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Contributors

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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Hals

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1956

Including also the

REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS:

1956

District Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional Medical
Officer for North Herts. Area).

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., CH.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
Divisional Health Office,
12 Brand Street,
Hitchin.

(Telephone: Hitchin 3757)

Chief Public Health Inspector

ROBERT V. LAMEY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
(Royal Sanitary Institute).

Additional Public Health Inspectors

A.E. Flintoff, A.R.San.I. resigned 15.7.56

A.E. Shepherd, M.S.I.A., commenced 3.9.56

Council Offices,
Orchard Road,
STEVENAGE, Herts.

Telephone: Stevenage 436-7-8.

July, 1957.

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage
Urban District Council.

I beg to present the above report prepared in accordance with
the directions of Ministry of Health Circular 19/56.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,895
Home Population - Mid 1956 (Registrar General's Estimate)	22,040
Number of habitable houses at 31.12.56.	7,420
Rateable Value at 31.12.56	£271,581
Product of a Penny Rate (1956/57)	£1143

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR
THE YEAR 1956.

	<u>STEVENAGE</u> <u>URBAN</u> <u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>Comparable</u> <u>Rate for</u> <u>England &</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
	<u>Totals</u> <u>Male</u> <u>Female</u>	
(Legitimate)	666 340 326	
(Illegitimate)	13 8 5	
(All)	679 348 331	

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	30.8	15.7
---	------	------

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>Totals</u> <u>Male</u> <u>Female</u>	
(Legitimate)	11 6 5	
(Illegitimate)	1 1 -	
(All)	12 7 5	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	17.4	23.0
--	------	------

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Totals</u> <u>Male</u> <u>Female</u>	
	118 64 54	

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	5.4	11.7
---	-----	------

STEVENAGE Comparable
URBAN Rate for
DISTRICT England &
 Wales.

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	17.7	23.8
Rate for legit. infants per				
1,000 legitimate births	...	18.0		
Rate for illegit. infants per				
1,000 illegitimate births	...	Nil		
Actual number of such deaths:-				

Totals
(a) Under 4 weeks and (b) Under 1 year.

Legitimate	...	10	12
Illegitimate	...	-	-
		10	12
		==	==

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion	...	...	...	28
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases.	...	...	...	-

Comment on Vital Statistics.

With the total of live births for the year nearly five times the local figure of registered deaths, Stevenage is again shown a very young town. At 5.4 the local death rate is far below the national rate of 11.7 reflecting the much younger-than-average distribution of new population, and the Comparability Factor of 1.91 supplied by the Registrar General produces a 'standardised' death rate of only 10.3.

The estimated mid-year population for 1956 of 22,040 (an increase of 3,900) is already out of date through continued inward migration.

The local stillbirth rate and infant mortality rates continued to fall well below the national figures.

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1947 - 1956:-

		<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mort. Rate.</u>
1956	...	30.8	5.4	17.7
1955	...	28.4	6.0	11.6
1954	...	29.1	6.8	12
1953	...	24.8	7.7	29
1952	...	20.8	7.7	6
1951	...	18.4	10.4	16
1950	...	14.0	10.5	-
1949	...	16.9	13.1	18
1948	...	16.2	10.4	29
1947	...	18.5	12.1	26

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

These are unchanged.

SECTIONS C to E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA,
& INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious & other Diseases

For the year 1956 totals of notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Dysentery 64, Whooping cough 44, Measles 22, Scarlet fever 9, Acute pneumonia 5, Puerperal pyrexia 2, and Anterior Poliomyelitis 3 (Paralytic 1, Non-Paralytic 2).

Dysentery (Sonno Type) occurred mainly as an outbreak in the second quarter of the year affecting one particular infant school population with only minor overspill to other areas. Strict standards of personal and sanitary hygiene were applied both in the affected school population and in other schools as a precaution, with the enforcement of frequent handwashing and antiseptic swabbing of toilets including their door handles. Despite evidence of a considerable number of cases of sub-clinical infection and temporary 'carrier-states' the outbreak did not seriously spread to other areas of the town.

Measles was infrequent; 1956 being an interval year, but there was mild prevalence of whooping cough in the third quarter.

Scarlet fever cases (quarterly incidence 4,1,3,1,) were scattered both in time and in locality, the infection being mainly sporadic and confined to pre-school and infant school ages.

Anterior Poliomyelitis incidence was in the summer confined to one mother (paralytic) and her child (non-paralytic). The third case had onset in the last week of the year, forming the first case of a local outbreak early 1957.

