Registrar General's Estimate 6230 (6230) Area 1925 acres.
Number of inhabited houses 2903 (2903) Rateable Value £84,368
(£77,678)

Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/59 £332 (£303).

Extracts of Vital Statistics for the year

Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	94 (90)	54 (52)	40 (38)
Illegitimate	4 (3)	3 (3)	1 (-)
Total	<u>98 (93)</u>	<u>57 (55)</u>	<u>41 (38)</u>

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 15.7 (16.6)

Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 15.5 (17.4)

England and Wales Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population 16.4 (16.1)

Still Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1 (5)	1 (1)	- (4)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total	<u>1 (5)</u>	<u>1 (1)</u>	<u>0 (4)</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births	10.2 (54.6)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales	21.6 (22.4)
Illegitimate Birth Rate 4.0 per cent.	

Deaths registered in 1958

Death Rate (crude)	15.7 (18.1)
Death Rate (adjusted)	17.5 (12.8)
Death Rate of England and Wales ..	11.7 (11.5)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
111 (112)	49 (56)	62 (56)

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion: 1 (0)

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of Infants under one year Legitimate	0 (2)
Illegitimate	0 (1)
	— —
Total	0 (3)
	— —

Neo-Natal Mortality

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	0
Death Rate of infants under one year:-	
All infants per 1,000 Live Births ..	0
England and Wales per 1,000 live births	22.5 (23.0)
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0 (0)
Deaths from Whooping Cough	0 (0)

Causes of Death

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all types)	12 (12)	10 (8)	22 (20)
Deaths from Bronchitis	3 (1)	0 (1)	3 (2)
Deaths from Pneumonia	2 (9)	4 (3)	6 (12)
Deaths from Nephritis	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Deaths from Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1 (1)	0 (1)	1 (2)
Deaths from Tuberculosis (other forms)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Deaths from Leukaemia	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from circulatory Diseases (all forms)	20 (17)	22 (22)	42 (39)
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	4 (5)	15 (11)	19 (16)
Deaths from Diabetic	0 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Accidents (other)	1 (1)	0 (1)	1 (2)
Suicide	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Homicide	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5 (7)	8 (7)	13 (14)
Total all causes	50 (56)	63 (56)	113 (112)

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

Two ambulances are stationed in the town.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town.

A Clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m. Welfare Foods are also distributed from this centre.

HOSPITALS

St. Leonards 43 beds.

Walnuttree 170 beds.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council, at Ipswich, has given the Borough very generous service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection

It was necessary during 1958 to remove one person to hospital.

Prevention of and Control over
Infectious Diseases

Notifications received

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u>	
Scarlet Fever	6	(7)
Whooping Cough	11	(11)
Measles	2	(3)
Pneumonia	1	(1)
Infective Jaundice	2	(34)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	(0)
Erysipelas	2	(0)
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0	(1)
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	0	(1)
Food Poisoning	0	(0)
Dysentery	1	(0)
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	1	(0)
Encephalitis	1	(0)
Total	28	(58)

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>Total</u>
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	<u>all types</u>
Number of cases on register at beginning of year	12	20	32	5	4	9	41
Number of cases added during the year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of cases removed during the year	2	1	3	4	0	4	7
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	10	19	29	1	4	5	34

Reasons for removal from register are recovery, left district or death.

WATER SUPPLY - SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL - CLEANSING

Contributed by Mr. S.J. Blackwell
A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst.H.E.
Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer.

WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Bacteriological analyses have been taken and in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

The remarks made last year still apply that the storage capacity of the high level tank is very poor in view of the number of properties it now serves and which are being continually added to its area. A new water tower with at least six hours capacity is required to replace it. During the year mains were relaid in Cornard Road and King Street.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A sewer was laid in St. Bartholomews Lane cutting out the emptying of eight cesspools. The effluent from the sewage works has been maintained at a reasonably good purity. Emptying of tanks was again restricted by lack of empty sludge drying lagoons but two were eventually emptied and underdrained. The irrigation area was planted with 850 Poplar Robusta trees which should reach saleable maturity in 20 - 25 years.

