

[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Thornbury R.D.C.

Contributors

Thornbury (Gloucestershire, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1954

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wg46h2yf>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LOWE CENTRAL Library
ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH

of the

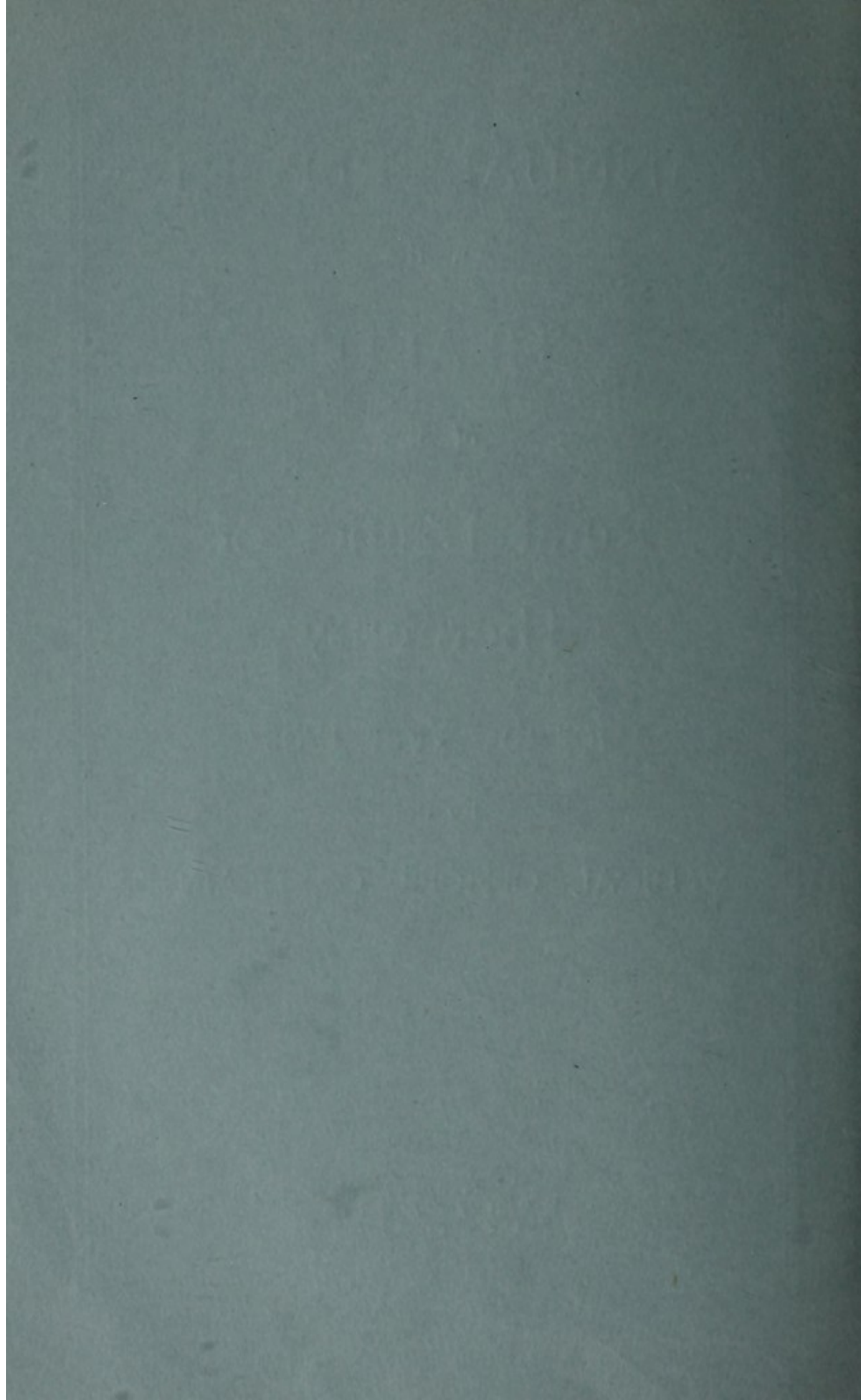
Rural District of
Thornbury

for the Year 1954

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Printed by
F. BAILEY & SON, LTD.,
GAZETTE OFFICE, DURSLEY



THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

J. H. COOKE, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

R. E. ILES, Esq., C.C.

Solicitor and Clerk of the Council :

J. L. JUDD, Esq., D.P.A.

Councillors :

C. Allen	W. Fowler	W. N. Scott
E. Allen	Mrs. M. Haddrell	J. Spratt, J.P.
W. S. Armstrong	J. J. Hardwick	H. R. Stephens,
H. Booth	J. H. Harford	M.B.E., C.C.
L. W. Bosisto	J. M. Kennard	R. C. B. Stride
A. W. Boyt	A. E. Kibbey	J. W. Thompson
Rev. W. F. Burlton	J. W. Lee	Mrs. W. L. Ward
J. Chadwick	F. W. Lewis, C.C.	J. Whelpton
G. H. Chamberlayne	Mrs. W. M. Pearce	H. W. Whittern
S. F. Daldry	Rev. W. A. Peel	D. J. Winstone
Mrs. P. M. Davidson	F. W. Perry	H. M. Williams
	E. H. Phillips	

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 Inspectors :

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

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

Assistant to Sanitary Inspector :

J. T. Ovens, from 15/11/54

Assistant Building Surveyor :

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

Assistant to Building Surveyor :

R. W. Morris

Rodent Officer :

G. Milton

Senior Clerk : J. W. A. Moss.

Junior Clerk : Miss M. F. Day, from 2/2/54.

THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,

Castle Street,

Thornbury.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my eighth 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 28/54 of the 15th December, 1954, and the Minister requests that the report should follow similar lines and include the information asked for in his circular 1/54 of 12th January, 1954.

The only specific item asked for in the new circular is under Housing, and insofar as this has not already been done, the information in tabular form required under Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, which, owing to war-time conditions, was curtailed in accordance with Section D of Appendix I of Circular 1961 dated 16th February 1940, should now be introduced into the report in its original unabridged form.

General Remarks on the Health of the District

During the year the district was relatively free from any form of infectious disease—only 221 cases were notified altogether, as compared with 761 last year, and there were only 64 cases of Measles as compared with 632 in 1953. However, 83 cases of Whooping Cough were notified by General Practitioners as compared with 63 in 1953. It is possible that the County Council may see their way to institute immunisation against Whooping Cough in welfare centres during 1955, so we will hope for a reduced number of notifications of this disease in future years.

