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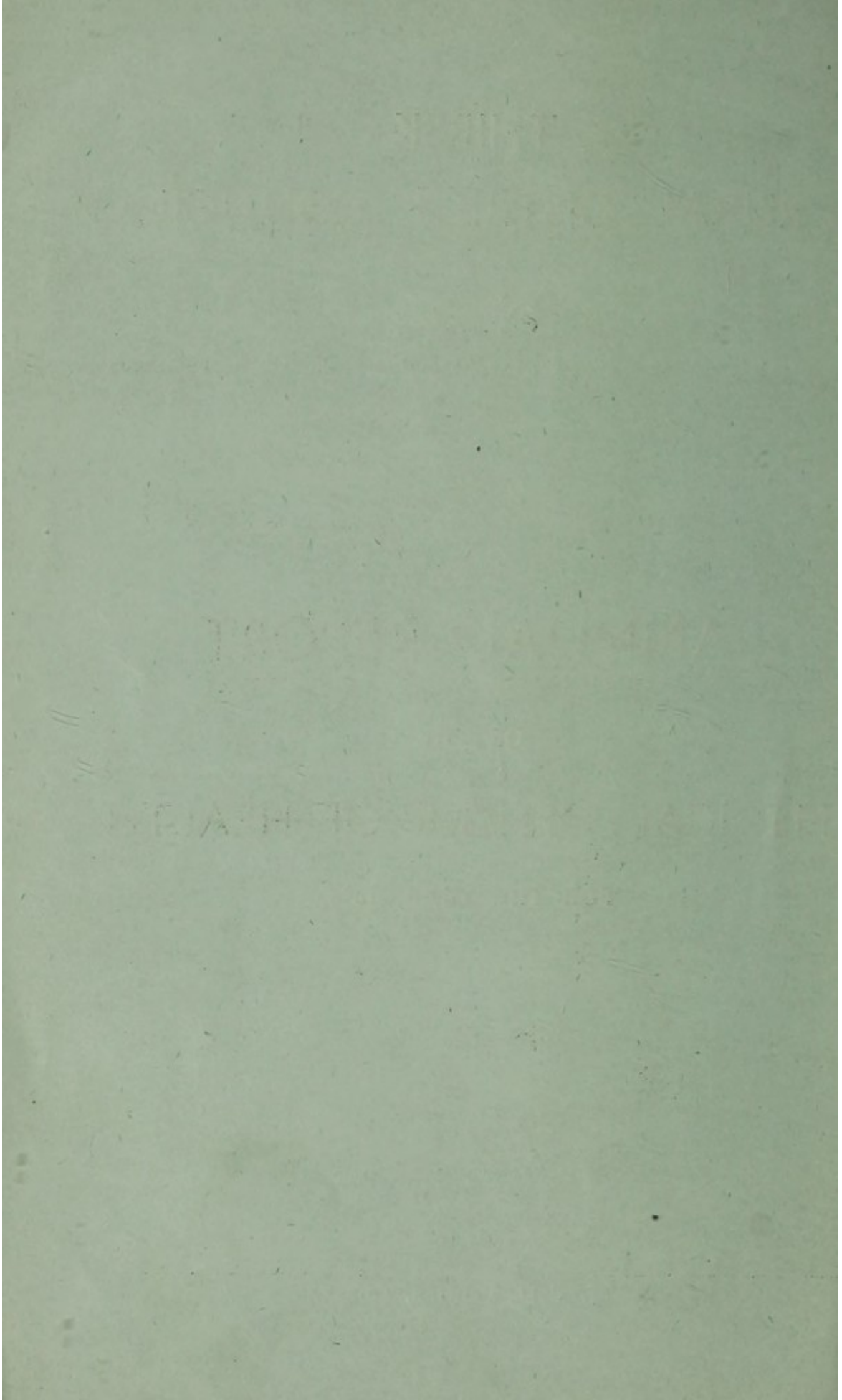


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR, 1944.



THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1944.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The following are the particulars relative to the year 1944 :—

Public Health Staff.

Clerk : part time.

Medical Officer : part time.