CLEANSING

During the year the refuse collection was reorganised and a new dual-tip rear loading machine was put into operation. This resulted in better conditions for the collectors, improved loading and greater efficiency. The Saturday morning and the half day collection by another vehicle were able to be discontinued by this reorganisation.

Also during the year the street sweeping was reorganised and a mechanical sweeper purchased. Reorganization resulted in the employment of the equivalent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ men on sweeping against the 5 formerly employed. The machine sweeps satisfactorily except where the road channels are in bad condition.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

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

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occup. Pros.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	25	9	-
(iii) Other Premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	-	-
Total	86	30	9	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	7	-	9	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	7	-	9	-

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work

No. of Outworkers

Wearing apparel
(making etc.)

10

Curtains and Furniture
hangings

1

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Sudbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

In the introduction to my section of the Annual Report for 1957 I had reason to remark that the year had been one in which Slum Clearance had figured very prominently but that the accent on this work had of necessity been to the detriment of other aspects of the work of the Public Health Inspector such as those connected with food hygiene and factory inspections.

The story for 1958 has no new twist and save for reporting the introduction of the direct labour system for dealing with repairs to council houses, this preface could well be written in the same theme.

Essential as the improvement of housing conditions is, undue concentration on this work of necessity has continued to mean that such other subjects as clean food, food inspection clean air, rodent control and factory and shop workers welfare have received scant attention.

However, when time does not permit all essential public health matters to receive the attention they warrant, it is nevertheless, the more necessary to determine which of these subjects merits greater attention. In so far as Sudbury is concerned I am certain that the rehousing of those unfortunate enough to be still living under deplorable conditions, which are quite unacceptable in this age, is of prime importance.

The revision of the Council's Slum Clearance proposals under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 which

were proving to be quite inadequate to deal with the problem was of the utmost importance. The revision of the Council's 1955 return of 69 unfit properties to be cleared to the figure of 245 in December and the approval of this figure by the Minister of Housing and Local Government has set the pattern for the future for a realistic though still modest programme of Slum Clearance for the years up to 1965.

Further progress towards the clearance of the very worst type of properties has been made during the year, in that the necessary detailed inspections of many houses were made through the year. The fruits of this work will however, not be apparent until the following year when rehousing and demolition has been made possible by the completion of houses being built for Slum Clearance purposes.

There was little change in so far as Meat Inspection was concerned, the position continuing to be satisfactory in that almost 100 per cent inspection was carried out. Some years will, however, still elapse before I shall be able to report that slaughtering and inspection of meat is being carried out in premises and under conditions that would find general approval.

The field of Food Hygiene was another in which there was little change, but this leaves no room at all for complacency as the position last year was far from satisfactory and I can see little prospect of being able to report more favourably next year. Inspections at food premises were at a minimum, education of food handlers on hygienic practices negligible and any general enforcement of the Hygiene Regulations was therefore, not possible.

The Shops Act Inspector retired during the year and the additional duties of this office were placed on me. However, very little work in connection with this appointment was carried out.

Although the figures for Improvement Grants show no appreciable increase over those for 1957 there has been much evidence of a substantial increase in this work taking place and there will undoubtedly be more work in connection with improvements to Council properties.

This all means that the work of the Public Health Inspector's and Housing Maintenance Officer's department has increased over the past few years and will continue to increase in future years.

Much very necessary public health work is very routine in nature and there are few concrete results to show for it. Nevertheless recognition of the necessity for the continuation of this work and appreciation of its continual encroachment into those fields where results are more apparent is earnestly asked of the Council.

I feel I must again here observe that not only are some aspects of my work not receiving anything like the attention they merit, but also that the bulk of the work carried out is in response to complaints made and that there is little or no chance of making routine surveys and inspections which would most certainly bring to light other matters that require as urgent, and in some cases, undoubtedly more urgent, attention.