The number of cases of Sonne Dysentery notified by Hortham Hospital this year is halved, which shows the close vigilance that that is being kept by the Superintendent in relation to new admissions to the hospital. It is gratifying to report that no cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in the district during the year.

The Comparable Birth Rate has gone up this year to the fairly high figure of 16.91, as compared with 15.73 for last year. This may be due to the fact that the Council has now started to help in the rehousing of the younger married couples and thus relieve them of the strain of living with in-laws.

The Death Rate has gone up to the high figure of 15.61 (Comparable). This has caused me some concern, but as I have explained in the contents of the report the figure can be reduced to 11.25 (Comparable) when the deaths taking place in Thornbury Hospital and not belonging to the District are excluded.

Water Supply

The Southern and Central Water Scheme has made considerable progress during the year, but the scheme has been delayed somewhat, due to shortage of labour. Efforts are being made, however, by the Water Company to keep the scheme up to schedule, and it is hoped to speed progress up during 1955 by the addition of further labour gangs and prison labour.

Surveys in relation to properties effected by the Northern Scheme are still going on. This is a very big item of work for the Sanitary Inspectors and will continue to increase with the progress of the Southern and Central Scheme unless the owners of properties make use of the amenities provided without action by this Council.

Many Parishes criticised the Council for their slowness in providing a pure and wholesome water supply to their villages, but now that they have it there appears to be some inertia in joining up, with the result that the Council are losing revenue, which is very necessary to finance the schemes. The new County Council Bill (if it goes through Parliament in toto) may help to speed this up, as one of the clauses raises the responsibility for the owner or tenant up to £40 as compared with the £20 maximum in the Public Health Act.

Sewerage Schemes

The Scheme for the sewerage of the town of Berkeley has been sanctioned by the Ministry during 1954. It is hoped to start the scheme during the first half of 1955. This, when it is completed, will be a big asset to the town of Berkeley, and many nuisances will be abated. Now that this part of the District will have mains water and drainage, it is to be hoped further progress will be made in housing and that many of the slum properties will gradually disappear.

A progressive step has been taken by the Council in joining with the Dursley Rural District in a scheme to sewer the village of Charfield to an outfall works in the Dursley Area. This joint scheme should be looked on favourably by the Ministry as it also covers the town of Wotton-under-Edge and the adjacent village of Kingswood.

The Alveston scheme has been further postponed by the Ministry, but in view of the possible development in this area, connected with the Overspill from Bristol, it is hoped that the Ministry may see their way to grant it during 1956.

The other schemes mentioned in last year's report, i.e., Almondsbury, Olveston and Tockington, and Wanswell Green, are being surveyed in detail by the Consulting Engineers so that they can be presented to the Ministry at an early date.

Housing

Some progress has been made during the year in relation to housing the people, but I feel that the allocation is too small and the progress too slow to deal with the problem in this district within a reasonable period. The waiting list keeps mounting, and with the very large slum clearance problem to be dealt with in this area during the next decade, I feel that the Council must procure larger sites where all the amenities exist, so that firms with a large labour force can erect houses more quickly.

I think another problem to be thought of more is the rehousing of the older generation. A great need exists in the area for smaller and cheaper old person's bungalows. Many of these will be needed in the future as we are gradually becoming a nation composed of more old couples. One has only to look at the age of death statistics for this year where the average age of all the deaths is over 70 years of age.

Before concluding, I would like to congratulate the Council on the progress that has been made during the past eight years in providing most of the district with a pure and wholesome water supply and many parts with main drainage, and my earnest hope is that in the next eight years similar progress will be made in housing and getting rid of the worst of the slums.

In conclusion I would like to say that I feel that much more thought and time has been given to the work of the Public Health Department since the institution of the committee system, and I would therefore particularly like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector will be reporting to you on many of the activities carried out by this Department during the year, 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 thank the staff of the Public Health and other Departments of the Council for their co-operation and help during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

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 Shipbuilding.
3. Quarrying.
4. Building of Caravans.
5. Brick and Tile Manufacture.
6. Braid and Loom Elastic Smallwares.
7. Salmon Fisheries.
8. Flour Mills.
9. Baking.
10. Aircraft Engineering.

2.—STATISTICS, 1954

(a) General Statistics

Area of District	...	...	...	...	61,337 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	25,840
Number of Inhabited Properties	...	...	...	...	7,428
Number of Inhabitants per Property	...	...	...	...	3.45

Inhabited Properties :

Huts at Squatters Camps	...	...	...	...	3
Houses	...	...	...	...	6,587
Farms	...	...	...	...	528
Houses and Shops	...	...	...	...	239
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	71
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£139,267
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£555
Number of Requisitioned Houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
Percentage of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	16.8%
Percentage of population served by mains water	...	...	...	...	73.0%
Percentage of population served by modern sewers	...	...	...	...	54.0%

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
1954	...	...	...	...	25,840

(b) Extracts from Vital Statistics :

Live Births :

			Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	381	196	185
Illegitimate	...	...	16	9	7
			<hr/> 397	<hr/> 205	<hr/> 192

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population mid 1954 15.38

Comparability factor for Birth ... 1.10

Therefore Birth Rate (comparable)
= 1.10 x 15.38 16.91

Birth Rate (England & Wales) per 1,000 Civilian
Population ... 15.2

Still Births :

			Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	9	5	4
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—
			<hr/> 10	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ... 0.39

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 24.5

Number of deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000
illegitimate live births ... 62.5

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ... 20.16

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Sex	Age	Cause
Male	2 months	Broncho-Pneumonia
Female	12 weeks	Asphyxia
Female	1 day	Inter-Cranial Haemorrhage
Female	1 hour	Inter-Cranial Haemorrhage
Female	1 day	Broncho-Pneumonia
Male	5 days	Oesophageal Atresia
Male	3 months	Broncho-Pneumonia
Male	1 day	Congenital Heart Disease

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	4	3	7
Illegitimate	...	...	—	1	1
			<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 8

Under Four Weeks of Age

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	—	1	1
			<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 5

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000) = 20.16

Marriages :