Sanitary Inspector : F. Metcalfe, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 72,000 (approx.) |
| R.G.'s estimate of residential population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11,790 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,516 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | £52,184 |
| Sum represented by penny rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | £225 |

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year.

| | <i>Total</i> | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Live Births— | 226 | 105 | 121 | } Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 19.01 |
| Legitimate | 204 | 96 | 108 | |
| Illegitimate | 22 | 9 | 13 | |
| Still Births— | 8 | 4 | 4 | } Rate per 1,000 of all births 35.8 |
| Legitimate | 8 | 4 | 4 | |
| Illegitimate | nil | nil | nil | |
| Deaths | 157 | 74 | 83 | Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 13.31 |

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

(Headings from R.G.'s short list).

No. 29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis, Nil.

No. 30. Other Maternal causes, Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

| | |
|---|-------|
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | 84.07 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 63.72 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 90.9 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 13 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | 1 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | Nil |

SECTION B.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

See beginning of Report.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Under the arrangement with the Laboratory at Northallerton the individual Doctors in the area get the report of bacteriological work done. In previous years a copy was sent to check payment for work done, but the charge is now an annual one based on the work of previous years, and as no copy is received, the laboratory work, with its results, cannot be estimated.

(b) AMBULANCE.

The Ambulance provided by the Council is free for ratepayers. A charge per mile is made to non-ratepayers.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Council does not provide Home Nursing. The Nurses in the area doing Home Nursing are under the control of Nursing Association with control by the County Council.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES under the control of Nursing Associations and the County Council.

(e) HOSPITALS.

As in previous years, and not under the Council's supervision.

SECTIONS C, D & E.

For this, see the Sanitary Inspector's report accompanying this.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

SCARLET FEVER.—Thirty cases were notified—13 males and 17 females. The disease assumed a mildly epidemic form in Dalton, and in September in Thirsk, but Schools were not closed.

DIPHTHERIA.—Five cases were notified—3 in children and 2 in adults. The children had been immunised, and the disease was mild. All were treated in Hospital, and there were no deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—Five cases were notified—2 males aged 1 and 11, and 3 females—one a baby, one of 5, and one of 8 years of age.

MEASLES.—Only two cases notified—a male of 6 and a female of 1.

PNEUMONIA.—One male of 30 and a female of 17.

ERYSIPILAS.—A male of 62 was notified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—A case was notified, but before I was advised of it, the case was convalescent.

Notifiable diseases during the year 1944.

| <i>Disease</i> | <i>Total cases notified</i> | <i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i> | <i>Total Deaths</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 30 | 23 | Nil |
| Diphtheria | 5 | 5 | Nil |
| Whooping Cough | 5 | Nil | 1 |
| Measles | 2 | Nil | Nil |
| Pneumonia | 2 | Nil | 10 |
| Erysipilas | 1 | Nil | Nil |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | Nil | Nil |

A total of 46 cases of Notifiable Diseases.

(THREE)

AGE INCIDENCE OF THE PRINCIPLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| <i>Age</i> | <i>Scarlet Fever</i> | <i>Diphtheria</i> |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1-2 | 1 | Nil |
| 2-3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3-4 | Nil | 1 |
| 4-5 | 3 | Nil |
| 5-10 | 14 | 1 |
| 10-15 | 2 | Nil |
| 15-25 | 5 | Nil |
| 25-45 | Nil | 2 |
| 45-65 | 3 | Nil |
| 65 & over | Nil | Nil |
| Total | 30 | 5 |

(3) CANCER. No action taken.

(4) (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action taken.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.

As in previous years, the Tuberculosis Officer from the County Council visits and advises. Sanatorium treatment is given under his advice. Laboratory aids to diagnosis are available at the Laboratory at Northallerton.

| <i>Age Periods</i> | <i>New cases</i> | | | | <i>Deaths</i> | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | <i>Respiratory</i> | | <i>Non- Respiratory</i> | | <i>Respiratory</i> | | <i>Non- Respiratory</i> | |
| | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> |
| 1-5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5-10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10-15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15-25 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25-35 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35-45 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 45-55 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 55-65 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 65 & over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 3 | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - |

**Causes of Deaths in Thirsk Rural District,
1944.**

| CAUSES OF DEATH ALL CAUSES | Males | Females |
|--|-------|---------|
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | - | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | - | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... | 3 | - |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | - | 1 |
| Influenza | 1 | 2 |
| Cancer | 7 | 6 |
| Diabetes | - | 1 |
| Intra Crarial Vascular Lesions | 8 | 14 |
| Heart Disease | 20 | 20 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System ... | 2 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 3 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 5 | 5 |
| Other respiratory diseases | - | 1 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duoderum | - | 1 |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 2 | 1 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 2 |
| Premature Birth | 3 | 2 |
| Congenital Malformations, etc. | 1 | 3 |
| Suicide | - | 1 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | 1 | - |
| Other violent causes | 4 | 3 |
| All other causes | 13 | 11 |
| | — | — |
| All causes | 74 | 83 |
| | — | — |

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MACARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.

