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# ANNUAL REPORT

on the

## HEALTH

of the

Rural District of Thornbury

for the Year 1953

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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by

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 1911

Kindergarten, Primary, and Grammar School

By the Board of Education

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## Public Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. Douglas Cooper, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

R. Huntington, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. Pearson, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., A.F.S. (Eng.), A.R.I.P.H. & H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. F. P. Warren, M.S.I.A.

O. B. Downing, Cert. S.I.B., 1st L.C.G.

Assistant Building Surveyor :

J. D. Turner, Aff.I.Mun.E., A.R.San.I.

Assistant to Building Surveyor :

J. T. Ovens

Rodent Officer :

R. W. Morris

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Junior Clerk : Miss I. R. Shepherd, until 31/10/53.



# THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,  
Castle Street,  
Thornbury.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report as required under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and under headings as laid down by the Ministry of Health under Circular 1/54. Many matters have been dealt with and much achieved by the Health Department during the past year, and I mention those I consider of most importance.

### **WATER SUPPLIES**

The Northern Water Scheme was completed during 1953 except for the extension to the Sharpness Docks and other minor extensions which are still being considered by the Council. It is rather unfortunate that many owners of properties served by this new water scheme are not taking advantage of it until such time as a notice is served on them by the Council. This entails a lot of extra work by the Sanitary Inspectors and Sub-Committees. I consider that legislation is bad in relation to joining-up to a new water scheme. The owner or tenant of the property is only responsible for the first £20 if a notice has been served requiring them to join up. This figure is completely out of date and should be amended as many properties within the curtilage of this scheme are costing anything from £40 to £50. This is a big financial drain on the ratepayers and in many cases it therefore means that the Committee has to turn the notice down on the question of expense. The public know of this regulation and are therefore going to sit back and wait for the Council to issue a notice.

This means that the Council are missing a certain amount of revenue from their water scheme by undue delay in landlords waiting for surveys to be made, and notices issued after Committees have decided on the financial involvement.

It is hoped that before the Southern and Central Water Scheme is completed the Government will see their way to amend this out-of-date legislation.

The Southern and Central Water Scheme is now well under way and by the end of 1954 many of the areas it is serving should have a pure and wholesome supply of water. Many of the difficult financial problems have been solved and priorities are proceeding according to the ability of the engineering details.

### **SEWERAGE SCHEMES**

The Council are very anxious to get on with their proposed schemes but unfortunately, due to capital expenditure, the progress has been very restricted. The Sharpness and Severn Beach Schemes have been completed and are now functioning. The extensions to the Thornbury Sewage Works were completed during 1953, and we should now see a big improvement in the effluent



from these works. The Berkeley and Alveston Schemes are still in abeyance, but according to the Ministry, they will again be considered in the 1955 programme of work. It is to be hoped that both these Schemes will come to fruition then, as they are very necessary on Public Health grounds.

The other Schemes anticipated by the Council have been left on the shelf, but it is hoped to push soon for the sewerage of Almondsbury, Charfield, Olveston and Tockington, Wanswell Green, certain parts on the perimeter of Thornbury town and Cromhall.

### **FOOD HYGIENE**

The Sanitary Inspectors have done a lot of work in the sampling of ice-cream and milk consumed in the District, and much of their time has been devoted to the improvement of food premises. There is still a lot of work to be done in this field, but already the public are becoming conscious of the need for these improvements, and so legislation is now not so necessary.

### **ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**

I feel that one should take more interest in this subject now that it has been incriminated among the causes of certain chest diseases, besides the amount of damage it does to properties in the area. Thornbury is considered one of the cleaner areas in the South West, but it may occasion some surprise to know that in certain parts of the district it is a common occurrence to bring washing in dirtier than when it was put out. It is disconcerting to note, therefore, that most of the new houses erected have been fitted with open-type fires or, the more modern version, the continuous burning all-night fire—an even greater menace. This will eventually result in an even dirtier atmosphere being produced, unless smokeless fuel is easily obtainable at a cheap rate.

### **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Conveniences in this district are well maintained and cleansed daily by staff employed by the Local Authority, yet it is appalling to see the disgusting state the conveniences can be left in by the public, both male and female. Whilst this district is not as bad as some I have come across, I consider that no really high standard of cleanliness can be maintained in conveniences unless there is constant supervision.

### **HOUSING**

During 1953, the Council has made considerable progress in housing, but the back is not yet broken of the housing problem in this district. The waiting lists are still very long and many families are living in dreadful conditions. I feel that our aim should be “to build more and more houses” until we have relieved all the cases of statutory overcrowding and got families out of the hovels that some are destined to live in. I think it is one of our most important duties in Public Health and will materially help in building up a district of high physical, emotional and psychological well-being among its citizens.

### **GENERAL HEALTH OF THE AREA**

The Death Rate has gone up this year to 12.63. This is the highest recorded since I came to the District in 1947. The only



other comparable figure was in 1951 when it was 12.59 and it is interesting to note that in 1950 it had gone down to the low figure of 8.8 and in both 1948 and 1949 it was 9.7. This large increase is partly accounted for by the fact that the Registrar General has ruled that deaths taking place in hospitals for old chronic sick must now be included in the statistics of the Area in which the hospital is situated and in relation to this, it should be noted that 93 of the deaths took place in Thornbury Hospital. A large majority of these people come to this hospital as patients from outside the precincts of the Thornbury Rural District.

In reviewing the deaths, I find that four old persons died from the results of falls in their own homes. It may be that we do not take enough notice of the rehousing of these old people who are living in isolated cottages with few amenities, rickety stairs, etc. It would be nice to see more old peoples' bungalows built in our estates so that they can take part in the community life of the younger generation. It has often been said that old people would only be too pleased to act as "sitters-in" for the young married couples if they lived in the same estates and vice versa the young people might then take more interest in the welfare of the old.

The Birth Rate of 15.73 has dropped quite a bit over last year but is still comparable with that for the whole of England and Wales.

During the year there has been no outbreak of any serious infectious diseases. We have had the usual biennial epidemic of measles and whooping cough following on the relative freedom from these diseases last year.

The Infant Mortality Rate has gone up to 34.03, as compared with 26.8 for the whole of England and Wales, but one can not draw any conclusions from such a small population as is involved in this figure.

In concluding, I would like to say that I feel the institution of a Committee system during the year has been already beneficial to the working of the Health Department and I would therefore like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their advice and encouragement.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector will be reporting to you on other branches of the Health Department's work, so it remains for me to again express my appreciation of the support given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Council and to the Staff of the Public Health Department and other departments of the Council for their co-operation and help during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Thornbury Rural District Council.



## PART I.

### GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

#### 1.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No important change has taken place in the nature of the chief trades carried out in the District. These are :—

- (1) Agriculture and Allied Trades.
- (2) Sharpness Docks and Ship Building.
- (3) Quarrying.
- (4) Brick and Tile Manufacture.
- (5) Building of Caravans.
- (6) Braid and Loom Elastic Smallwares.
- (7) Salmon Fisheries.
- (8) Flour Mills.
- (9) Baking.
- (10) Aircraft Engineering.

#### 2.—STATISTICS, 1953

##### (a) General Statistics

Area of District ... ..	61,337 acres
Population ... ..	25,670
Number of Inhabited Properties ...	7,285
Number of Inhabitants per Property ...	3.6
Rateable Value ... ..	£136,786
Product of 1d. rate ... ..	£545
Number of Council Houses ... ..	1,145
Number of Requisitioned Houses ...	7
Percentage of Council Houses ... ..	16.2%

##### Inhabited Properties

Huts at Squatters' Camps ... ..	4
Houses ... ..	6,449
Farms ... ..	521
Houses and Shops ... ..	240
Public Houses ... ..	71
	<hr/>
	7,285

Percentage of population served by mains water 74.3%

Percentage of population served by modern sewers 52%

##### Varying Population of Thornbury Rural District :

Year	Population
1891 ... ..	16,542
1905 (Parish of Henbury taken in) ...	18,419
1913 ... ..	19,223

1919	...	...	...	...	...	17,478
1938	...	...	...	...	...	19,480
1939	...	...	...	...	...	20,470
1940	...	...	...	...	...	23,339
1941	...	...	...	...	...	24,610
1942	...	...	...	...	...	24,440
1943	...	...	...	...	...	23,730
1944	...	...	...	...	...	22,990
1945	...	...	...	...	...	22,790
1948	...	...	...	...	...	25,590
1950	...	...	...	...	...	25,180
1951	...	...	...	...	...	25,410
1952	...	...	...	...	...	25,310
1953	...	...	...	...	...	25,670

(b) Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live Births :

			Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	363	192	171
Illegitimate	...	...	19	11	8
			<hr/> 382	<hr/> 203	<hr/> 179

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population mid 1953	14.84
Comparability factor for Birth	1.06
Therefore Birth Rate (comparable) = 1.06 x 14.84	15.73
Birth Rate (England and Wales) per 1,000 Civilian Population	15.5

Still Births :

			Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	7	4	3
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/> 7	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	0.31
Still Birth Rate (England & Wales) per 1,000 Civilian Population	0.35
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, Thornbury Rural District	0.27

Illegitimate Births :

Illegitimate Birth Rate for Thornbury R.D.	0.74
Percentage of illegitimate children born in district	5.2%



### Deaths of Infants under one year

Sex	Age	Cause
Female	2 months	Broncho-Pneumonia
Male	10 months	Influenzal Broncho-Pneumonia
Male	1 hour	Tear of Tentorium Cerebri
Female	3 months	Congenital Spina Bifida
Female	2 days	Cerebral Haemorrhage
Male	5 days	Congenital Heart Disease
Male	3 hours	Erythroblastosis
Female	4 months	Congenital Heart Disease
Male	13 hours	Premature Birth
Male	4 hours	Heart Failure. Haemolytic Disease
Male	2 minutes	Multiple Congenital Abnormalities
Male	3 days	Congenital Heart Disease
Male	5 months	Congenital Hydrocephalus