Number of Marriages taking place in Registry Office during 1954	...	...	...	...	50
Number of Marriages taking place in Churches and Chapels	...	...	...	...	113
					<hr/> 163

Marriage Rate per 1,000 Mid-year Population ... 6.3

Deaths :

Number of Deaths registered in Thornbury Rural District	...	...	...	...	393
203 Males and 190 Females.					
Average Age of Male Deaths	...	...	67.76	yrs.	
Average Age of Female Deaths	...	...	72.49	yrs.	
Average Age of All Deaths	...	...	70.05	yrs.	
This makes the Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	15.21		
Death Rate, England and Wales per 1,000 Civilian Population	...	...	11.3		
Comparability Factor for Deaths	...	...	1.02		
Therefore Death Rate (comparable)			1.02 x 15.21 =	15.61	

Remarks on the Death Rate :—

The Death Rate in the District is the highest since I started writing Annual Reports for Thornbury Rural District, i.e., 1948. In fact, in 1948 the Death Rate was 9.7, and in 1950 it was 8.8.

This year it has jumped to the high figure of 15.21 (crude death rate) and 15.61 (comparable figure). This increase is principally due to the fact that the Registrar General has ruled that deaths taking place in Hospitals within the District, used for nursing chronic sick, are included in the statistics for that particular area.

Within this District is situated Thornbury Hospital, which is used mainly for the nursing of chronic sick patients. During 1954, 133 patients died in the hospital, and of these only 25 belonged to the Thornbury Rural District. This left 108 deaths which previously would have been transferred to other districts of Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire, but due to the new ruling are now included in the 393 deaths registered in this District.

If one subtracts the two figures and works out the death rate per 1,000 of the population for the remainder, it comes to 11.03 (crude death rate) and 11.25 (comparable), which is a much more reasonable figure than the recognised one of 15.61 (comparable), as the death rate for England and Wales (as a whole) last year was only 11.4.

I feel that the present death rate as worked out may have a deleterious effect on some people wishing to reside in this District, as it gives a false picture of the health of the area.

An approach has already been made to the Registrar General by this Council with no results, but I do think the matter should be looked on seriously, otherwise we should work out two death rates each year.

DEATHS—Analysis of Causes and Age Groups.

Causes of Deaths	Under 1 yr.	Age Group						Total
		1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	1			1	1		
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	3
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	11				1	3	3	2
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	12					9	3	4
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	13					3		
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14		1		2	7	6	12
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	15				2	1		
16. Diabetes	16						2	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	2			1	4	19	45
18. Coronary disease, angina	18				2	6	9	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease	19					4	1	3
20. Other heart disease	20	1				8	18	86
21. Other circulatory disease	21					1	3	10
22. Influenza	22					2	1	1
23. Pneumonia	23	3	1		1	10	1	5
24. Bronchitis	24							4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	25						1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	26					1	2	
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	27							
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	28				2	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	29						1	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	30							
31. Congenital malformations	31	1						
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	1	1		1	4	2	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	33			1		1	2	1
34. All other accidents	34				1	1	4	3
35. Suicide	35						1	
36. Homicide and operations of war	36							1
TOTALS								393

DEATHS IN HOSPITALS OR NURSING HOMES

Within the District

Thornbury Hospital	...	...	...	133
Berkeley Hospital	...	...	...	10
Almondsbury Hospital	...	...	...	7
Hortham Hospital	...	...	...	9
				159

Outside the District

Royal Hospital, Gloucester	...	...	...	2
Southmead Hospital, Bristol	...	...	...	31
Chesterfield Nursing Home, Bristol	...	...	...	1
Snowdon Road Hospital, Bristol	...	...	...	5
Bristol Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	4
Frenchay Hospital, Bristol	...	...	...	9
General Hospital, Bristol	...	...	...	2
Ham Green Hospital, Bristol	...	...	...	2
Bristol Maternity Hospital	...	...	...	1
Children's Hospital, Bristol	...	...	...	2
Kingsway Nursing Home, Bristol	...	...	...	1
Northwoods Nursing Home, Winterbourne	...	...	...	1
				61

Total Deaths (in all Hospitals) of Thornbury R.D. Cases = 220.

220 Cases died in hospital or institution out of total of 393.

Therefore 55.9% 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	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
2— 5 years	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
5— 10 years	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
10— 20 years	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
20— 30 years	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
30— 40 years	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
40— 50 years	...	...	...	...	9	10	19
50— 60 years	...	...	...	...	25	14	39
60— 70 years	...	...	...	...	34	23	57
70— 80 years	...	...	...	...	63	57	120
80— 90 years	...	...	...	...	51	66	117
90—100 years	...	...	...	...	6	13	19
					203	190	393

DEATHS IN PARISHES

Alkington	6
Almondsbury	56
Alveston	21
Aust	4
Berkeley	15
Charfield	13
Cromhall	7
Falfield	3
Hamfallow	9
Ham and Stone	3
Hill	—
Hinton	22
Oldbury-on-Severn	5
Olveston	12
Patchway	20
Rangeworthy	2
Redwick and Northwick	21
Rockhampton	—
Thornbury	174
Tortworth	—
Tytherington	—
	<hr/>
	393

MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH

Other Heart Disease	112 cases
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	71 cases
Cancer	65 cases
Coronary Disease, Angina	30 cases
Pneumonia	22 cases
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20 cases

DEATHS IN MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January	45
February	46
March	26
April	29
May	28
June	30
July	30
August	26
September	22
October	29
November	32
December	40
	<hr/>
	393

Inward Transfers

Males	39
Females	31
	<hr/>
	70
	<hr/>

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
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
1954	25,840	393	15.21	70.05 yrs.	397	15.38	20.16

CANCER DEATHS

Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	16
Leukæmia	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer of Colon	...	...	...	...	6
Cancer of Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	5
Cancer of Stomach	...	...	...	...	9
Cerebral Tumour	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Caecum	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Bone	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer of Bladder	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	...	...	...	...	9
Cancer of Ovary	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer of Rectum	...	...	...	...	6
Cancer of Palate	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Larynx	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of Uterus	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer of Brain	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					68
					—

Average Age of all Cancer Deaths 65.15 years

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

General Remarks.