Having with present staffing arrangements failed to cope with the work that has been before me it is certain that the position will deteriorate unless the Council will accept the fact that additional assistance in connection with Housing Maintenance is essential.

Criticism of staffing arrangements should not however, be allowed to detract from the much good work carried out by the Public Health Committee and I would again wish to record my appreciation to the Chairman and Members for the interest they have shown in reports submitted to them.

Once again I would wish to note the good work carried out by Miss Bryant and acknowledge the co-operation afforded me by my colleagues on the staff.

My report is continued under the headings covering the various subjects involved.

C. Hazlewood.

Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

The position at the end of the year as regards clearance areas was as follows:-

- 1) Cross Street and Mill Lane Area (9 houses) - Minister's consent to their purchase by agreement given.
- 2) Bulmer Road and Ballingdon Street Area (6 houses) - Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by Minister.
- 3) Grimwoods Yard Area (7 houses) - Demolished.
- 4) Church Street, Mill Lane, Plough Lane Area (16 houses) - Clearance Order confirmed by Minister.
- 5) Burkitts Lane Area (4 houses) - Demolished.
- 6) Garden Row Area (18 houses) - Declared Clearance Area by Council.

Survey work in connection with an area of some 50 houses to be designated the Gregory Street, Overalls Yard, Walnuttree Lane and Church Row Clearance Area was commenced during the year. It will not be until 1959 and 1960 that the results of much work concerning slum clearance will be evident. Nevertheless at the time of writing this report it appears likely that the work already accomplished will permit the target of 245 houses to be cleared by 1965 being reached as the houses in the Cross Street Area have been demolished, those in the Church Street area are vacated and the Garden Row Compulsory Purchase Order has been confirmed and the majority of the houses vacated.

Figures for the revised slum clearance return, made on the 17th December 1958 are as follows:-

Estimated number of unfit houses	-	245
Period for securing demolition	-	10 years from August 1955.

Number of houses to be dealt with in the first five year period	-	156
Number of houses to be dealt with in the second five year period	-	89

The estimated number of unfit houses is of course the number that are deemed to be unfit according to the standard laid down in section 4 of the Housing Act 1957. A house does not necessarily have to be a good family unit of living accommodation to meet the present required standard of fitness, and should the legal standard be raised, and many public health workers strongly advocate that it should, even the figure of 245 unfit houses would require considerable amendment.

CLOSING ORDERS

Closing Orders were made under section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 on five properties.

HOUSING REPAIRS

Repairs were carried out at one property after formal action by the Council under section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936. A further 38 properties were repaired following the service of written informal notices

It should however, be observed that many minor repairs in addition to the aforementioned have been secured after an informal call on the owner or a telephone call.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

During the year four applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and in all cases following the issue of Notices of proposal to issue a Certificate, undertakings were received from the landlords.

When the Rent Act 1957 became law it was thought that dealing with applications for certificates of disrepair, could possibly add considerably to the work of the department.

It was also hoped, although admittedly rather forlornly, that the Act might give some impetus to improving the standard of repair of the many houses badly in need of attention.

Neither of the above possibilities materialised. In fact by the end of the year the Act had achieved very little in improving housing conditions and with few exceptions raised rents had not meant rapid repairs.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Five improvement grants only were made during the year.

The figure given for the year is still very low and in itself must be regarded as most unsatisfactory as with a very large percentage of houses in the town still lacking the essential facilities of a bath, hot water supply and internal sanitation a very much higher rate of application is desirable. In fact I would suggest that a figure of forty would have been nearer the requisite number.

However, recent figures give a very definite indication that the public are now better informed about the Improvement Grant Schemes and are taking greater advantage of them.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION

Slaughtering was carried out at the three licenced slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The number of licenced slaughtermen was eight.