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	9	4	13
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	9	4	13
			—	—	—

			Male	Female	Total
Under four weeks of age :					
Legitimate	...	...	7	1	8
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	7	1	8
			—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)=34.03



# MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT

Intermediate List No. and Cause	Number of Deaths	Thornbury Rural District	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)	Rates per Million Women aged 15-44
A 115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ... ..	68	0.00	0.10	1
A 116 Abortion with toxæmia ... ..	7	0.00	0.01	
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium ... ..	166	0.00	0.24	
A 117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth ... ..	90	0.00	0.13	3
A 118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia ... ..	30	0.00	0.04	
A 119 Abortion with sepsis ... ..	39	0.00	0.06	
A 120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	125	0.00	0.18	4

### Marriages :

Number of Marriages taking place in Registry Office during 1953	...	...	...	47
Number of Marriages taking place in Churches and Chapels	...	...	...	106
				<hr/> 153 <hr/>

Marriage Rate per 1,000 mid-year Population=6.1

### DEATHS

Number of Deaths registered in Thornbury Rural District	...	...	...	315
172 Male and 143 Female Deaths.				
Average Age of Male Deaths	...	...	65.75 yrs.	
Average Age of Female Deaths	...	...	71.11 yrs.	
Average Age of All Deaths	...	...	68.20 yrs.	
This makes the Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	12.27	
Death Rate, England and Wales per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	11.4	
Comparability Factor for Deaths	...	1.03		
Therefore Death Rate comparable)				
		$1.03 \times 12.27 =$	12.63	

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1953**

		Thornbury Rural District	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns in England and Wales	London Administrative County
<b>BIRTHS</b>						
Live Births	...	15.73	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still Births	...	0.27	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	...	18.0 (a)	22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)
<b>DEATHS</b>						
All causes	...	12.63	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and paratyphoid	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	...	0.11	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza ...	...	0.11	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	...	0.81	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64



# *Notifications (corrected)*

Typhoid Fever ...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infection ...	...	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1.09	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	1.02
Whooping Cough ...	...	2.45	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	3.30
Diphtheria ...	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ...	...	0.03	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.12
Smallpox ...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles ...	...	24.6	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	8.09
Pneumonia ...	...	0.50	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	0.73

## Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)

Paralytic ...	...	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07
Non-paralytic ...	...	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Food poisoning ...	...	0.00	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.38
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	7.70 (a)	18.23 (a)	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)	28.61 (a)

## DEATHS

All causes under 1 year of age ...	...	34.03 (b)	26.8 (b)	30.8 (b)	24.3 (b)	24.8 (b)	24.8 (b)
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	...	0.00	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.1

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.  
(b) Per 1,000 related live births.



# DEATHS—Analysis of Causes and Age Groups.

Causes of Deaths	Age Group								Total
	Under 1 yr.	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—	
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1			1		2			3
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2								
3. Syphilitic disease	3								
4. Diphtheria	4								
5. Whooping Cough	5								
6. Meningococcal infections	6								
7. Acute poliomyelitis	7								
8. Measles	8								
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	9								
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	10					1	3	2	6
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	11					3	1	1	4
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	12					3	1	1	2
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	13					11	10	4	8
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14							8	29
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	15					1			1
16. Diabetes	16					9	11	22	44
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17				2	10	7	13	30
18. Coronary disease, angina	18					6	6	6	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease	19					18	5	63	93
20. Other heart disease	20				2	2	1	2	7
21. Other circulatory disease	21					2	4	11	3
22. Influenza	22					2	2	4	21
23. Pneumonia	23	2	2			1	1	1	7
24. Bronchitis	24					1	2	4	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	25				1	1	1	1	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	26								1
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	27								
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	28								
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	29				1			1	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	30								1
31. Congenital malformations	31								
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	8	1		3	3	3	10	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	33	3			1				23
34. All other accidents	34		1		1	2	1		1
35. Suicide	35								6
36. Homicide and operations of war	36								
TOTALS									315

## DEATHS IN HOSPITALS OR NURSING HOMES

### Outside the District

Frenchay Hospital ...	...	...	4
Southmead Hospital ...	...	...	21
Royal Hospital ...	...	...	3
Rose Hill Nursing Home ...	...	...	2
Standish House Hospital ...	...	...	1
Ham Green Hospital ...	...	...	4
Royal Infirmary ...	...	...	5
Children's Hospital ...	...	...	1
St. Mary's Hospital ...	...	...	2
Duncan House ...	...	...	1
Cottage Hospital, Yate ...	...	...	1
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital ...	...	...	1
St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Newport ...	...	...	1
Hoemeopathic Hospital ...	...	...	1
General Hospital, Cheltenham ...	...	...	1

### Within the District

Thornbury Hospital ...	...	...	93
Berkeley Hospital ...	...	...	13
Almondsbury Hospital ...	...	...	10
Hortham Hospital ...	...	...	3
Alveston House ...	...	...	3

Total : 171

171 Cases died in hospital or institution out of the total of 315 deaths for the year. Therefore 54.3% of deaths in this Area occurred in hospitals within or without the District.

## DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS AND SEX

	Males	Females	Total
0— 1 Years ...	9	4	13
2— 5 Years ...	1	1	2
5— 10 Years ...	0	0	0
10— 20 Years ...	2	1	3
20— 30 Years ...	3	1	4
30— 40 Years ...	1	0	1
40— 50 Years ...	10	2	12
50— 60 Years ...	21	14	35
60— 70 Years ...	26	24	50
70— 80 Years ...	57	44	101
80— 90 Years ...	36	43	79
90—100 Years ...	6	9	15
	172	143	315



## DEATHS IN PARISHES

Alkington	...	...	...	...	5
Almondsbury	...	...	...	...	36
Alveston	...	...	...	...	16
Berkeley	...	...	...	...	29
Charfield	...	...	...	...	8
Cromhall	...	...	...	...	7
Falfield	...	...	...	...	6
Ham & Stone	...	...	...	...	8
Hinton	...	...	...	...	12
Oldbury-on-Severn	...	...	...	...	5
Olveston	...	...	...	...	8
Patchway	...	...	...	...	28
Rangeworthy	...	...	...	...	3
Redwick & Northwick	...	...	...	...	21
Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	1
Thornbury	...	...	...	...	114
Tortworth	...	...	...	...	2
Tytherington	...	...	...	...	6

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315

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## MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH

Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	93 cases
Cancer	...	...	...	49 cases
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	44 cases
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	30 cases
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	23 cases
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21 cases
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	12 cases
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	8 cases

## DEATHS IN MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January	...	...	...	...	47
February	...	...	...	...	24
March	...	...	...	...	38
April	...	...	...	...	25
May	...	...	...	...	29
June	...	...	...	...	18
July	...	...	...	...	20
August	...	...	...	...	20
September	...	...	...	...	22
October	...	...	...	...	28
November	...	...	...	...	17
December	..	...	...	...	27

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Total : 315

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## Inward Transfers

Males	...	...	...	29
Females	...	...	...	25

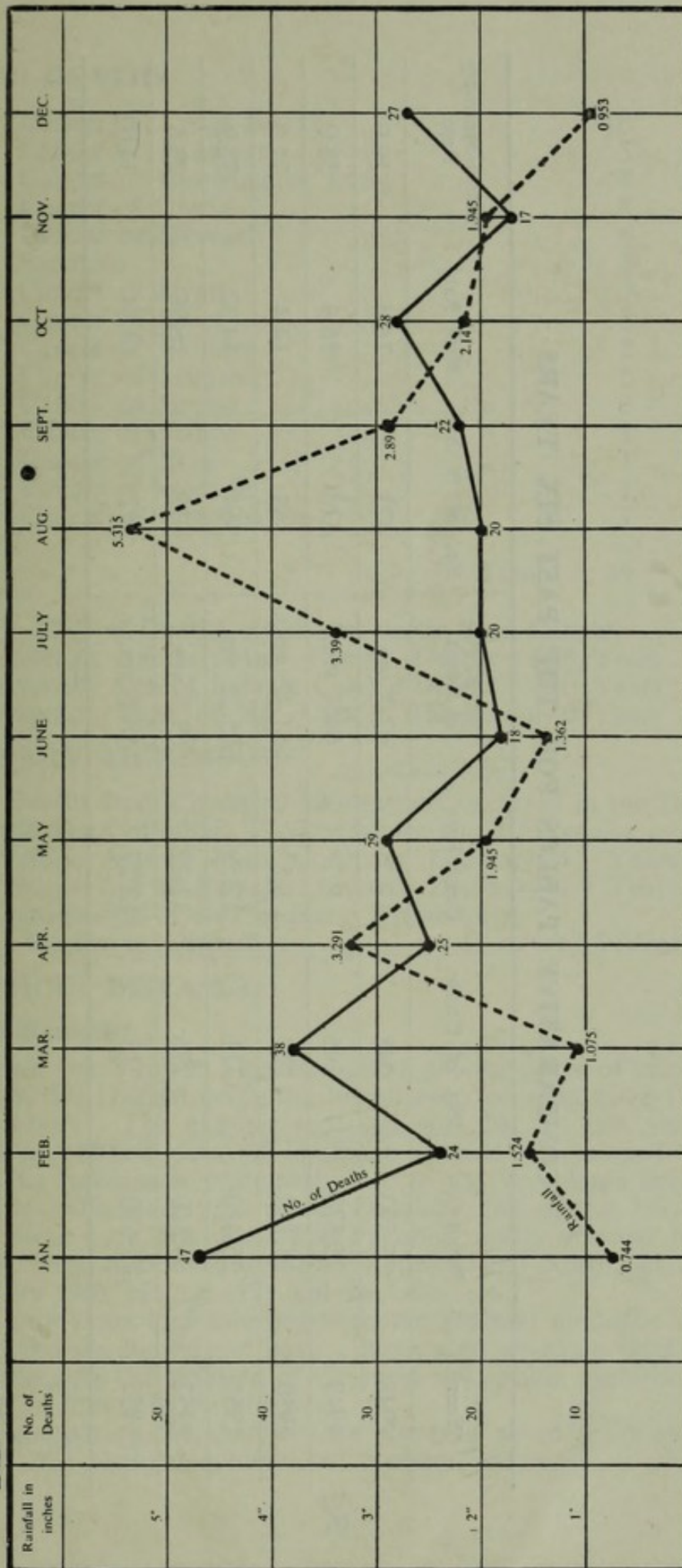
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Total : 54