Diphtheria was again absent from the district during the year. Nevertheless the offer of immunisation against this formerly dreaded disease continued to be accepted by a good proportion of parents. For infants under two years the offer of combined immunisation against both diphtheria and whooping cough continued particularly popular.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1956

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F	Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F
0 - 1								
1 - 5			1(1)					
5 - 15	2(2)	1(1)						
15 - 25	4(3)	6(6)	1	1(1)				
25 - 35	15(13)	8(7)						
35 - 45	3(1)	3(2)						
45 - 55	4	1(1)			1			
55 - 65								
and over								
Not known								
Totals:	28(19)	19(17)	2(1)	1(1)	1	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by the Registrar General after final transfers.					1	-	-	-

Foot-note: Figures of new cases include inward transfers from other areas, the numbers of such being shown additionally in brackets.

Comment: In the continuously expanding local population new notifications during the year are seen to number 11 respiratory against a figure of 17 for 1955; one non-respiratory type of disease was notified against none in the previous year.

One death (middle aged male) from respiratory disease is allocated to the district.

It is of interest to note again a large number of inward transfers (36 in all) - presumably persons at a quiescent stage of disease seeking specially favourable environment for a quiet and well-regulated life.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help during the year from your chief officers; particularly I would acknowledge the most valuable assistance from your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.V. Lamey, who is responsible for the compilation of the Sanitary sections of this Report.

Your obedient servant,

V.R.Walker.

District Medical Officer of Health

July, 1957.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR

1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage
Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the
year ending 31st December, 1956.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

i) Water Supply

The water undertaking is now vested in the Stevenage
Development Corporation.

The town's main water supply is obtained from boreholes
at Whitehall where a new pumping station has recently been
completed. At present about 1½ million gallons/day are being
used; the new station will be capable of supplying some 3.7
million gall/day when required by future development. The
storage arrangements at Pinn Green consist of 2 service reser-
voirs, each 2-million gallons, and a high level water tower of
½-million gallons capacity, all of which are completed although
the water tower will not be put into service until the high
level mains have been laid.

A reserve supply of approximately ½-million gall/day is
available from boreholes at Broomin Green. This supply is not
used for drinking purposes except in emergencies, when special
chlorination procedure has to be adopted as the supply is some-
times slightly contaminated.

The water supply is regularly sampled by me and during
the year 102 samples were submitted to the Public Health Lab-
oratory Service, Luton, for bacteriological examination; 95
of these samples were satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory. 76
samples were also taken by the Stevenage Development Corporation's
analyst Messrs. Rideal, Rideal & Sciver, London for bacteriol-
ogical examination and 4 samples were taken for chemical
analysis, all of which proved satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory water samples were in all cases taken
from private wells and a borehole on the outskirts of the town.
The use of two of the wells has been discontinued, and cleans-
ing of the borehole pump filter removed the cause of contamin-
ation.

An adequate supply of water throughout the area is being
maintained.

ii) SEWAGE DISPOSAL

At present the Town's foul water drainage is treated at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, although some of the newly developed areas already drain to Ryemcad.

It appears that the designed population capacity of the works has now been reached and complaints are often received of smell and fly nuisance arising from the sludge beds, from residents now occupying newly constructed houses near the works.

iii) REFUSE COLLECTION

The Public Cleansing Services are controlled by the Council's Surveyor. Controlled tipping is no longer carried out in the town and refuse is transported some 11 miles to a site at Waterford.

iv) KNACKERS YARD

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the town which is well designed and maintained in a most satisfactory manner. During the year 59 horses, 448 cattle and 2 donkeys were slaughtered at the premises.

v) RODENT CONTROL

The following are details of Rodent Control Work carried out in the Town during the year:

Total Inspections	...	...	1299
No. of infested properties found..			258
No. of infested properties treated			258
Complaints received	...	...	171

The infestations were classified as follows:

Major infestation - Rats ..	...	41
Minor infestation - Rats ..	...	205
Minor infestation - Mice ..	...	30

Test baiting of sewers was carried out in accordance with the Ministry's requirements.

vi) PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

39 Licences for the storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Mixtures have been issued during the year.

3 new installations have been constructed in the recognised manner and have been subject to approved Air Pressure Tests on underground tanks and fuel lines.

vii) SMOKE ABATEMENT

In January of this year a Clean Air Exhibition was held by the Council. The Exhibition which was the first of its kind to be held in any New Town was opened by Sir Hugh Beaver K.B.E. who was introduced by the Chairman of the Council.

Sir Hugh Beaver congratulated the Council on holding this Exhibition and referred to the provisions of the Clean Air Bill. He explained to the crowded audience some of the problems which faced his Committee during their enquiries into the problems of Air Pollution in this country.

A vote of thanks to Sir Hugh Beaver was proposed by Sir Roydon Dash D.F.C., Chairman of the Stevenage Development Corporation and seconded by Mr. Martin Madden M.P.

The exhibition received favourable publicity both in the National and Local press, and the opening ceremony was recorded by the B.B.C. Overseas News Service.