The District has been relatively free from any major outbreak of Infectious Disease during 1954. The total number of notified cases including Tuberculosis in the year was 221 as compared with 790 during 1953. This large reduction was principally due to the fact that we had no epidemic of measles this year. However, in the month of December, 38 cases of this disease were notified as having occurred in the village of Tytherington, so it is more than likely we shall have the biennial epidemic during 1955. There was quite a large reduction in the number of cases of scarlet fever—only 9 cases were notified as compared with 28 the previous year—and there was a similar trend in relation to Dysentery, where 8 cases were notified as compared with 16 the previous year. Sporadic outbreaks of Whooping Cough did occur all over the District. The number of these notifications was 83 with 20 in Hinton Parish and 10 in Charfield.

It is gratifying to report that for the second year running we have had no notifications of Anterior Poliomyelitis in the area of the District Council nor has there been any outbreak of Food Poisoning.

36 cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year. This is an increase of 5 on the previous year, but can be accounted for by taking into consideration the fact that during the year all Mental Defective Tubercular patients in the Hortham-Brentry Group were transferred to Hortham Hospital where the isolation and nursing of them was easier. This meant the transfer of 9 from Brentry to Hortham and five other new cases were picked up on the Mass Radiography Survey which is carried out regularly at the hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PARISHES—1954

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Pol-iomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Smallpox	Acute En-cephalitis		Enteric or Thyphoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fevers	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis			Malaria	TOTAL
			(a)	(b)						Infective	(a)	(b)							Respiratory	Meninges and C.N.S.	Other		
Alkinson ..	1	6			2		1	7									1		16				9
Almondsbury ..		4			1														2	1			30
Alveston ..		4			4									1									12
Aust ..																							
Berkeley ..	1	3			1		1	1									3				1		10
Charfield ..		10					1												2				11
Cromhall ..		1																	1				4
Falfield ..																							1
Hamfallow ..		8			1									1					1				10
Ham & Stone ..		5																	1				6
Hill ..		1																					1
Hinton ..	1	20			4		3							2					1				31
Oldbury ..																							
Olveston ..																			1				1
Patchway ..	1	6			4														5			1	17
Rangeworthy ..																							
Redwick & Nr. hwick ..	5	9					2												1			1	18
Rockhampton ..							2																
Thornbury ..		4			9		2										1		3				19
Tortworth ..		2																	1				3
Tytherington ..					38																		38
TOTALS:	9	83			64		10	8						4			5		34	1	1	2	221

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS—1954

Disease	Age Un-known	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	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 yrs.	Total
Scarlet Fever ..		6	1	17	11	2	3	3	2					9
Whooping Cough ..			8				19							84
Acute Poliomyelitis:														
(a) Paralytic ..														
(b) Non-Paralytic ..														
Measles ..			2	7	5	17	24	6	1		1			63
Diphtheria ..														
Acute Pneumonia ..		1						1		2	1	3	2	10
Dysentery ..								1	1	3	1			8
Smallpox ..	1													
Acute Encephalitis: ..														
(a) Infective ..														
(b) Post-Infectious ..														
Enteric or Thyphoid Fever ..														
Paratyphoid Fevers ..														
Erysipelas ..										1	1	2		4
Meningococcal Infection ..														
Food Poisoning ..														
Puerperal Pyrexia ..										4	1			5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..														
Tuberculosis: ..														
(a) Respiratory ..														
(b) Meninges and C.N.S. ..	1													
(c) Other ..														
Malaria ..							1							1
TOTALS:	2	7	11	24	16	42	47	11	7	30	9	12	3	221

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 : 1954

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 twenty-two of these have been stamped and countersigned by me.

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 31.12.54 <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5—9 1945—40	10—14 1940—44	Total under 15
Number Immunised	34	185	283	256	277	1328	1569	3922
Estimated Mid-year Child Population 1953	Children under 5 2,044							
Percentage Immun- ised in Thornbury R.D.	Children 5—14 4,089							
Percentage Immun- ised in County	50.6%							
Total Child Population in County—106,000	70.6%							
	51.9%							
	37.7%							
	63.9%							
	42.3%							

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION CARRIED OUT IN THORNBURY R.D. DURING 1954

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. 116 (98)	37 (29)	32 (25)	13 (10)	6 (3)	6	216 (171)
L.A. 31	11	11	2	1	32	90
No. of Children who received a reinforcing dose						
G.P.	5	7	3	48	2	65
L.A.	—	—	5	376	252	633

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

VACCINATION				
Under 1 Year	1 Year	2-4 Years	5-14 Years	15 or over
Total				
107	1	6	3	12
				129
RE-VACCINATION				
1	—	2	11	16

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—								
1—								
5—			2					
15—	7	3	1	1	1			
25—	6	6						
35—	4	1						
45—	5	1						
55—	1	1						
65 and over	1				2			
Age unknown								
TOTALS	24	12	3	1	3			

CASES REMAINING ON REGISTER

		Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	...	99	65	164
Non-Pulmonary	...	26	26	52
		135	91	216

Arrangements have been made with the Central Health Clinic for revision of the register. Many of the cases have been on the list for over 20 years, and it is considered that these can now be removed as they cannot be traced by the Health Visitors.

When this has been done it is anticipated that 25% of the cases will be removed from the Tuberculosis Register.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

I have pleasure in submitting meteorological report for the year 1954 and comparison figures for the year 1953 :—

		1953	1954
Total Rainfall	...	26.56in.	36.9in.
Monthly Rainfall :—			
January	...	0.744in.	2.5in.
February	...	1.524in.	3.4in.
March	...	1.075in.	3.3in.
April	...	3.291in.	.72in.
May	...	1.945in.	2.0in.
June	...	1.362in.	4.0in.
July	...	3.39in.	3.2in.
August	...	5.315in.	3.0in.
September	...	2.89in.	4.7in.
October	...	2.14in.	3.5in.
November	...	1.945in.	5.6in.
December	...	0.953in.	2.0in.
Wettest Day	...	29th August	6th June

Average Temperature during Year (°F) :

Max. 56/Min. 43 Max.55/Min. 45

Average Temperature in month (°F.) :

			Max./Min.	Max./Min.
January	...	...	42.3/33.7	41.8/33.6
February	...	...	45.3/34.6	43.4/33.3
March	...	...	50.4/33.2	49.4/37.9
April	...	...	54.2/38.5	55.1/37.5
May	...	...	64.3/47.2	60.0/55.1
June	...	...	66.1/50.4	62.7/50.7
July	...	...	67.9/53.9	62.9/53.0
August	...	...	69.5/54.6	65.4/52.7
September	...	...	64.2/50.4	62.3/49.7
October	...	...	56.8/43.5	59.6/49.9
November	...	...	52.1/43.5	51.6/40.8
December	...	...	49.9/42.0	49.3/41.4
Hottest Day	...	...	12th August	12th May
Coldest Day	...	...	5th January	1st January
			1953	1954
Driest Month	...	...	January	April
Total hours of bright sunshine			1460 hrs.	1273 hrs.
Sunniest Day	...	...	4th July	7th July
Sunniest Month	...	...	July	April
Prevailing Winds during the year			South-Westerly	Westerly

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

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 gratifying to be able to record continued progress in all spheres of the departments' activities.