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# RAINFALL IN MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

## DEATHS IN MONTHS OF THE YEAR.





**COMPARATIVE TABLES FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS**

Year	Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Average Age of Death	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1948	25,590	248	9.7	62.7 yrs.	421	16.4	19.0
1949	25,570	246	9.7	64.4 yrs.	420	16.4	38.0
1950	25,180	222	8.8	61.42 yrs.	364	14.4	21.9
1951	25,410	311	12.59	65.22 yrs.	364	14.32	32.9
1952	25,310	276	11.22	69.3 yrs.	405	16.96	29.6
1953	25,670	315	12.27	68.2 yrs.	382	14.84	34.03

## CANCER DEATHS

Cancer of Large Bowel	...	...	...	10
Cancer of Pancreas	...	...	...	5
Cancer of Bronchus or Lung	...	...	...	4
Cancer of Uterus	...	...	...	8
Cancer of Stomach	...	...	...	6
Sarcoma	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Ovary	...	...	...	3
Cancer of Liver	...	...	...	3
Cancer of Bladder	...	...	...	2
Cancer of Larynx	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	2
Cancer of Glands	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Skin	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Prostate	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Oesophagus	...	...	...	1
Total :				49

15% of Deaths in District occur from Cancer.  
 Average Age of Male Cancer Deaths=67.8 Years  
 Average Age of Female Cancer Deaths=70.0 Years  
 Average Age of all Cancer Deaths=69.0 Years

## CORONARY THROMBOSIS

29 Deaths from Coronary Thrombosis occurred in the District during the Year, of which 19 were Males and 10 Females.

Average Age of Male Coronary Deaths=64.1 Years  
 Average Age of Female Coronary Deaths=74.0 Years  
 Average Age of all Coronary Thrombosis  
 Deaths in District ... .. =67.5 Years

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### General Remarks

In last year's report I boasted about the incidence of infectious disease in this District being the lowest ever recorded since I came to Thornbury. The number recorded was 202. This year the number of notified cases of infectious disease has jumped up to 759. This increase is principally due to the very large epidemic of Measles which occurred in the District. Out of the 759 cases, 632 of these were Measles. The Parishes mostly affected by the epidemic were Almondsbury (202), Redwick and Northwick (122), Thornbury (96), Hinton (72) and Berkeley (66).

It is obvious that this has been the biennial epidemic of the disease, and we should not have a large number again until 1955. This is because the children of the most susceptible age have now built up an immunity to Measles.

In comparing the numbers for the past seven years one can see how this biennial epidemic of measles occurs :—



Year	Measles Notifications	Infectious Disease Notifications
1947	390	506
1948	180	479
1949	470	576
1950	82	391
1951	454	596
1952	35	202
1953	632	761

From the age group table it is worth noting that the largest age epidemic takes place in the age group 4—5 years where 202 cases were notified, and in the 6—9 years old group where 257 were notified. This bears out the fact that the child is most susceptible in the first few years of his or her school career, and that the spread of infection takes place in the classroom. Unfortunately, most of the damage is done before the diagnosed case can be isolated, due to the fact that the child is most infectious in the very early stage of the disease when he is just suffering from symptoms resembling a cold.

In view of this and the large amount of absenteeism caused at schools during an epidemic by isolating all contacts at home for 14 days, the Educational Committee have decided for a trial period of one year not to isolate contacts of a case for the regulation 14 days. I feel that this change of policy will not increase the number of cases, as I have expressed the view before that it is impossible for a mother to keep children under quarantine in a large housing estate and obviously, if they are well, they are bound to get out and play with their pals after school, and any eventual good done by keeping them from school is completely undone.

Probably much more good would be done by educating mothers about the early signs of Measles, i.e., before the rash appears, so that during an epidemic time the child can be kept away from school in the early stages.

One revealing feature of the present day epidemics is that Measles has now become a relatively mild infectious disease. It has more of a nuisance value than anything else, as one does not see the complications which we got in the pre-war days.

### **Whooping Cough**

During the year 63 cases of this disease were notified and I am sure many other mild cases occurred which were not notified. This is a similar number to last year when we had 61 notified. Obviously we get sporadic outbreaks of Whooping Cough each year. This can be a most serious infectious disease with many chest complications such as Bronchitis, Bronchiectasis, Collapsed



Lungs, and even the advent of Tuberculosis following on the lowered resistance after the disease. For these reasons I feel that the time has now come for us to use the new whooping cough vaccine which, if it doesn't prevent, certainly causes the child to have a mild attack with no complications.

The new vaccine has been used in America and other countries with a great deal of success. In this country the Ministry and County Authorities are still very conservative and still await the results of the experiments being carried out by the Medical Research Council. Meantime, many General Practitioners in this Area are using the vaccine combined with Diphtheria toxin to protect their patients. Most of them report that there are practically no reactions and that the child is usually protected 100%, or if not, the disease is so mild that it is difficult to diagnose as a case of Whooping Cough.

### **Scarlet Fever**

This year we have had 28 notified cases of this disease as compared with 49 last year. Epidemics of this disease seem to have disappeared, probably due to the sensitivity of the germ causing the disease and to the newer antibiotic drugs.

Most General Practitioners find it difficult to label the cases as Scarlet Fever because of the mildness of symptoms and the short duration of the rash. When one thinks back a few years and remembers how serious a disease this was, it is to be hoped that the present trend is a permanent one. We are bound to get the few sporadic cases each year due to the fact that there are many undiscovered carriers of the haemolytic streptococcus which causes the complaint. The majority of these people are symptomless and others may just have a sore throat and think nothing about it. Many cases of scarlet fever could be avoided if those suffering from sore throats or tonsillitis could keep away from schools, public transport, etc., during the attack.

There was a small outbreak of the disease during the months of February and March among the children in the new housing estate at Leyhill Prison. Most of these children—14 were involved—attended the same school, and therefore direct contact was the cause of the spread of infection. Milk samples were taken to see if this had anything to do with the spread, but all results were negative for the haemolytic streptococcus.

### **Dysentery**

16 cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified this year, 12 of these occurred in Hortham Hospital and the other four in the Curative School, Thornbury Park.

These small outbreaks of mild dysentery occur from time to time in all Mental Defective Institutions. This is mainly due to the patients' low mentality associated with a poor state of personal hygiene. Many of these patients remain as carriers (without symptoms) for a long time and therefore one gets a residue of



possible infection at any time. The Superintendent at Hortham Hospital is very careful about his carriers. All new entrants to the Colony are swabbed on admission and if they happen to be carrying the organisms of Dysentery they are kept under strict supervision until they give three negative swabs over a period. They are also prohibited from working in or around the kitchen premises. Most of these carriers now respond quite quickly to the newer methods of treatment so that the problem is not so acute as it used to be before the advent of the antibiotics.

The four cases of Sonne Dysentery that occurred at Thornbury Park were quite mild. All the staff and patients were swabbed during the outbreak to discover if there were any carriers—none were discovered. An opportunity was taken during this epidemic to inspect the premises and many suggestions were made to the Superintendent to improve hygiene in the kitchen. I might say that we received the utmost co-operation and these improvements were carried out. The cases of dysentery all cleared up quickly under treatment and three negative swabs were required before the all clear was given.

### **Cerebro-Spinal Fever**

We still get sporadic cases of this type of Meningitis. Three were notified this year as compared with two last year. Two of them—a male aged 12 years and a female of 5 months—were admitted to Ham Green Isolation Hospital where they made a complete recovery under treatment. The other was a boy of three years who was admitted to Southmead Hospital where the disease was diagnosed and treated.

It is worth remarking that two of these cases occurred in sub-standard dwellings where there was a good deal of overcrowding and very little fresh air.

Another case was notified as Meningitis, a male aged 25, who was admitted to Ham Green and died there after the diagnosis had been changed to cerebral haemorrhage.

### **Tuberculosis**

During the year one has seen signs of the decline in this disease. Certainly the mortality rate has fallen all over the country. This may be due to the newer methods of treatment with streptomycin, P.A.S., and other even newer drugs. On top of this, the waiting list for sanatorium beds has been cut down considerably, and chest surgery has improved such a lot in the past few years. These are bound to be factors influencing the mortality rate.

In Thornbury R.D. there has only been three deaths from the disease—two males and one female. This compares very favourably with the eight reported last year.

I am very pleased to report that the incidence or morbidity has also begun to show a decline this year. Only 31 were notified as compared with 48 in 1952. Since the war the rate had been rising even though the mortality had begun to show a fall. This



was principally due to the better methods of diagnosis, earlier case findings through the use of mass radiography and the advent of compulsory X-ray prior to employment in certain trades and professions. I feel that this policy of earlier diagnosis is beginning to show its effect with the reduction in number of cases this year. When one can get cases X-rayed early and treated straight away it is obvious that they are going to do much less damage to their friends and relatives and so the possibility of the spread of infection is very much diminished.