MR. F. METCALFE, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.,
(Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor
and Certificated Meat Inspector).

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my Report of the Sanitary Inspection of the Area for the year 1944.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Forty-three visits were made regarding water supplies, and 40 samples were submitted for examination.

Of six wells examined, four were found to be unsatisfactory.

The new bore hole for water supply to the village of Pickhill was sunk during the year, and an excellent supply of water obtained, proved both pure and safe and free from contamination. The water is, however, hard, being 36.40.

Other Council's supplies were examined during the year, and in some cases showed slight contamination; the cleaning out of the reservoirs and mains, however, remedied such supplies, and only in one case was it found necessary to chlorinate the water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage tanks, cesspools and ditches which serve most of the villages as sewerage arrangements have received attention so as to prevent nuisance; 37 tanks were cleaned out, and 9 ditches cleansed.

Blockages in 16 sewers were remedied, one sewer repaired, and new sewage tank built; also 65 drains were cleansed or repaired, chiefly in connection with the Council houses.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council undertake the collection, removal and disposal of household refuse and emptying of cesspools in the parishes of Thirsk, Sowerby, Carlton Miniott and Langthorpe, and also collect and remove refuse from certain schools by arrangement.

The work is carried out by direct labour and own vehicles. Horses are hired for use with sludge carts for conveyance of liquid filth.

Refuse from dustbins, ashpits, etc. is tipped, so as to reclaim agricultural land. Wet filth is disposed of direct on to agricultural land for manurial purposes. Forty-six cesspools were cleansed.

During the year the Karrier Collecting Vehicle covered approx. 6,000 miles on public cleansing work, besides 1,080 miles done by our Ford tonner.

SALVAGE.

The Council's scheme of monthly collections from Village Salvage Depots was continued during the year, but there were labour and transport difficulties in maintaining the regular monthly collections, and this, together with changes in local conditions, caused a falling off in the amount of salvage collectable from many of the villages. Hence the total weight collected was only 66 tons 8½ cwts., whereas in the previous year, 207 tons was collected.

The kinds and amounts of salvage collected and sold were :—

| | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Cwts.</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Paper | 51 | 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Metals | 2 | 4 |
| Non-ferrous Metals | - | 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Textiles | 6 | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Bones | 3 | 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Rubber | 2 | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Bottles and Jars | 636 doz. | |

Total mileage covered by the collecting vehicles was 2,314 miles.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total inspections made during the year | 575 |
| Total re-inspections made during the year | 105 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Inspections of Houses (Public Health and Housing) | 27 |
| " Farms and Dairy Premises (Milk and Dairies Order) | 27 |
| " Food | 26 |
| " Slaughterhouses | 3 |
| " Drains, Sewers and Sewage | 65 |
| " Verminous Premises | 2 |
| " Factories | 10 |
| " Premises (essential works) | 3 |
| " Houses, Infectious Disease | 5 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Visits re Water Supplies | 43 |
| " New Buildings and Byelaws | 51 |
| " Salvage | 36 |
| " Council Houses | 156 |
| " Scavenging | 28 |
| " School Canteens | 1 |
| " Fuel and Lighting | 2 |
| " Knacker's yard | 4 |
| " War Damage | 23 |
| " Miscellaneous | 7 |
| " Overcrowding | 1 |
| " Dirty Houses | 1 |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of premises which required Sanitary Improvement) | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| „ Nuisances dealt with | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| „ Complaints received and dealt with | | | | |
| Milk | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| General | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| „ Premises Disinfected | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| „ Houses treated for vermin (fleas) | | | ... | 5 |
| „ Water Samples for Analysis— | | | | |
| Chemical | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Bacteriological | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| „ Houses, drains, smoke, tested | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

NOTICES, Etc.

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----|----|
| Informal notices to Owners or Occupiers | ... | ... | 47 |
| Statutory Notices to Owners or Occupiers | ... | ... | 1 |
| | (Housing Act Section 11). | | |
| „ „ to Occupier under Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57 (2) | | | 1 |
| „ „ to Occupier under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 83. | | | 1 |

Shops, no action.