By looking back over the nineteen years of service with you it becomes possible to see the very considerable developments and improvements which have taken place in this rural district. Many of the hopes, ideas and plans of pre-war years are now developing in a quickened tempo. Some of this progress is due to central government policies and some directly due to the planning and vision of the Council.

In all spheres, however, the Council has played its part, and can, I feel, be justly proud of the position in the rural district to-day.

I think it may be interesting to place on record some of the progress which may otherwise be taken for granted, and yet have a very definite influence on our mode of living.

Electrification schemes will by the end of 1955 cover practically every part of the district, affording supplies to all but the isolated cottage.

Bus Services link even the smallest hamlet with the principal routes serving Thornbury, Bristol, Gloucester and Dursley.

Village schools are being closed down and the teaching is concentrated in the larger centres, involving transport of children, catering for school meals and the grouping of large numbers of children.

Local gas works have been closed down, and in their stead gas is conveyed by high pressure mains from Bristol, Gloucester and Dursley—only the local gas holders remain in use.

This is an age of mechanisation, and to-day it is rare to see a farm horse at work. Tractors have nearly completely superseded them in all but the hunting field.

Hand in hand with all these changes have been the general improvements resulting from the planning proposals of the Thornbury Rural District Council, and I would venture to suggest that never in any previous period have the activities of the Council been so obvious. The Northern Water Scheme has been completed with the exception of the Sharpness Docks area. The parish of Hill has been added to the area of supply, and this should be in hand during 1955. The Southern and Central Water Scheme is now progressing rapidly despite initial delays. Sewerage schemes for Sharpness, Severn Beach and Thornbury have been completed. An early starting date for Berkeley Sewerage is anticipated from the

Ministry, and schemes for sewerage Charfield, Olveston, Tockington, Almondsbury and Wanswell are in course of preparation for submission to the Ministry during the early part of 1955.

The Council's other activities have been the provision of new Council owned houses and installation of amenities to existing Council house property. In this connection it is interesting to note that all Council houses have now a supply of electricity, and that only 100 await the provision of a main water supply.

Steady progress has been maintained in all other branches of the departments work, and these are referred to in more detail under the respective headings.

It is becoming obvious that the present staff will have difficulty in keeping ahead of the vast amount of work which devolves on the department. It is difficult to pick out any particular function, but a few of them are :—

- 1.—Administration of the comprehensive new Building Bye-Laws and the increased private development.
- 2.—Increasing number of Council properties to be regularly maintained and improvements thereto.
- 3.—Camping.
- 4.—Refuse collection, disposal and salvage.
- 5.—Inspection of Meat.
- 6.—Housing Grants.
- 7.—Formal and informal action to secure that the services of water and sewerage are utilised, and
- 8.—Last, but by no means least, the possibility of a fairly extensive slum clearance programme.

During the year there has only been one change in the staff, namely the transfer of Mr. R. W. Morris from Rodent Operator to the post of Surveyor's Assistant, and his replacement by Mr. G. Milton as Rodent Officer. Mr. J. T. Ovens returned to duty after a long period of illness, and it is pleasing to see him in renewed health. The staff have worked well and have given of their best.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of the various committees, and the members of the Council for their continued helpful co-operation and the courtesy they have always shown to me.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

R. HUNTINGTON,
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary Inspector

SUMMARY OF VISITS

Nature of Visits or Inspection.	Totals
Water Supply	630
Drainage	119
Stables and Piggeries	25
Offensive Trades	—
Fried Fish Shops	4
Common Lodging Houses	—
Houses—Let-in-Lodgings	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	465
Factories and Workshops	163
Outworkers	—
Bakehouses	20
Public Conveniences	141
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	6
Licensed Premises	39
Refuse Collection	235
Refuse Disposal	119
Rats and Mice	1177
Atmospheric Pollution	1
Schools	19
Shops	29
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	155
Council Houses	3083
Sewage Disposal Works	210
Sewage Sampling	9
New Buildings	526
Drain tests and Inspections	687
Building Licensing	1
Petroleum	95

UNDER PUBLIC HEATH ACTS

No. of Houses Inspected	406
Revisits paid to above Houses	458

UNDER HOUSING ACTS

No. of Houses Inspected	251
Revisits to above Houses	70

OVERCROWDING

No. of Houses Inspected	10
Revisits paid to above Houses	3

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No. of Houses Inspected	38
Revisits paid to above Houses	1
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries in Cases of I.D.	...	...	33
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	27
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits			5

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	523
Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	29
Nature of Visits or Inspection.			Totals

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD (Contd.)

Visits re Meat Inspections	...	...	593
Visits to Butchers	...	...	39
Visits to Canteens	...	...	2
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors			74
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	...		9
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...		190
Visits to Grocers	...	...	36
Visits to Greengrocers & Fruiterers	...		9
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	...	...	90
Visits to Market Stalls	...	...	31
Visits to Restaurants	...	...	18

VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING

Milk—Bacteriological	...	...	84
Milk—Biological	...	...	23
Ice Cream	...	...	72
Food and Drug Samples	...	...	13
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	19
General Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	673

TOTAL : 11,789

NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	55
*Statutory Notices Served	...	...	117
Prosecutions	...	...	Nil

* The disproportionate number of Statutory Notices served is due to the service of Statutory Notices requiring connections to the newly laid water mains of the Northern Water Scheme.

HOUSING

Completion of houses has slowly continued during the year, there being 74 houses completed in 1954—the same as in 1953. Development is still being confined to the larger centres where amenities exist.