The total of cases remaining on the register this year is however slightly increased, i.e., 197 instead of 188 last year. This is principally due to the fact that in Hortham Hospital they are now accommodating most of the mental defectives in their hospital group who are suffering from the disease. From an administrative and treatment point of view this is very desirable as the patients can be nursed and treated together by experts, the mass radiography unit can keep them under observation regularly, and also the Chest Physician can see them all in a group.

41 cases in Hortham are being kept under observation as suffering or having suffered with Tuberculosis. These are all included in our register, even though the large majority of these patients never did live within the precincts of the Thornbury R.D. When one takes this number from 197 we are left with 156 on register who actually belong to the district, and even a good few of these might easily be wiped off the register if a complete check was made.

Out of the 41 cases in Hortham Hospital, the Medical Superintendent reported that two of them were new cases, 22 were old cases which were still active, two were cases on the register as quiescent but now active, and the remaining 15 were considered as quiescent but still to remain on the register.

Although I have been optimistic in this report about the fall in mortality and morbidity of Tuberculosis, I feel that we cannot relinquish our efforts in relation to prevention one little bit. In fact, we should strengthen our efforts to see that this horrible infectious disease is wiped off the register in our time. We must renew our efforts in trying to re-house tubercular families who are living in sub-standard dwellings so that overcrowding is avoided and they get a happy medium to practise the rules of hygiene taught in the hospitals and clinics.

In relation to the non-pulmonary cases which are still 48 in number, and of whom a goodly percentage may have been caused by infected milk, I look forward to the day when we can say that all the farmers in this district have got tuberculin tested herds. When this does occur I am certain that we shall see a very big decline in the number of non-pulmonary cases of Tuberculosis notified. All the children in the Area are now drinking Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised Milk at school, but all the good that is accomplished by this is undone at home when the child drinks undesignated milk which is always likely to be infected with germs



of the tubercle bacilli. The only safe milk in relation to the spread of all infectious diseases by milk is properly pasteurised, and T.T. milk should be relatively safe against the spread of Tuberculosis. If all mothers realised this fact and would only accept T.T. or Pasteurised, then those farmers selling undesignated raw milk would soon be forced out of business or else forced to go T.T.

### **Care of Old People**

It is noticeable from the death returns that four old people in the district died as the result of accidents in the home. Two of these sustained fractured femurs on falling downstairs, with the resultant hypostatic pneumonia which killed them.

Another old lady of 84 sustained severe chest injuries with following pneumonia after a fall downstairs, while a male, aged 76, sustained severe burns following a fall in the kitchen.

It behoves us to think about this as some of these deaths might have been avoided if old people were receiving more help in their homes either through relatives, voluntary organisations or the home help service.

Some old people are living alone in sub-standard cottages which are over 100 years old. In many instances the stairs are dangerous, the lavatory is away at the back of the garden and they have to go to the well to fetch their water.

In view of the fact that it is so difficult to get even very sick old people into hospitals these days without long delays, and also taking into account that most old people want to remain independent of hostels and institutions, I feel that this Council should consider building more old people's bungalows at the cheapest rate possible so that a reasonable rent can be charged.

When these bungalows are being designed by the Architect, every effort should be made to avoid steps, stairs, and other danger points which might be a cause of accident to the old resident. I often think that these old people's bungalows should be built in every housing estate so that the older generation can feel that they are not isolated from the rest of the community. In many cases this could be an asset to the younger generation as there is no reason why the older people could not act as sitters-in and thus let the younger fathers and mothers get out for an evening's entertainment.

I know that there are many old people's clubs in this District which are doing a grand job of work, but I feel there is a need for a voluntary committee composed of parish members who are willing to visit old folks in their district and assist them when necessary with their various problems.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PARISHES—1953

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Measles	Anterior Poliomylitis	Food Poisoning	Meningitis	Whooping Cough	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Total
Alkington							14			1	13		27
Almondsbury		1		3		12	180				5		202
Alveston ..				2			15						17
Aust ..							12						12
Berkeley ..		1		1			59				5		66
Charfield	1						2				5		8
Cromhall	14						20				4		38
Falfield ..	4						14				1		20
Hamfallow	1			2	1		29				1		33
Ham & Stone	1			1			17				4		23
Hill ..							3						3
Hinton ..	1	1		2			67				1		72
Oldbury							3						3
Olveston							7						7
Rangeworthy							1						1
Redwick & Northwick	4			2			96			2	18		122
Rockhampton							4						4
Thornbury						4	85				6		95
Tortworth	2						4						6
Tytherington													
TOTAL	28	3		13	1	16	632			3	63		759



## National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)

(Removal of Persons in need of Care and Attention to Suitable Premises).

During the year a number of cases were investigated by myself, but it was not found necessary to take compulsory measures under the Act for removal. In each case persuasion worked and the old person was removed to a home or hospital for chronic sick.

## ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

(Corrected) 1953

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY : Thornbury R.D. YEAR : 1953.
2. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) RETURN TO R.G.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter.	TOTAL
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.	Nil

3. OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS

Total Outbreaks : Nil. Total Cases : Nil.

Outbreaks due to :—

(a) Chemical Poisons	...	...	...	} Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms	...	...	...	
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	...	...	...	
(d) C.I. botulinum	...	...	...	
(e) Other bacteria	...	...	...	

4. OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks : Nil. Total Cases : Nil.

5. SINGLE CASES :

Agent identified	...	...	Nil
Unknown cause	...	...	Nil
Total	...	...	Nil

## INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

These certificates have to be countersigned by the Medical Officer of Health for the District in which the General Practitioner resides who has carried out the vaccination.

During the year thirty of these have been stamped and countersigned by me.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS — 1953

Disease	Age Un- known	Under 1 yr.	1 yrs.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	6—9 yrs.	10—14 yrs.	15—19 yrs.	20—34 yrs.	35—44 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	2				7		15	3	1					28
Enteric Fever ..														
Diphtheria ..														
Puerperal Pyrexia ..										3				3
Erysipelas ..												1		1
Pneumonia ..		1	1	1	1			1	2		1	2	3	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..														
Dysentery ..					1	1	4	2	2	4	1	1		16
Anterior Poliomye- litis ..														
Malaria ..														
Whooping Cough ..		3	9	7	7	22	12	3						63
Measles ..	11	11	33	76	64	178	226	20	5	4	3	1		632
Meningitis ..		1			1			1						3
Typhoid ..														
Food Poisoning ..														
TOTALS	13	16	43	84	81	201	257	30	0	11	5	5	3	759



# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION STATE — THORNBURY R.D. 1953

This scheme has continued to progress, thanks to the co-operation of the General Practitioners, District Nurses, Health Visitors and School Teachers, not to speak of the parents.

Age at 31.12.53 <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1953	1 1952	2 1951	3 1950	4 1949	5—9 1944—48	10—14 1939—43	Total under 15
Number Immunised	21	234	239	270	221	1360	1459	3804
Estimated Mid-year Child Population 1953	Children under 5 2,090							
Percentage Immun- ised in Thornbury R.D.	Children 5—14 3,920							
	47.1%							
	70.1%							
Percentage Immun- ised in County	52.3%							
	70.3%							
	58.6%							
	63.3%							

# **DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION CARRIED OUT IN THORNBURY R.D. DURING 1953**

## **DIPHTHERIA**

No. of Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation						
Under 1	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5—9 Years	10—14 Years
Total						
G.P.	77 (47)	57 (20)	24 (16)	3 (3)	5 (1)	166 (87)
L.A.	74	28	13	8	50	184
No. of Children who received a reinforcing dose						
G.P.			4	11	35	55
L.A.				7	229	298

Note : Figures in brackets denote combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough injections included in totals.

VACCINATION				
Under 1 Year	1 Year	2—4 Years	5—14 Years	15 or over
Total				
141	22	28	12	26
				229
RE-VACCINATION				
1	—	—	5	36
				42



# VACCINATION STATE—S.W. ENGLAND

Local Health Authority	Live Births in area during 12 months ended 30-6-1953	No. of children under 1 year in age vaccinated in 1953	Percentage
<b>County Councils</b>			
Cornwall	4,754	1,046	22.0
Devon	6,748	2,041	30.2
Gloucester	6,939	2,144	30.9
Somerset	6,869	2,264	33.0
<b>County Boroughs</b>			
Bath	1,093	394	36.0
Bristol	6,895	840	12.2
Exeter	1,110	595	53.6
Gloucester	1,075	102	9.5
Plymouth	3,502	1,459	41.7

## TUBERCULOSIS

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—								
1—								
5—	2			2				
15—	3	4		1		1		
25—	4	3	1		1			
35—	3							
45—	1				1			
55—	1	2						
65 and over	1							
Age unknown	2			1				
TOTALS	17	9	1	4	2	1		

## TUBERCULOSIS

Cases remaining on register.

			Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	...	...	87	62	149
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	22	26	48
			<hr/> 109	<hr/> 88	<hr/> 197

## METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

I have pleasure in submitting meteorological report for the year 1953 and comparison figures for the year 1952 :—

			1952	1953
Total Rainfall	...	...	33.08"	26.56"
Monthly Rainfall :—				
January	...	...	2.18"	0.744"
February	...	...	.65"	1.524"
March	...	...	2.41"	1.075"
April	...	...	2.00"	3.291"
May	...	...	3.81"	1.945"
June	...	...	3.22"	1.362"



July	...	...	1.88"	3.39"
August	...	...	3.81"	5.315"
September	...	...	2.95"	2.89"
October	...	...	4.30"	2.14"
November	...	...	4.10"	1.945"
December	...	...	1.77"	0.953"
Wettest Day	...	...	13th June	29th August

Average Temperature during year (°F) :

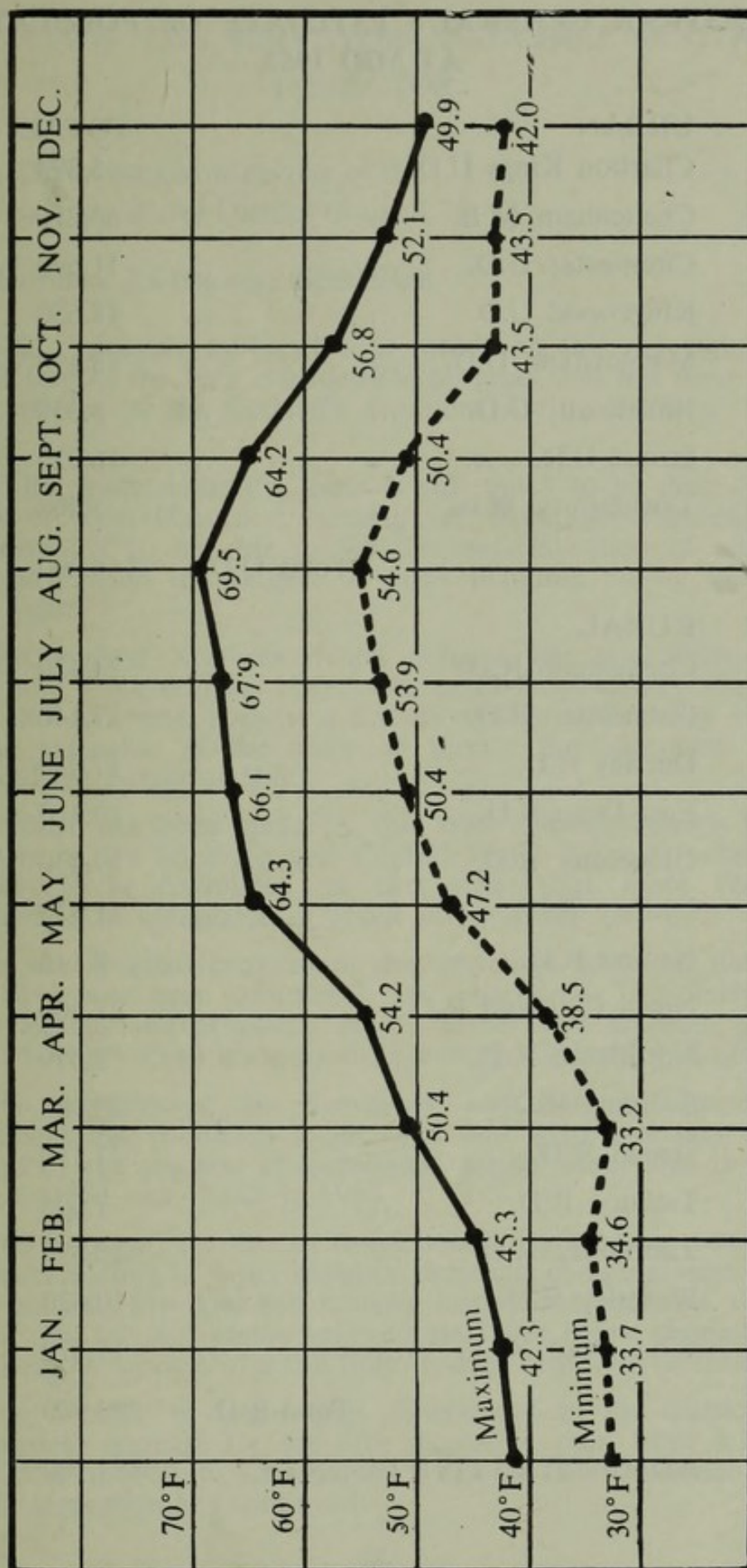
Max. 56/Min. 43    Max. 56/Min. 43

Average Temperature in month (°F.)	Max	Min.	Max.	Min.
January	...	...	43.3/33.9	42.3/33.7
February	...	...	45.1/32.6	45.3/34.6
March	...	...	51.1/39.7	50.4/33.2
April	...	...	58.1/40.7	54.2/38.5
May	...	...	64.8/48.0	64.3/47.2
June	...	...	67.1/51.4	66.1/50.4
July	...	...	70.9/55.7	67.9/53.9
August	...	...	68.6/54.6	69.5/54.6
September	...	...	59.6/45.9	64.2/50.4
October	...	...	55.5/43.9	56.8/43.5
November	...	...	45.0/36.3	52.1/43.5
December	...	...	42.5/33.5	49.9/42.0

Hottest Day	...	...	1st July	12th August
Coldest Day	...	...	5th December	5th January
Driest Month	...	...	February	January
Total hours of bright sunshine	...	1498.6 hrs.	1460 hrs.	
Date of maximum sunshine in any one day and length of period		23rd June (15 hrs.)	4th July (14.3 hrs.)	
Sunniest Month	...	...	June	July
Prevailing winds during the year		Westerly	South-Westerly	

The above information was obtained through the kind collaboration of The Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited, for whose assistance I express my thanks.

# MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES.





**REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF POPULATION  
AT MID 1953**

URBAN				TOTAL
Charlton Kings U.D.	...	...	...	5,894
Cheltenham M.B.	...	...	...	66,210
Cirencester U.D.	...	...	...	11,690
Kingswood U.D.	...	...	...	18,650
Mangotsfield U.D.	...	...	...	18,490
Nailsworth U.D.	...	...	...	3,638
Stroud U.D.	...	...	...	16,020
Tewkesbury M.B.	...	...	...	5,408
Total U.D. :				<u>146,000</u>
RURAL				
Cheltenham R.D.	...	...	...	24,420
Cirencester R.D.	...	...	...	17,140
Dursley R.D.	...	...	...	17,050
East Dean R.D.	...	...	...	20,410
Gloucester R.D.	...	...	...	37,430
Lydney R.D.	...	...	...	11,930
Newent R.D.	...	...	...	8,146
North Cotswold R.D.	...	...	...	21,400
Northleach R.D.	...	...	...	8,679
Sodbury R.D.	...	...	...	38,980
Stroud R.D.	...	...	...	27,150
Tetbury R.D.	...	...	...	7,005
Thornbury R.D.	...	...	...	25,670
Warmley R.D.	...	...	...	10,620
West Dean R.D.	...	...	...	17,870
Total R.D. :				<u>293,900</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY				... <u>439,900</u>

## REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Thornbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be able to record on this my eighteenth Annual Report the very considerable progress that has been made in all spheres of the Council's functions during the year under review.

While, quite naturally, there is still much to be done in the matters of slum clearance, housing and sewerage schemes, it is very gratifying to be able to see the materialisation of schemes which have been the subject of one's planning during the past fifteen years.

The original Northern Water Scheme has now been completed, and there remains only to be carried out sundry improvements and additions, such as a booster station at Berkeley Heath, and the extension of the mains to service the Sharpness Dock Area and the Parish of Hill.

A start has been made by the West Gloucestershire Water Company on the Southern and Central Water Scheme—scheduled originally to be completed in two years—but more recently estimated to be completed in about three years.

Of the original programme for sewerage schemes, the first three have now been completed, i.e., Sharpness, Thornbury and Severn Beach, and proposals for a further five schemes are at present being worked upon by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

The activities of the Surveyors and Sanitary Inspectors' Department has continued to increase, and is to a certain extent reflected by the increase in inspections, which were 7,086 in 1951, 10,671 in 1952 and 12,626 in 1953.

The increased number of inspections have been in connection with visits relating to water supplies, drainage, camping, inspections under building bye-laws and housing inspections, and this, despite the fact that for part of the year our staff was below strength and we lacked the services of a full time Rodent Inspector/Operator.

The number of bacon pigs slaughtered in the district has continued to increase for the fifth successive year, from 5,350 in 1951, 7,950 in 1952, to 8,087 in 1953, and the 100% detailed post-mortem inspection has continued.



The Surveyors' branch of the department is finding its time more and more occupied with the maintenance of Council houses and the provision of additional facilities to the older Council houses, involving the replacement of defective tarmacadam paths with concrete paths, external painting, provision of mains water supply, installation of electricity, main drainage and general day to day repairs.

With the easing of building licensing restrictions, there has, naturally, been additional duties in connection with the enforcement of building bye-laws. In this latter connection, it must be recorded that new building bye-laws have been adopted and confirmed by the Minister.

The effective work of pests destruction has continued, but was to a certain extent curtailed by the lack of staff. The absence of one employee through illness, resignations and the delay and difficulty in obtaining replacement staff, has caused inconvenience and thrown extra work on to the officers continuing in the Council's service.

The office accommodation problem referred to in my last report has now been overcome for the time being.

The staff of the department are keen and the team spirit is very much in evidence.