Details of inspections and condemnation are as follows:-
(figures for the previous year are in brackets)

	<u>Cattle excluding</u> <u>cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and</u> <u>lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	(22) 148	(0) 1	(10) 13	(61) 146	(514) 800
Number Inspected	(22) 146	(0) 1	(10) 13	(57) 140	(508) 796

	Cattle ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	6
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	1	17
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	4.1	-	-	.7	2.9
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	-	16
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.1	-	-	-	2

98.9% of all animals killed were inspected.

All diseased meat was coloured before being disposed of, principally by burying at the Council's tip.

The total number of animals inspected was for the first time over 1,000 for the year and the figures were 45% higher than for the previous year. The number of pigs inspected alone exceeded the highest recorded number of all animals inspected within any previous year.

By far the largest percentage of meat consumed within the borough is not slaughtered in Sudbury and the number of animals inspected here is small compared with numbers dealt with by many other towns of a similar size and population.

Nevertheless the figures given do indicate that meat inspection is another field in which the work of the Public Health Inspector is increasing, thus meaning that this work must be dealt with after normal working hours if some other aspect of the work is not to suffer.

With regard to the slaughtering premises. There was little change in so far as they were concerned during the year. Animals are still therefore, being slaughtered in some instances in outmoded premises and under not very hygienic conditions. There is unfortunately little prospect of these faults being rectified before the next two or possibly three years have elapsed.

The following additional foodstuffs were examined at wholesale and retail food shops and certificates given when they were voluntarily surrendered.

Canned Foods

Fruits	51 tins
Vegetables	120 tins
Soups	19 tins
Milk products.. ..	55 tins
Meat products.. ..	102 tins
Fish	5 tins
Total	<u>352 tins</u>

In addition three boxes of chicken cutlets were condemned and various meat products to a total weight of 196 lbs were condemned at grocers and butchers shops.

FOOD PREMISES

Milk and Dairies

Number of registered distributors	6
Designated licences in force	
Dealers Tuberculin Tested	4
Dealers Pasteurised	5
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	1
Supplementary pasteurised and sterilized	1

With two exceptions samples taken during the year passed the prescribed tests.

The Milk (Special designation) (Specified areas) Order 1958 took effect in this area as from the 14th April 1958 and this made the retail sale of milk for human consumption other than special designated milk illegal in Sudbury.

ICE CREAM

The few samples taken of nationally known ice cream products were all reported as Grade 1 or 2.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The total numbers of the various types of food premises in the Borough are as follows:-

Cafes and Restaurants	12
Bakers and confectioners	4
Confectioners	10
Greengrocers	6
Grocers and general stores	24
Butchers	9
Fishmongers	6
Public Houses	27
Hotels	3
Clubs, school and factory canteens	6
Frozen foods packing station	1
Premises manufacturing pork pies	1
	—
Total	109
	—

In addition to the above markets are held on the Market Hill. A fishmonger, grocer, greengrocers and confectioners attend regularly on Thursdays and greengrocers occasionally on Saturdays.

Premises registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream number 23.

Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale number 16.

There is little I can add by way of comment to the remarks made concerning food premises and food hygiene in my introduction.

Visits to food premises were very few and far between and whilst I do not think there has been any decline in the standards of cleanliness and hygienic practices in such premises, neither do I think there has been any marked improvements.

I can only hope that it will be possible for me to report more adequately next year.

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES

A substantial part of the Public Health Inspector's time is devoted to duties connected with the post of Housing Maintenance Officer.

At the end of 1958 the Council owned:-

	126	pre war council houses
	3	pre war council bungalows
	265	post war council houses
	24	post war council bungalows
	10	prefabricated dwellings
	41	other dwellings
	<hr/>	
Total	469	
	<hr/>	

The construction of a further 12 houses, 14 bungalows and a shop commenced during the second half of the year at the Woodhall Estate. 10 garages were also erected on this estate during the year. The Council decided to build a further 50 houses at Woodhall Estate to complete this site.