The five Lettings Committees are responsible for the selection of tenants, and meetings are held when necessary.

During the year the maintenance of Council Houses involved the issue of 1235 orders. Contracts were entered into for the painting of 155 Council Houses.

The provision of water and electricity has been made to Council Houses as and when these services have become available.

The increasing use and availability of mains water is leading to difficulties in seeing that tenants of certain of the older houses comply with their Conditions of Tenancy relating to the emptying of the cesspits.

There has been a very definite increase in private building in the district. The total number of plans submitted during the year for the consideration of the Council under Building Bye-Laws was 248.

The general administration of the new model Bye-Laws has involved the Surveyor's branch of the Department in a considerable amount of extra work.

The Ministry's modified conditions for the making of Grants toward the improvement, conversion and modernising of property has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of applications. A considerable amount of time has to be spent by the staff in advising intending applicants and checking proposals. A number of excellent schemes have been carried out, and there appears to be a possibility of an increasing number of proposals being forthcoming as it becomes more generally known to the general public.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Action taken during the year.

	No. of Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
(a) Houses demolished as a result of Section 11	6	15
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	5	15
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	—	—
(d) Houses made fit after service of formal notices under Sections 9 and 11	1	4

HOUSING ACT, 1949

1. Proposals received	26
Informal 10	
Formal 16	
2. Applications approved	16
3. Informal and formal proposals not proceeded with	9
4. Proposals refused	1

WAITING LISTS

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

	Existing Council Houses	Applications
1. Almondsbury	434	178
2. Redwick & Northwick, Aust and Olveston	114	52
3. Thornbury, Alveston, Range- worthy, Tytherington, Old- bury-on-Severn	353	155
4. Falfield, Stone, Tortworth, Charfield, Cromhall, Ham, Hill, Rockhampton, Alkington	138	30
5. Berkeley, Hinton and Ham- fallow	222	78
	<hr/> 1,261	<hr/> 493
Number of houses owned by Council ...		1187
Houses erected during the year		74
		<hr/> 1261
Number of houses at 31/12/1954 ...		59

It is interesting to see from these latest figures that the number of outstanding applications for Council Houses has been reduced in the past two years to nearly one half.

SLUM CLEARANCE

It would appear that the reduction in the number of applicants on the "waiting list" for Council Houses—which is referred to earlier in this report—is indicative of the fact that the most urgent cases have been dealt with.

These facts appear to support the Minister's statements on housing policy, and that attention must now be directed to the problem of Slum Clearance and the improvement of houses. There has been steady progress in this district under legislation covering these matters, and the details are set out in the tables which follow hereafter.

The Minister's request for a return of our future housing proposals resulted in a report being made to the Public Health Committee in November, 1954. I think it would be of general interest to record some of the facts relating to this matter.

ORIGINAL RETURNS UNDER 1945 RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Reasonably fit in all respects	Minor Defects	Requiring Repairs or appropriate for re-conditioning	Unfit for habitation beyond repair	TOTALS
1 Category	2 Category	3 & 4 Categories	5 Category	
231	2402	2382	310	5325

REVISED ASSESSMENT OF POSITION 1954

792	2453	2337	245	5827
-----	------	------	-----	------

From these facts it will be seen that there has been an increase in the number of properties in Category 1 (chiefly attributable to new houses) and a slight reduction in the numbers in Categories 3 & 4, and 5, as the result of statutory action already taken.

It was not possible to undertake a further comprehensive survey, and I do not think this was intended by the Ministry. Our return, therefore, was based on the assumption that old properties in Category 5 were unfit. As inspections and checks had shown that in addition a large number of properties scheduled as Category 3 were also unfit, it was proper to include a fair proportion of these in our Slum Clearance proposals.

The following is a copy of the return made to the Ministry:—

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area	7425
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Part 1. The Total Problem.

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|-----|
| (i) | Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 | ... | 809 |
| (ii) | Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i) | ... | 10 |

Part 2. Orders Already Made, etc.

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|---|
| (iii) | Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority | ... | — |
| (iv) | Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative | ... | — |

Part 3. Action in the First Five Years.

(v)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years	...	...	...	...	—
(vi)	Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	...	...	...	...	59
(vii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Repairs Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation	...	...	...	...	—
(viii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in five years	...	...	...	...	59
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	350

WATER SUPPLIES

The rural district is within the statutory area of supply of three water undertakings :—

- A. Six Parishes in the north of the district are served by the Gloucester City Council.
- B. The whole of the central area and a portion in the south of the district by the West Gloucestershire Water Co.
- C. A small area in the south comprising parts of two Parishes by the Bristol Waterworks Co.

Progress on these schemes has been referred to in my opening remarks. It is estimated that upon completion of all the schemes approved by the Council mains water will be available to 95% of the properties in the district.

A large proportion of property owners are slow to avail themselves of the supplies which have been laid, and they are somewhat encouraged by the knowledge that if they default on a notice served by the Council then their liability is limited to the £20 recoverable by statute. The result of this is that the staff have had to spend a considerable amount of time making surveys, scheduling, costing, serving notices, preparing plans and specifications, obtaining tenders, inspection of work and checking of accounts. Shortage of technical staff is the only factor limiting our activities in this matter.

Most of the properties and areas not yet provided with a mains supply rely on shallow wells which are of very variable and doubtful quantity and purity.

Eighteen post-war Council Houses continue to draw supplies from rain water tanks augmented by the haulage of mains water. It is anticipated that these will be connected to the mains in 1955.