This very brief resumé of the general position, together with the following detailed report will, I hope, confirm my claim of the considerable progress which is being made in the district.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS

Nature of Visits or Inspection	Totals
Water Supply ... ..	632
Drainage ... ..	570
Stables and Piggeries ... ..	22
Offensive Trades ... ..	—
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	7
Common Lodging Houses ... ..	—
Houses let in Lodgings ... ..	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	280
Canal Boats ... ..	6
Factories and Workshops ... ..	138
Outworkers ... ..	1
Bakehouses ... ..	9
Public Conveniences ... ..	148
Theatres and Places of Entertainment ... ..	12
Licensed Premises ... ..	68
Refuse Collection ... ..	246
Refuse Disposal ... ..	25
Rats and Mice ... ..	1357
Atmospheric Pollution ... ..	—
Schools ... ..	18
Shops ... ..	29
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ... ..	163
Council Houses ... ..	3598
Sewage Disposal Works ... ..	242
Sewage Sampling ... ..	42
New Buildings ... ..	390
Drain Tests and Inspections ... ..	502
Building Licensing ... ..	24
Petroleum ... ..	60
<b>Under Public Health Acts</b>	
Number of Houses inspected ... ..	512
Re-visits paid to above houses ... ..	562
<b>Under Housing Acts</b>	
Number of houses inspected ... ..	233
Re-visits paid to above houses ... ..	75
<b>Overcrowding</b>	
Number of houses inspected ... ..	25
Re-visits paid to above houses ... ..	4
<b>Verminous Premises</b>	
Number of houses inspected ... ..	48
Re-visits paid to above houses ... ..	4
Miscellaneous housing visits ... ..	13
<b>Infectious Diseases</b>	
Inquiries in case of I.D. ... ..	81
Visits re disinfection ... ..	44
Miscellaneous I.D. Visits ... ..	5



Nature of Visits or Inspection	Totals
<b>Inspections in connection with Food</b>	
Visits to Slaughterhouses ... ..	426
Visits to Shops and Stalls ... ..	44
Visits re meat inspections ... ..	431
Visits to Butchers ... ..	51
Visits to Canteens ... ..	14
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	108
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers ...	12
Visits to Food Preparing Premises ...	173
Visits to Grocers ... ..	79
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers ...	19
Visits to Ice Cream Premises ... ..	59
Visits to Market Stalls ... ..	4
Visits to Restaurants ... ..	32
<b>Visits in connection with Sampling</b>	
Milk—Bacteriological ... ..	99
Milk—Gerber Testing ... ..	37
Ice Cream ... ..	71
Food and Drug Samples ... ..	9
Miscellaneous Food Visits ... ..	40
General Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	723
Total :	12,626

#### NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices Served ... ..	82
Statutory Notices Served ... ..	151
Prosecutions ... ..	Nil

#### HOUSING

The Council has continued its endeavours to erect the maximum number of houses allocated them by the Ministry. The programme, however, is somewhat in arrears due to labour and material difficulties and the negotiations necessary to obtain prices acceptable to the Ministry.

Development has had to be confined to the larger centres of population and certain of the rural areas where public services exist.

The selection of tenants is carried out by five Area Lettings Committees, which were set up in 1950, who hold meetings as and when necessary.

During the year consideration was given to the adoption of a points system, which was eventually not carried.

During the year the Council considered a detailed report which I prepared for the formation of a Direct Labour Organisation for the maintenance of Council Houses, but it was not adopted.

The Council's property therefore continues to be maintained by local contractors on the basis of day work charges for small items of repairs, and by contract for the larger items of repairs.

During the year the maintenance of Council Houses involved the issue of 1,311 orders and inspections.

The provision of mains water and electricity has been carried out wherever these services have become available. The Council has also agreed a scheme for the gradual replacement of obsolete solid fuel ranges with a modern type. The programme, which may take from three to five years to implement, is likely to eventually cost between £8,000 to £9,000.

During the year contracts were entered into for the external painting of 257 houses.

The work involved in the ordering of everyday repairs, preparation of contracts, and the consequent supervision, has increased very considerably. The duties are about as much as the present staff can cope with, and it is my opinion that additional assistance will shortly be needed if other duties are not to suffer.

### Waiting Lists

The number of applicants for houses and the total number of houses erected as at May, 1954, in the various Lettings Committee Areas are as follows :—

	Existing Council Houses	Applications
1. Almondsbury ... ..	418	237
2. Redwick & Northwick, Aust and Olveston ... ..	114	38
3. Thornbury, Alveston, Rangeworthy, Tytherington, Oldbury-on-Severn ... ..	331	145
4. Falfield, Stone, Tortworth, Charfield, Cromhall, Ham, Hill, Rockhampton, Alking- ton ... ..	124	52
5. Berkeley, Hinton and Ham- fallow ... ..	200	104
Total :	1187	576
Number of houses owned by Council at 31/12/1952		1071
Houses erected during the year ... ..		74
Number of houses at 31/12/1953 ... ..		1145
Number of houses in course of construction ...		105

### Slum Clearance, etc.

The Council has continued to take statutory action in respect of a number of unfit properties, and had agreed for the Medical



Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to investigate and submit a programme of slum clearance.

The ever increasing cost of repairs and the restriction on rent increases is continuing to cause difficulties in the execution of essential repairs. It remains to be seen just how far the proposed new legislation will contribute towards a solution to this problem.

The position under the Housing Act, 1936, is shown in the following table :—

	No. of Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section II. ... ..	1	3
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force ... ..	6	15
(c) Parts of Buildings closed (Section 12) ... ..	1	2
(d) Houses made fit after service of formal notices under Sections 9 and 11 ... ..	4	14

#### ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES IN THE THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT

##### (b) BRISTOL WATERWORKS COMPANY,

18th December, 1953. Telephone Avenue, Bristol 1

Input to  
Company's mains.

Chemical Analysis. (Results in parts per million).

Total Solids ... ..	327
Chlorine as Chlorides ... ..	13.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	1.92
Saline Ammonia ... ..	0.080
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0.076
Oxygen absorbed from KMnO <sub>4</sub> ... ..	0.80
Total hardness ... ..	262
Permanent hardness ... ..	66
pH ... ..	7.7
Free chlorine ... ..	0.10

Bacteriological Analysis

Colonies per ml. on Agar

3 days at 20°C. ... ..	18
2 days at 37°C. ... ..	7

Bacillus Coli per 100 mls.

Typical ... ..	Absent
Presumptive ... ..	Absent

F. P. HORNBLY,  
Chemist.

(c) GLOUCESTER CORPORATION

Report on samples of water taken from Leathern Bottle Reservoir.

16th December, 1953.

Chemical Analysis. (Results in parts per million).

	Inlet	Outlet
Total Dissolved Solids	281	281
Combined Chlorine	50	50
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	2.4	2.4
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0.001	0.001
Mineral Ammonia as N	Absent	Absent
Organic Ammonia as N	0.024	0.016
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter in 4 hours	0.97	0.95
Temporary Hardness	100	100
Permanent Hardness	79	78
Total Hardness	179	178
Chloramine or Free Chlorine as Chlorine		
pH. Value	7.4	7.4

**Bacteriological Examination**

Micro-organisms in one cubic centimetre capable of growing on Agar at 22°C.

44

66

Micro-organisms in one cubic centimetre capable of growing on Agar at 37°C.

1

1

B. Coli. No. per 100 mls.

0

0

**Remarks :—**

The analyses show that these waters are satisfactory for the purposes of a public supply.

They are apparently derived from the Tewkesbury supply.

MERVYN D. TURNER,

Public Analyst.

(a) West Gloucestershire Water Company.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES,

66, Victoria Street,

London, S.W.1.

Bacteriological Examination of a Sample of Water. Ref. H/WH/56 received 10-2-53 from WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER COMPANY. Labelled 9, Severn Drive, Thornbury. Tap in Scullery. Dated 9-2-53, 10.45 a.m. Taken by W. Whittern. Witness W. Anstee.

Number of colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes



### Presumptive Coli-aerogenes

		Present in	Absent from	Probable number
Reaction	...	ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	...	ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

ROY C. HOATHER.

17th February, 1953.

### RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

The following schedule which is based on the original housing survey and which has been amended as the result of statutory action, gives a general picture of the housing conditions in the District. It should be borne in mind, however, that due to the many years which have elapsed since the survey was carried out, that the figures cannot be relied upon :—

#### TYPE OF PROPERTY

Reasonably fit in all respects	Minor Defects	Requiring Repairs or appropriate for re-conditioning	Unfit for habitation beyond repair	Totals
Category 1	Category 2	Categories 3 & 4	Category 5	
792	2453	2337	245	5827

### HOUSING ACT, 1949

Only one application has been received and approved. Several other tentative enquiries have not been proceeded with.

During the preparation of this report, however, it appears that the relaxation of certain conditions and increased publicity is likely to give rise to many more applications during the ensuing year.

### WATER SUPPLIES

The area is covered by three statutory water undertakings :—

- Southern and central areas of the district by the West Gloucestershire Water Co.
- A small area in the south-west of the district, in the Parishes of Almondsbury and Redwick & Northwick, by The Bristol Waterworks Co.
- Six Parishes in the north of the district by the Gloucester Corporation.

The original scheme of the Gloucester Corporation to cover the five northern Parishes has now more or less been completed; there remaining only the provision of a booster station at Berkeley Heath to improve the supply to the Upper Wick area, and the extension of the mains to serve the Sharpness Dock area. This latter is at present the subject of discussions on the financial aspect.

During the year negotiations were completed for the extension of the Gloucester Corporation water mains into the Parish of Hill, and for which a scheme has now been agreed.

A survey of properties on the lines of the water mains in the northern parishes, which was outlined in my last report, has been continued. It involves a considerable amount of work in the scheduling, estimating, serving of notices, preparation of plans and specifications, eventual acceptance of tenders and supervision of the work. I cannot emphasise too strongly just how much is involved in these activities, and it has been helped very considerably by the appointment of a Sub-Committee acting under the able chairmanship of Councillor S. F. Daldry.

The following activities were carried out as a direct result of the meetings held by the Sub-Committee :—

Total No. of connections	...	...	...	...	174
Notices served	...	...	...	...	92
Notices complied with	...	...			22
Work carried out in default	...				5
Notices outstanding at 31/12/53					60
Notices expiring in 1954	...				5
				—	
				92	
				—	

The estimated cost of work on the outstanding notices is £1,761.

The estimated possible expenditure to the Local Authority is £461.

The scheme of the West Gloucestershire Water Co. to serve the Southern and Central areas of the district has at long last been commenced. I have referred to this in my opening remarks. It will bring a much needed mains water supply to practically all those areas of the district which are without a wholesome supply of water.



From our experience of other mains water schemes it will be necessary to carry out similar action to that at present operating in the northern area, but it is difficult at this stage to even hazard a guess as to the amount of work involved.

The original programme was scheduled to take two years, but the latest information appears to indicate that as the result of restrictions on expenditure, the scheme may take slightly over three years to complete.

There continue to be 18 Council Houses at Charfield, Falfield, Rangeworthy and Rockhampton for which the supply is dependent upon rain water storage tanks supplemented by the haulage of mains water.