Smoke abatement, none.

Swimming Baths and Pools, none.

Eradefication of Bed Bugs, no action.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses, none.

Tents, Vans and Sheds, no action.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. All slaughtering of animals for food of man now carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse, Northallerton.

Five licences issued to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

One licence issued under the Food and Drugs Act for keeping a Knacker's Yard, by Order of Court.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS ACT.

Nineteen licences issued for Storage of Petrol, and one for Calcium Carbide.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

In accordance with the powers delegated to this Council by the County Council in 1943, and instructions received from the Ministry of Food, the Council proceeded with their survey of the whole area, completing same in the early part of the year, when the following information was obtained :—

TOTAL INFESTATIONS, 264, comprising : 11 Major,
23 Heavy Minor, 230 Minor.

Such infestations were plotted on 6" maps as instructed, and copies forwarded to the Ministry of Food with list of affected properties.

The plan of campaign adopted by the Council for the extermination of the infestations was :—

- A. Co-operation with the War Agricultural Committee and Railway Company for joint action in the treatment of affected areas.
- B. Service of notice on occupiers of premises where the presence of rats was, on further inspection, located.

C. Offering to carry out the work on a small payment.

This arrangement of offering to carry out the work has proved of excellent value in practice, for it has enabled the work of de-infestation to be done on the "block" system, thus ensuring definite clearance of the rats from affected areas, and occupiers have generally preferred our Rodent Officer to carry out such work, when it was found that safe poisons were being used, and the work carried out in an expeditious manner with good results. 89 premises were treated during the year.

SEWER TREATMENT.

The sewers in Thirsk and Sowerby were treated for the presence of rats. 37 manholes were tray baited, but results only shewed small takes.

The bank of a river adjacent to a sewer outfall area was however, found to be badly infested; this was hole-baited and poisoned with sausage meal and red squill, and on re-inspection shewed little trace of rats remaining in such area.

SURFACE INFESTATIONS.

The Council's tips, salvage depots, etc. have been frequently visited, and attention given as required. 36 individual treatments having been carried out by the Council's Rodent Officer.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. By the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| 2. By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2a |

a This was the conversion of a large farm house into two separate Farm Workers' dwellings.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—

| | |
|---|----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health and Housing Acts) | 19 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded | 2 |
| (3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 1 |
| (4) Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 18 |

2.—Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action | 6 |
|---|---|

3.—Action under Statutory Powers :—

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Proceedings under Sections 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | |
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted | 1 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which undertakings were carried out | 1 |

GENERAL SCHEME FOR REPAIR OF HOUSES, ETC.

Certificates of essentiality for urgent housing work :—

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of applications made | 41 |
| Number of applications disapproved | 2 |
| Number of Certificates issued | 39 |

The works included for the renewal of defective cooking ranges, provision of W.C.'s and Bathrooms and general repairs, etc.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

During the year 13 persons were registered as wholesalers and producers of milk.

Two milking sheds were re-constructed and brought up-to-date.

Pasteurised milk is sold retail in the area by two retailers, such milk being purchased in bulk from the Dairy at Northallerton.

In three cases complaint was made as to the wholesomeness of the milk sold from ungraded milk producers' premises. In one case the complaint was found not justified, and in the other two, they are referred to in the 1945 report.

No statutory action was taken against any milk seller during the year.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All animals for food of man are slaughtered at the Government Abattoir at Northallerton, the meat being transported to the Butchers' shops in the area, by motor lorry.

During the year, the following tins of food were condemned as unfit :—

Corned Beef, 16 ; Luncheon Meat, 8 ; Spam, 1 ; Stewed Steak, 4 ; Chopped Ham, 3 ; Prem, 2 ; Mackerel, 2 ; Herrings, 8 ; Pilchards, 39 ; Sardines, 2 ; Salmon (Grade 3), 5 ; Vegetable Salad, 1 ; Vegetable Mixed, 2 ; Beetroot, 1 ; Carrots, 3 ; Beans, 21 ; Grape Fruit, 1 ; Marmalade, 1 ; Plum Jam, 1 ; Raspberry Jam, 1 ; Milk, 50.—Total, 172.

Also $60\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Bacon, 29 lbs. Lard, One Box of Fish, 21 seven pound bags of Yeast.

One Lamb, $24\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in weight and the greater part of two Bacon Pigs in salt.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