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>		(Supplies B & C)	
Almondsbury ..	827	776	These are all affected by the Southern and Central Water Scheme.
Aust ..	125	—	
Alveston ..	430	382	
Charfield ..	253	—	
Cromhall ..	260	128	
Falfield ..	121	7	
Oldbury-on-Severn ..	174	—	
Oveston ..	386	303	
Patchway ..	1529	1527	
Rangeworthy ..	83	9	
Redwick & Northwick ..	525	541	These are all affected by the Northern Water Scheme.
Rockhampton ..	44	—	
Thornbury ..	933	771	
Tortworth ..	54	—	
Tytherington ..	174	161	
<i>Gloucester Corporation Water Dept.</i>	(Supply A)		
Alkington ..	202	76	
Berkeley ..	347	210	
Hanfallow ..	296	162	
Hinton ..	440	289	
Ham & Stone ..	185	55	
Hill ..	40	—	
TOTALS	7,428	5,397	Mains recently laid Mains scheme approved.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

	A		B		C	
	Gloucester Corpn. from 6, Church View, Newport		West Glos. Water Co. from 35, Eastland Ave., Thornbury.		Bristol Waterworks Co. from Site 4, Esso Petroleum Co., Cribbs Causeway.	
	Parts per million		Parts per million		Parts per million	
Chemical Exam:						
Total Solids	266		419		272	
Loss on ignition	37		15		50	
Mineral Matter	229		404		222	
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	—		—		—	
Total Hardness	181		286		228	
(a) Permanent	91		56		43	
(b) Temporary	90		230		185	
Chlorine (as Chloride)	44		35		11	
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia	Nil		Nil		Nil	
Nitrogen as Albuminoid Ammonia	0.07		0.40		0.07	
Nitrogen as Nitrates	2.11		2.67		1.12	
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Slight trace		Very slight trace		Nil	
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hrs. @ 80°F.)	—		—		—	(Zinc (Zn))—0.16
Poisonous Metals	Nil		Nil		—	
Free Carbon Dioxide	—		—		—	
Silica (SiO ₂)	—		—		Nil	
Residual Chlorine	Nil		0.04		—	
Sediment	—		—		—	
Bact. Exam :						
Colony Count on Yeastrel-Agar.						
After 2 days @ 37°C.	5		3		7	
After 3 days @ 22°C.	36		1		71	
Presumptive Coliform Count. (per 100 ml)	0		—		0	
Faecal Coli Count. (per 100 ml)	—		—		—	
Confirmatory Test.						
Escherichia coli	Absent in 100 ml.		Absent in 100 ml.		Absent in 100 ml.	
Comment :	Satisfactory		Satisfactory		Satisfactory	

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	Caravan Park
	Cribbs Causeway	ditto	1	Public House
	Hortham Colony	ditto	1	Mental Inst.
	Woodhouse Down	ditto	42	Council Estate
Alveston	Village	ditto	1	Hospital
	Quarry Road	ditto	40	Council Estate
	Greenhill	ditto	10	Council Estate
	"Silverhill"	ditto	1	Private School
Berkeley	Town	Old Sewers	290	Defective—New Scheme proposed
	The Lynch	Sewage Tanks	54	
Charfield	Manor Lane	Sewage Plant	10	Council Estate
	Village	Old Sewer	20	Council Estate
Cromhall	Townwell	Sewage Plant	14	Approx. only—New Scheme proposed
Falfield	The Huntsman (P.H.)	ditto	1	
	Sundays Hill	ditto	6	Council Estate
Ham & Stone ..	Eastwood Park	ditto	1	Home Office School
Hinton	Stone	ditto	12	Council Estate
	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—New Scheme proposed
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	ditto	1000	Enlarged
Tytherington ..	Leyhill Prison	ditto	70	H.O. Prison & Wardens Qtrs.
	School	ditto	1	School
	Southlands	ditto	28	Council Estate

Water Sampling

During the year 37 water samples were obtained from 32 sources. Six samples of mains water were reported as satisfactory. The other 31 samples were of water supplies derived from wells and of these 29 were unsatisfactory and two were satisfactory. In some cases the analyses indicated a "border line" result, and repetitive sampling and investigations are being carried out. Wherever possible mains supplies have been provided.

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, Ham & Stone, eventually discharging 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, 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.

The Council has made an offer in conjunction with other parties toward the cost of a general scheme for cleansing and deepening and widening a considerable length of the Bradley, Hortham, Filton and Patchway Brooks. It is anticipated that after the initial work has been carried out, the Avon Board will thereafter accept responsibility for their maintenance.

It will be seen from the schedule of sewage works and drainage, that the number is increasing, and it must be borne in mind that many of the smaller plants do not directly discharge into water courses with the necessary continual six times dilution.

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
Almondsbury
Redwick
Olveston
Alkington

Hinton
Hamfallow
Ham & Stone
Berkeley
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 Completed

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

All Council owned sewage plants are maintained by direct
labour. Two men are engaged at the Thornbury Works, and two
men as a mobile team service and maintain the Housing site plants
and grass cutting.

A survey of the Sanitary conditions at both old and new
Council Houses revealed the following conditions :—

Total number of houses	...	...	1261
Number of houses sewered	...	...	744
Number of houses to be sewered	...	...	12
Number of houses served by a sewage plant	...	...	228
Number of houses served with cesspits emptied by Council	...	...	68
Number of houses served with cesspits for which the tenant is responsible for emptying	...	...	209

Bucket closet emptying is undertaken in the Parishes of
Berkeley and Hamfallow. The method of collection is offensive
and insanitary.

Generally

On the instructions of the Council the Consulting Engineers
have prepared the following schemes for submission to the
Ministry :—

- 1.—Almondsbury.
- 2.—Charfield.
- 3.—Olveston and Tockington.
- 4.—Wanswell.

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

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection

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

The service is operated by :—

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

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.

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of loads collected.

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.

The time is fast approaching when an increase in staff and vehicles will have to receive attention. The gross cost of the service for the year was £8,940.

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.

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.

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	...	Part 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

There has been a steady increase in the tonnage and value of salvage collected and disposed of during the year.

Income from salvage has increased by over 35% over last year, as per the following table :—

				1953			1954		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Non-ferrous metals	...			11	7	8	35	12	5
Iron	...	...	...	153	19	3	176	12	1
Rags, etc.	...	...	...	191	4	0	147	18	3
Paper	...	...	...	614	10	9	947	8	8
				£971	1	8	£1,307	11	5

The price of paper increased during the year from £5 0s. 0d. per ton to £6 15s. 0d. The present price (1955) being £7 5s. 0d. per ton.

Due recognition should be given to the Public Cleansing Staff for their large scale effort in the collection of salvageable material.

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 public conveniences at Aust and Almondsbury.

CAMPING

All the conditions referred to in my report for 1953 continue to exist.

Problems are being caused by all the year round occupation of camps which were only intended for summer use. The lettings committees are faced with considerable difficulties in deciding the priorities to be afforded in rehousing some of the camp occupants.