### **Water Samples**

During the year 45 samples of water were obtained from 28 sources and submitted for analysis. Of these sources, 12 were found to be satisfactory and 16 unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory sources were remedied in 11 cases by connections to the water mains. In four cases temporary measures have been taken to render the supply fit pending the extension of water mains, and in one case—involving a large Naval Training Establishment—it was remedied by giving instructions for the proper operating of the chlorination plant.

It should be recorded that the Council has agreed for statutory action to be taken to secure a mains water supply to all properties where the cost of connection is estimated not to exceed £40. Upon default, the Council undertake to carry out the work and recover the maximum permitted amount of £20. I think it is to be regretted that financial limits should ever be brought into legislation, as, with the passing of time they become completely unrealistic.

# WATER SUPPLY POSITION IN THE THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	No. of Properties	No. of Properties supplied with mains water	Remarks
<i>West Gloucestershire Water Co. and Bristol Waterworks.</i>			
Almondsbury .. ..	814	739	These are all affected by the Southern and Central Water Scheme.
Aust .. ..	125	—	
Alveston .. ..	407	375	
Charfield .. ..	253	—	
Cromhall .. ..	256	121	
Falfield .. ..	121	7	
Oldbury-on-Severn .. ..	171	—	
Olvoston .. ..	382	293	
Patchway .. ..	1492	1462	
Rangeworthy .. ..	83	8	
Redwick & Northwick .. ..	520	520	
Rockhampton .. ..	44	—	
Thornbury .. ..	917	751	
Tortworth .. ..	54	—	
Tytherington .. ..	173	159	
<i>Gloucester Corporation Water Dept.</i>			Mains recently laid Mains scheme approved.
Alkington .. ..	196	50	
Berkeley .. ..	334	281	
Hamfallow .. ..	284	146	
Hinton .. ..	440	244	
Ham & Stone .. ..	179	55	
Hill .. ..	40	—	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,285</b>	<b>5,211</b>	

Pracically all the properties not connected with a mains supply obtain water from shallow wells, of which the majority, upon analysis, are found to be polluted.



## RIVERS AND STREAMS

### Topography

The lower tidal reaches of the River Severn form the western boundary of the Rural District. The major portion of the district is within the Severn Catchment Area with a small portion in the south-west corner of the district coming within the Bristol Avon Catchment Area.

The principal watercourse in the District is the Little Avon River rising at Wickwar (Sodbury R.D.) which passes through Charfield, Tortworth, Alkington, Hame & Stone, which eventually discharges via the tidal pill at Berkeley into the River Severn.

### General Conditions

There has been a steady improvement in the conditions of the Little Avon River, due to action by neighbouring authorities in preventing pollution of tributaries, and in consequence of this there has been no recorded mass destruction of the fish life.

The sewers at Sharpness, Brookend and Severn Beach discharge without treatment into the tidal reaches of the River Severn. The old sewers of Berkeley discharge untreated sewerage into the tidal pill, and the old sewers of Charfield discharge small quantities of untreated sewerage into the River Avon.

Foul ditches continue to exist in many places, and as I emphasised in my last report, one can confidently say that wherever there is a community with a mains water supply and no sewerage scheme, foul ditches are bound to exist. For example, there are nuisances existing in ditches and watercourses in the following Parishes :—

Aust	Hinton
Almondsbury	Hamfallow
Redwick	Ham & Stone
Olveston	Berkeley
Alkington	Thornbury

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The position in respect of sewerage schemes is as follows :—

Sharpness and Brookend (Parish of Hinton)	.....	Completed
Severn Beach (Parish of Redwick & Northwick)	...	Completed
Thornbury — modified scheme for enlargement of sewage disposal plant	.....	Completed

Alveston — modified scheme to serve council housing site at Quarry Road .....	Nearing Completion
--	-----------------------

The Ministry has given no indication of when we may expect a starting date for the larger scheme at Alveston.

### **Berkeley**

The scheme has been approved by the Ministry and a decision on the starting date is awaited. The existing old sewers and the connections thereto are defective, and the scheme is needed urgently to enable modern sanitary facilities to be installed and to bring about the cessation of the present very unsatisfactory bucket closet emptying service.

### **Generally**

The Council has instructed the Consulting Engineers to prepare outline schemes for submission to the Ministry for :—

1. Almondsbury.
2. Charfield
3. Olveston and Tockington.
4. Wanswell.
5. Parts of Thornbury not already sewered.

Throughout the district cesspits are emptied by private arrangement with two firms which are operating.

A survey of the sanitary conditions at both old and new council houses (including those in course of erection) revealed the following position :—



Parish	Situation	Sewage Plant	Properties Sewered	Remarks
Alkington	Newport	Sewage Plant	11	Council Estate
Almondsbury	Marshall Cres.	ditto	10	ditto
	Hallen	ditto	14	ditto
	Easter Compton	Sewage Works	18	ditto
	Woodlands	ditto	7	Squatters' Camp
	Cribbs Causeway	ditto	1	Public House
	Hortham Colony	ditto	1	Mertal Inst.
	Woodhouse Down	ditto	42	Council Estate
	Village	ditto	1	Hospital
Alveston	Greenhill	ditto	10	Council Estate
	"Silverhill"	ditto	1	Private School
Berkeley	Town	Old Sewers	290	Defective
	The Lynch	Sewage Tanks	48	Council Estate
Charfield	Manor Lane	Sewage Plant	10	Council Estate
	Village	Old Sewer	20	Approximate only
Cromhall	Townwell	Sewage Plant	14	Council Estate
	The Huntsman	ditto	1	Public House
Falfield	Sundays Hill	ditto	6	Council Estate
	Eastwood Park	ditto	1	Home Office School
Ham & Stone	Stone	ditto	12	Council Estate
Hinton	Sharpness	New Sewers	240	Re-sewered
	Purton	Old Sewers	20	Fouling ditches
Olveston	Oldown	Sewage Plant	11	Council Estate
	Olveston and Tockington	Old Sewers	50	Discharges to ditches
Patchway	Parish	Public Sewer	1600	Joint Sewerage Committee
Rangeworthy	Berrowsmead	Sewage Plant	4	Council Estate
Rockhampton	Church View	ditto	4	ditto
Redwick & Northwick	Severn Beach	Ejector Stn.	225	New Scheme
Thornbury	Wick Road	Sewage Plant	18	Council Estate
Tortworth	Oldbury Lane	Sewage Plant	980	Enlarged
Tytherington	Leyhill Prison	ditto	1	Home Office Prison
	School	ditto	1	School
	Southlands	ditto	28	Council Estate

All Council owned sewage plants are serviced and maintained by direct labour. Three workmen are engaged for the Thornbury

sewage works, and the small plants serving the various groups of Council houses are maintained by a workman for whom transport is provided.

### **BUCKET CLOSET CONTENTS**

These are emptied by the Council from properties in the parishes of Berkeley and Hamfallow.

The present method of collection is by an open topped trailer towed behind the refuse collection vehicle. The work is unpleasant, the method of collection is offensive and insanitary, and disposal is to the Council's refuse tip at Oakhunger, Berkeley.

The majority of the smaller villages and the rural cottages have poor closet accommodation. The extension of the mains water supply is, however, enabling improved sanitary facilities to be installed, and there is a slow but steady trend towards improving the conditions.

Twenty earth closets have been converted from the bucket and/or privy pit type to water closets.

### **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

#### **Collection**

Combined collection of refuse and salvage is carried on through the district by direct labour.

During the year the Council extended the collection to the inside of the front gate in the Parish of Patchway, and the remainder of the district continues to be collected from the roadside.

The service is operated by :—

- 1 Foreman Driver.
- 3 Driver Loaders.
- 6 Loaders.
- 2 Refuse Tip Attendants.
- 1 Paper Baling Attendant.
- 1 Mobile Sewage Works Attendant.

The fleet consists of :—

- 2, 10 cu. yd. Dennis side loading lorries.  
Registered 1945 and 1949.
- 2, 11 cu. yd. Ford side loading lorries.  
Registered 1950.
- 1, 4-ton ex-Army Ford truck lorry.  
Registered 1948.
- 1, Land Rover.  
Registered 1950.

The number of loads of refuse collected each month has practically doubled in the past three years.

#### **Disposal and Refuse Tips**

Refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused quarries and on to low lying areas of land, etc. The standard of tip maintenance has considerably improved during the year.



Accommodation for the disposal of refuse is likely to become a very acute problem in the near future.

Refuse Tips are as follows :—

**1—Oakhunter Lane, Berkeley.**

The tip is rented by the Council. The site consists of a disused clay pit part filled with water, and is being used for the disposal of refuse and closet contents collected from the northern parishes of the district.

During the year complaints have been received, but conditions have considerably improved due to the engagement of a Refuse Tip Attendant and the provision of increased quantities of covering material which have been made available.

**2—The Quarry, Alveston**

This is a disused limestone quarry of approximately two acres which is gradually being filled in shallow layers and is maintained in excellent condition, but due to the proximity of houses, and by special resolution of the Council, it is only used during the winter months, and receives the refuse collected from the parishes in the central parts of the district. This land is owned by the Council.

**3—Littlewood, Cromhall.**

This tip is situate in a disused limestone quarry rented from the Tortworth Estate Co., and is used for the disposal of refuse collected chiefly from the parishes of Charfield, Cromhall and Tortworth.

**4—Walning Farm, Pilning.**

This is a low lying area of farm land which is being filled up at the request of a farmer to whom no rent is paid. It is used chiefly for the disposal of refuse from Patchway, Almondsbury, Alveston, Redwick and Northwick, and during the summer months from the parishes in the central area of the district also.