Active consideration was given to the needs of a more central site for old peoples dwellings. Ministry approval to the purchase of such a suitable site was sought and an allocation for building 27 bungalows asked.

The 10 prefabricated houses at the Springfield Estate were purchased by the Council from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

23 new tenancies were granted during the year, seven of these being transfers. Five of the new tenants came from slum clearance properties.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing Lists was approximately 140.

Thirty five written reports on the conditions under which applicants were living were made following inspections of the properties. Housing Sub-Committee meetings were attended at which the difficult task of selecting the most deserving applicants for the few allocations available is undertaken by members.

The inauguration of the present direct labour scheme for dealing with house repairs took place during the early part of the year when two painters were employed. A plumber was engaged towards the end of the year and a further painter has since been taken on. It was first intended to carry out external redecorations and internal decorations on vacations only by direct labour, but as it was found possible to cope with the majority of repair works as well, the direct labour staff are now dealing with all repair work and redecoration to council properties.

Although still in its initial stages the scheme is working well. Complaints as to defects of repair again numbered over 400. The necessary repairs were adequately dealt with and 52 houses on the Woodhall Estate were repainted externally. One of the New Street Francis Bequest houses was thoroughly repaired and modernised. Whilst the number of houses repainted externally was lower than the necessary yearly average, it must be borne in mind that for the greater part of the year only two workmen were employed but that this number has since been doubled.

Attempts to make tenants aware of dangers in the home once again appeared to fall on stony ground, as, in response to a circular advising tenants of the possibility of having drop lever safety gas taps fitted to gas points at 1/- per tap, only eleven tenants took this precaution. A further six tenants bought fireguards complying with B.S.S. 2788, the necessary fixtures to the surrounds being fitted by the Council's workmen.

A sign of the times is, however, that a further 49 television aerials were erected so that by the end of the year some 250 houses had aerials erected, this being over half of the total number of properties then owned by the Council.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continued to employ a full time rodent operator who carried out routine survey work and treatments of infested properties, including Council properties.

Twenty nine business premises were treated, under agreement, when found to be infested. Treatment charges were raised from 4/9d per hour to 6/- per hour.

Two sewer treatments were carried out employing an extended baiting system using acute poisons. Once again the number of complete and partial prebait takes dropped as compared with previous years and would seem to indicate a further decline in the sewer population.

CESSPOOLS AND NIGHTSOIL

Eight properties were connected to the sewer during the first quarter of the year leaving 20 isolated properties with cesspool or septic tank drainage. Pail closets were emptied twice a week from eight properties only.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of 5 premises was found to be necessary during the year and spraying of the refuse tip was carried out as often as necessary.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There were no licences in being authorizing the erection and use of moveable dwellings during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT

The number of pet shops licenced during the year remained at three.

FACTORIES ACT

Details of inspections under the Factories Acts are recorded at pages 10 to 12.

These figures show an increase over previous years but the number of inspections made was still too low to be considered satisfactory or to allow any accurate assessment of conditions in such premises to be made.

SWIMMING POOL

The swimming pool was again extensively used by those residing in or near the borough. Figures show yet a further increase over previous years.

Reports on samples taken for bacteriological examination were in all cases satisfactory.

Admission to Swimming Pool for 1957 and 1958

	1957	1958
Adults	2,444	2,870
Children	9,141	14,615
Special rate children	1,234	590
School bathers	6,861	4,736
Spectators	2,128	3,152
Season tickets sold:-		
Adults	29	26
Children	255	241
Spectators	-	1

FACTSHEET

Administration of Welfare for 1977 and 1978

The following table shows the number of persons in each category in 1977 and 1978.

Category	1977	1978
Adults	23	28
Children	233	241
Specialists	-	1
Lesson teachers	2,158	2,172
Specialists	1,538	1,507
School children	3,891	4,180
Specialists	2,141	2,143
Adults	2,434	2,410