It is pleasing to record that the Management of every industrial concern in the town were represented at the opening ceremony.

Exhibitors included:

The Coal Utilisation Council
The Eastern Electricity Board
The Eastern Gas Board
The Shell Mex B.P. Oil Co., and
The Stevenage Development Corporation.

Exhibits were of a very high standard and designed to show the best methods of preventing atmospheric pollution in both domestic and industrial premises.

viii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

ANALYSIS OF VISITS

Disinfestation	93
Drainage	17
Factories	42
Food Premises	287
Infectious Disease	47
Knackers Yards	43
Means of Escape in Case of Fire	4
Miscellaneous Visits & Revisits	216
Moveable dwellings	121
Outworkers	36
Petroleum Installation	35
Public Health & Housing Acts	847
Slaughterhouses	572
Smoke Abatement	39

SECTION E.

i) Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises.

Routine inspections of all food premises are regularly made. There are at present some 144 such premises in the town, as follows:

Bakehouses	4
Bakers	6
Butchers	15
Cafes	3
Canteens	27
Clubs	2
Confectioners	11
Dairies	2
Fishmongers	6
Greengrocers	13
Grocers	24
Hotels - Guest houses	5
Public Houses.	26

ii) Registration of Food Premises

(a) Food & Drugs Act 1955

Premises registered under Section 16 of this Act are as follows:

a)	Sale of Ice Cream	21
b)	Sale of Preserved Food etc.,	19

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949/54

There are no registered dairies within the town. Licences have been granted to 5 dealers and 2 distributors in accordance with the provision of these Regulations.

iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises.

63 visits were made to premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, and other registered premises were visited on 82 occasions. 27 visits were also made to those premises selling Ice Cream which are excluded from registration under the Food & Drugs Act.

iv) Disposal of Condemned Food

During the year, apart from meat condemned at the private slaughterhouses, 5 cwts. 2 qrs. 9 lbs. 9 ozs. of foodstuffs were condemned at various food premises in the town. All condemned food is stained with a Naphthalene dye and removed from the food shops by the Council's Refuse Collection Service; strict control is exercised over its disposal.

v) Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the town. 90 samples of Ice Cream were obtained during the year - 84 of which proved satisfactory, 6 samples were unsatisfactory. Most of these unsatisfactory samples were taken from mobile Ice Cream vendors between 8 and 10.p.m. in the evening.

These vendors were interviewed and advised to use an approved sterilant for their serving equipment and cleaning cloths, and I am pleased to report that since adopting this practice subsequent samples have proved satisfactory.

I am not however completely satisfied that the temperature of the Ice Cream storage cabinet on mobile vans is at all times within the limit laid down by the Heat Treatment Regulations, and this is particularly so at the end of the salesman's round when he has perhaps been absent from his depot for some ten or eleven hours. The matter is being investigated.

vi) Food Hygiene Regulations 1956

Apart from certain provisions, these Regulations came into force on the 1st January 1956. All Food Traders were notified in writing of the main provisions of the Regulations and compliance with the new standards was requested. I am pleased to report that in the main, full co-operation was received and where necessary works of alteration were commenced.

The plans of all proposed new food shops are considered at the time of their submission for Byelaw & Planning Consents, and it is thus possible to ensure at an early stage their compliance with these Regulations, although the absence of adequate storage in those premises to be occupied by the grocery trades, is a constant problem.

vii) Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:

		<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Milk	...	79	1
Water	...	95	7
Ice Cream	...	84	6
Frozen Egg.	...	3	-

Reference has already been made earlier in this report on the unsatisfactory water & Ice Cream samples. The unsatisfactory sample of milk failed to satisfy the Phosphatase Test for pasteurised milks - no reason for this could be found. Other milks from the same batch were satisfactory.

viii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

3 premises in the town are licensed by the Council for private slaughtering and, 20 persons are licensed as slaughtermen.

During the year 3830 animals were slaughtered and inspected at the private slaughterhouses and 2 tons 15 cwt. 3 qrs. 6 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

There has been an increase of approximately 160% on the number of animals slaughtered in 1955, and I am pleased to report that a complete system of meat inspection has still been maintained, but this has only been possible by your Officers carrying out regular meat inspection after normal office hours.

SECTION E - contd.

viii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection - Contd.

Condemned meat is stained and then taken to the licensed Knackers Yard in the town where it is either used for animal feeding or despatched to a nearby factory which processes such material.

The following table shows details of animals inspected and meat condemned during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES INSPECTED AND DONDEMNED

	Cattle includ- ing Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs	Horses
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	590	89	1960	1183	Nil
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	590	89	1968	1183	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	1	1	Nil	8	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	98	-	81	28	Nil
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & CysticerCI.	16.78	1.12	4.12	3.04	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOS ONLY</u> Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	31	Nil	Nil	11	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	5.42	1.12	Nil	0.93	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u> Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration.	4	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1956 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

PART I OF THE ACT.