I am still not satisfied that a satisfactory solution has been found to this problem. A considerable amount of time has been spent during the year on surveys and reports, but I believe that nothing will be improved until proceedings are instituted for some of the flagrant breakers of licence conditions.

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	28		
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Act, 1938 (b) Others	92	154	10	
(3) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	1			
TOTAL	109	182	10	

(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	10	10	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven'ces:					
(a) Insufficient ..	3	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	2	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	15	—	2	—

(c) Outworkers. Sections 110 and 111.

Nature of Work:—

(a) Carding of buttons, etc.

(b) Making wearing apparel.

Number of outworkers on list required by Section 110:—

(a) 13

(b) 1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Work under this heading has continued to increase. In 1947 there were 461 carcasses inspected, with a 26% increase over the past year: the number has now increased to a total of 10,707 carcasses slaughtered and inspected during the current year.

Reports on the sanitary conditions of the slaughterhouses resulted in a number of applications for the re-opening of old slaughterhouses being refused.

No. of licensed slaughterhouses 3

No. in regular use 3

No. of licensed slaughtermen 29

The duties involved 523 visits to slaughterhouses.

Carcases Inspected	Cattle exclu'ng Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	6	—	41	295	10,365
Number inspected ..	6	—	41	295	10,365
CARCASES CONDEMNED :					
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	4	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	2	—	—	87	843
Percentage of carcasses inspected affected with diseases (other than Tuberculosis)	33.33%	—	—	30.85%	8.20%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	9
Carcases of which some part of organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	456
Percentage of carcasses affected with Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	4.48%

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
					—

Nearly all the necessary improvements to Food Handling premises were completed as the result of action taken in 1952 and 1953. In the present year the total of 429 visits to these type of premises were routine, and generally it was found that good standards of hygiene existed. The officers received good co-operation from the various branches of the trade. There remain a few cases outstanding, where washing and sanitary facilities are unsatisfactory, and unless these are improved in 1955, it may be necessary for action to be taken.

The provision of electricity and water throughout the district has enabled electric water heaters to be brought into more general use.

UNSOUND FOOD REGISTER

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

Meat (Tuberculosis)	...	...	7073½ lb.
Meat (Other Diseases)	...	...	1956 lb.
Tins and jars of sundry foods	...	...	281 lb.
Other foodstuffs	...	...	539 lb.
			<hr/>
			9849½ lb.
			<hr/>

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 109, the results of which are as under :—

Grade I	.....	64	=	58.71%
Grade II	.....	40	=	32.69%
Grade III	.....	3	=	2.75%
Grade IV	.....	2	=	1.85%

Total : 109

Ten of the above samples were also submitted for chemical examination, the result of which were satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

A total of 127 samples and 11 bottle rinses were taken, the results of which 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 Officer.

MILK SAMPLE RESULTS

Results awaited at 31st December, 1953

Designation	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T.	7	7	—
Accredited	1	1	—
Non-Designated	11	8	3
	—	—	—
	19	16	3
	—	—	—

Results for Year 1954

T.T.	53	41	12
Accredited	2	2	—
Pasteurised	35	34	1
Sterilised	4	4	—
Non-Designated	33	22	11
	—	—	—
	127	103	24
	—	—	—

11 Bottle Rinse samples were taken with 10 satisfactory results.
 34 Milk Samples were submitted for biological examination, of which 26 were satisfactory; 7 Brucella Abortus positive and 1 T.B. positive.

MILK PRODUCTION

Dairy Farms in District ...	...	473
Number of T.T. Herds ...	...	221
Percentage of T.T. supplies ...	...	46.7

It is understood that the district will form part of a "Specified Area" in 1955.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	1	2	3	4	
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	All other (including business premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4.
1. Total number of pro- perties in Local Authority's District ..	20	6587	528	1249	7856
2. Number of properties inspected as the result of					
a) Notification ..	8	53	6	31	92
(b) Survey, or	12	341	57	52	405
(c) Otherwise ..	—	—	—	—	—
3. Number of properties found to be infested by rats					
Major	1	—	1	—	1
Minor	6	138	20	25	169
4. Number of properties seriously infested by mice	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of infested properties treated ..	7	164	16	32	203
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	—	—	—	—	17

The one major infestation recorded above, occurred at the Pilning Refuse tip. This tip was under regular periodic treatment and reported as free of rats on 25th June. On July 9th (two weeks later) a heavy infestation was observed, which appeared to have occurred some two days earlier. Extensive baiting was carried out over a period of three weeks. 170 lbs. of bait was used, and 152 bodies were recovered. The only explanation of this occurrence appears to be that the season had been wet, the tip is situate amid low-lying agricultural land, and that there had been mass migration of rats to the warmth and dryness of the refuse tip.

Mr. Morris, the officer originally engaged for these duties, was transferred during the year to the Surveyors Staff, and a new Rodent Officer was appointed. There was a lapse of time in making the new appointment and for a while the dual duties were carried out by the one officer working extra time. Despite these difficulties, and as the result of the conscientious efforts of Mr. Morris and his successor, the total amount of work undertaken during the year shows a steady increase.

Although not directly concerned with our work, I think it should be recorded that the outbreak of myxomatosis spread to our district during the middle of the year, and at the time of preparing this report, it appears to have wiped out the wild rabbit population.

274

1864

1865

1866

1867

1868

1869

1870

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875

1876

1877

INDEX

Page

Staff	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Introduction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

PART I — General Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Social Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Statistics	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Extracts from Vital Statistics			...	...	...	...	6
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Infectious Diseases Generally		...	...	...	...	...	13
National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47	...	...					16
Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications					...		16
International Vaccination Certificates	...	...			...		16
Diphtheria Immunisation Vaccination	...	...			...		17
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Meteorological Report	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

PART II — Report of the Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector

Introduction	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Summary of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Housing Act, 1936		...	...	...	...	...	25
Housing Act, 1949		...	...	...	...	...	25
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Sewerage Facilities		...	...	...	...	...	31
Rivers and Streams		...	...	...	...	...	32
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Refuse Collection Frequency			...	...	...	...	35
Salvage	..	...	...	...	...	...	33
Public Conveniences		...	...	...	...	...	36
Camping	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948			...	...	...	...	36
Food and Drugs Act, 1938			...	...	...	...	37
Food Preparation and Handling	...			...	...	...	38
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949				...	...	...	41