## FREQUENCY OF REFUSE COLLECTION

Parish		Place	Frequency
Almondsbury	...	Lower Almondsbury	Twice Monthly
		Easter Compton ...	Twice Monthly
		Cribbs Causeway, etc.	Twice Monthly
		Hallen ... ..	Monthly
Alkington	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Alveston	...	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Aust	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Berkeley	...	Whole Parish	Weekly
Charfield	...	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Cromhall	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
		Part Parish	Twice Monthly
Falfield	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hamfallow	...	Whole Parish	Weekly
Ham & Stone	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hill	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hinton	...	Whole Parish	Weekly
Oldbury	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Olveston	...	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Patchway	...	Whole Parish	Weekly
Rangeworthy	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Redwick & Northwick		Redwick & Severn Beach ... ..	Weekly
		Northwick ... ..	Monthly
Rockhampton	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Thornbury	...	Lighting Area	Weekly
		Other Parts ... ..	Monthly
Tortworth	...	Whole Parish	Monthly
Tytherington	...	Whole Parish	Monthly

## SALVAGE

Efforts have been made to maintain our salvage returns. With the fluctuating markets, prices, etc., it continues to be difficult to estimate as to the future.

The gross cost of the cleansing service during the year amounted to £7,374.

Salvage collected and sold:—

	£	s.	d.
Metals	11	7	8
Iron	153	19	3
Rags, etc.	191	4	0
Paper	614	10	9
	£971	1	8



## **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Council provides and maintains four public conveniences, each with accommodation for men and women, at :—

Berkeley

Patchway

Severn Beach

Thornbury.

Part-time cleaners are employed for each.

The Council is also considering proposals for the provision of a public convenience at Aust.

## **CAMPING**

A considerable amount of camping is taking place in the district. The majority of the structures consist of permanently stationed chalets and trailer caravans. A proportion are permanently occupied.

There are 17 principal licensed sites with accommodation for 600 structures; in addition there are numerous other sites occupied by one or two caravans. At the height of the holiday season I estimate that there are 2,500 campers in the district. The Council has adopted Camping Bye-laws based on the model form prepared by the Ministry of Health. The sanitary accommodation at the recently licensed sites is reasonably good, but the conditions on some of the older sites are very unsatisfactory.

A more strict interpretation and firm action by the Planning Authority and Council are desirous, and in my opinion there is cause for serious concern about the increasing number of permanent all the year round occupation in sub-standard accommodation.

This district appears to be the receiving authority for other adjoining districts, and it is possible that even during the depths of winter there are 100 families occupying such accommodation.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

## (a) Inspection of Premises

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	16			
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Act, 1938 (b) Others .. .. .	97		15	
(3) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	1			
TOTAL .. .. .	114		15	

## (b) Cases in which Defects were found :

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	12	12	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven'ces:					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	3	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ..	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	16	14	—	3	—



(c) **Outworkers.** Sections 110 and 111.

Nature of work :—

(a) Carding of buttons, etc.

(b) Glove making.

Number of outworkers on list required by Section 110 :—

(a) 19.

(b) 3.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**

There has continued to be an increase in the number of pigs slaughtered in the area, chiefly in the bacon factories.

The increase from 461 in 1947, 7950 in 1952, to 8087 during 1953, has meant an increase in the responsibility and time spent on this work, and the continuance of the 100% post mortem examination can, in my opinion, be regarded as an excellent achievement.

No. of licensed slaughterhouses ..... 10

No. in regular use ..... 2

No. of licensed slaughtermen ..... 44

The duties involved 426 visits to slaughterhouses.

Carcases Inspected	Cattle exclu'ng Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	—	—	—	12	8087
Number inspected .. ..	—	—	—	12	8087
<b>CARCASES CONDEMNED :</b>					
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..					
.. ..	—	—	—	9	569
Percentage of carcasses inspected affected with diseases (other than Tuberculosis) .. ..					
.. ..	—	—	—	75%*	7.15%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	8
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned .. ..					
.. ..	—	—	—	—	656
Percentage of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis .. ..					
.. ..	—	—	—	—	8.21%

\*High percentage due to fact that the 12 sheep and lambs were casualties.

## FOOD PREPARATION AND HANDLING

The various food premises in the district are listed below :—

### 1—Registered Premises :

Preserved Food	...	...	...	10	
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	5	
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	67	
Dairies registered under Milk and					
Dairies Regs., 1949	...	...	...	14	
				—	96

### 2—Unregistered Premises :

Butchers	...	...	...	...	16
Grocers	...	...	...	...	50
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	12
Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	64
Cafes, etc.	...	...	...	...	15
				—	157

Total 253

Inspections of registered food premises totalled 170. In the majority of instances the premises were satisfactory.

During the year the following improvements have been carried out to the various premises to which the Model Bye-laws apply :—

Lighting improved	...	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	4
Cleansing of premises carried out	...	...	...	11
New fittings provided	...	...	...	12
Sanitary accommodation improved or provided	...	...	...	31
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	4
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	16
Hot water provided (washing facilities)	...	...	...	22
Mains water supply provided	...	...	...	11
Drainage arrangements improved	...	...	...	4
				116

## CONDEMNED FOOD REGISTER

During the year the following weight of food was inspected and certified as unsound :—

Meat (Tuberculosis)	...	...	9114	lbs.
Meat (Other Diseases)	...	...	2187 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Tins and jars of sundry foods	...	...	240	lbs.
Other foodstuffs	...	...	579 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
			<hr/>	
			12,121 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.

Unsound or diseased meat is collected by contractors for conversion to bone meal, etc. Small quantities of offal are occasionally incinerated at the slaughterhouses.



No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been made during the year.

### ICE CREAM

Four premises in the district are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, one of which operates very occasionally, and 63 premises registered for sale, chiefly of the pre-packed product.

There was an increased number of samples taken during the year, a total of 101. Of this number 88 were satisfactory and 13 unsatisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory, none were manufactured in the area, and in consequence the results were communicated to the area concerned with satisfactory results which became evident upon re-sampling.

Twenty-eight of the samples taken were also chemically analysed. In all cases they were above the standard. Some of these had remarkably high fat and non-fatty solid contents.

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

There was a substantial increase in the number of milk samples taken and submitted for analysis. A total of 152 samples and two bottle rinses were taken, and the results of these are set out below.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples from producers and producer/retailers, the results were communicated to the County Milk Production Officers.

In the case of retailers the unsatisfactory results were followed up and eventually satisfactory results obtained.

#### Milk Sample Results

Designation	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Remarks
T.T.	72	39	27	6 results awaited at end of year.
Accredited	4	3	1	
Pasteurised	12	11	1	
Non-Designated	64	32	32	
Totals	152	85	61	

Two bottle rinse samples were taken with satisfactory results.

Out of the above samples, 48 were submitted for biological examination. One sample was notified as T.B. positive and six samples as Brucella Abortus positive, and the remaining samples—apart from the 13 which were not received by 31st December, 1953—being clear.

During the year grave concern was expressed by the Council at the high percentage of unsatisfactory milk samples, and in consequence the matter was taken up with the various Ministries, the Agricultural Executive Committee and the Rural District Councils' Association. As the result of this, our notifications to the Milk Production Officers are acknowledged and we are informed of their proposed action. I am, however, of the opinion that much appears still to be done in the way of inspections and the following up of unsatisfactory sampling results.

### **T.B. Case**

On receipt of the positive T.B. results, the information was sent to the County Medical Officer of Health and to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Veterinary Officers carried out further investigations and sampling, with a result that two cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. The results of further milk samples were awaited by them at the end of the year.

### **Brucella Abortus Organisms**

These affected four farms in the area. Action was taken under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, on 2nd November, 1953, and from that date all milk was pasteurised prior to consumption. Further samples were taken from the herds in collaboration with the Animal Health Division, and the animals were clinically examined by the Veterinary Officer at the same time.

Due to the results of these samples, the Notice served under Section 20 on one of the farmers was withdrawn on 21st December, 1953. In the other three cases further investigation and sampling were in progress at the end of the year.

### **Milk Production**

Dairy Farms in district	...	...	468.
Number of T.T. herds	...	...	152
Percentage of T.T. supplies	...	...	32.48%

I thank the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Officers for supplying these figures.



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

## Report for 15 months ended 31st March, 1954

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	All other (including business premises)	Total
1. Total number of pro- perties in Local Authority's District ..	20	6449	526	1249	8244
2. Number of properties inspected as the result of					
a) Notification ..	—	32	4	3	39
(b) Survey, or	17	192	63	40	312
(c) Otherwise ..	—	—	—	6	6
3. Number of properties found to be infested by rats					
Major .. ..	3	—	13	—	16
Minor .. ..	14	—	21	9	44
4. Number of properties seriously infested by mice .. ..	—	31	—	4	35
5. Number of infested properties treated ..	17	102	—	13	132
6. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment ..	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works, i.e., Proofing ..	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken following issue of notice under Section 4 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "block " control schemes carried out .. ..	—	—	—	—	12

## SUMMARY

The aforementioned report has been formulated on the basis of the Ministry of Health's instructions, and as the result of discussions with the Medical Officer of Health I have made every endeavour to make it as comprehensive, yet concise, as possible.

The scope of the Council's work is reflected to a considerable extent in the ever increasing activities of the Department, and I feel sure that this will be apparent to all members of the Council after perusal of the information contained herein.

All the staff have worked efficiently, and the harmonious relations which exist between the Council and the staff extends throughout the whole of the Department.

To Councillor J. H. Cooke, M.B.E., J.P. (Chairman of the Council), Councillor R. E. Iles (Chairman of the Public Health Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Council), Councillor J. W. Thompson (late Chairman of the Public Health Committee), Councillor H. Booth (Chairman of the Finance Committee) and to all members of the Council, and to the Medical Officer of Health and fellow Officers and Staff, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the pleasant co-operation and assistance which have been afforded me.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

R. HUNTINGTON,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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