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	1	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	42	3	-
3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	14	11	-	-
Total	80	54	3	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.)					
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	3	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
Total	3	3	-	2	-

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking
the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the Staff
for their valuable assistance and co-operation throughout the
year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

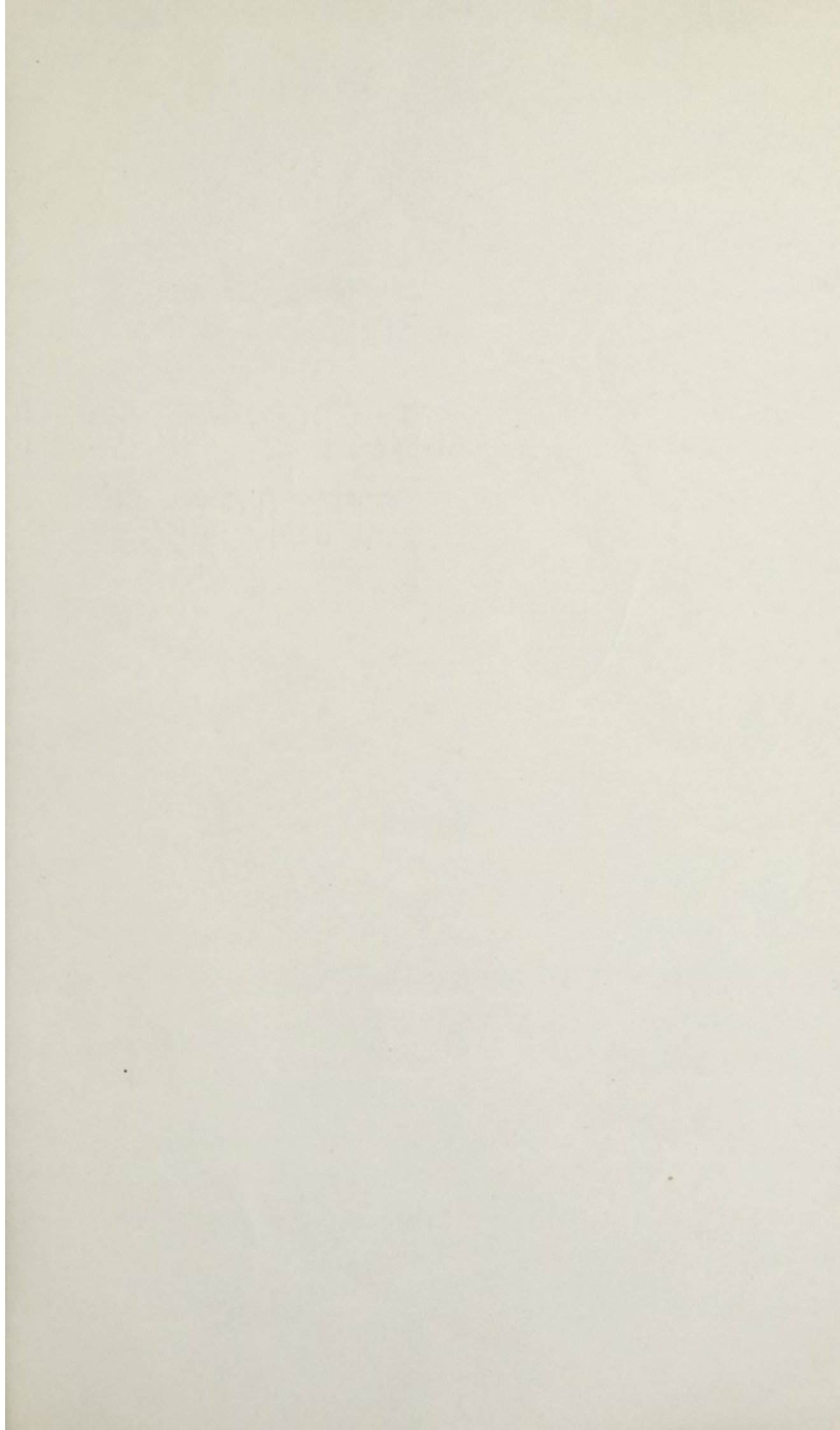
Your Obedient Servant,

ROBERT V. LAMEY

Chief Public Health Inspector.

July 1957.

Council Offices,
Orchard Road,
STEVENAGE, Herts.



I should like to take this opportunity of thanking
the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the Staff
for their advice, assistance and co-operation throughout the
year.

Yours faithfully and respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

ROBERT T. JAMES

Chief Public Health Inspector

July 1908

Robert T. James,
Chief Public Health Inspector,
Birmingham, 1908.