

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Thorne R.D.C.

Contributors

Thorne (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1947

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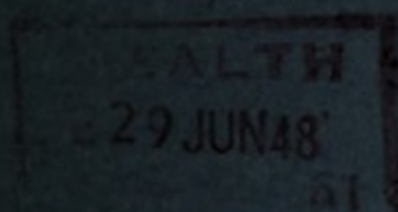
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ANNUAL REPORT

on the Sanitary Condition
of the
Thorne Rural District
1947

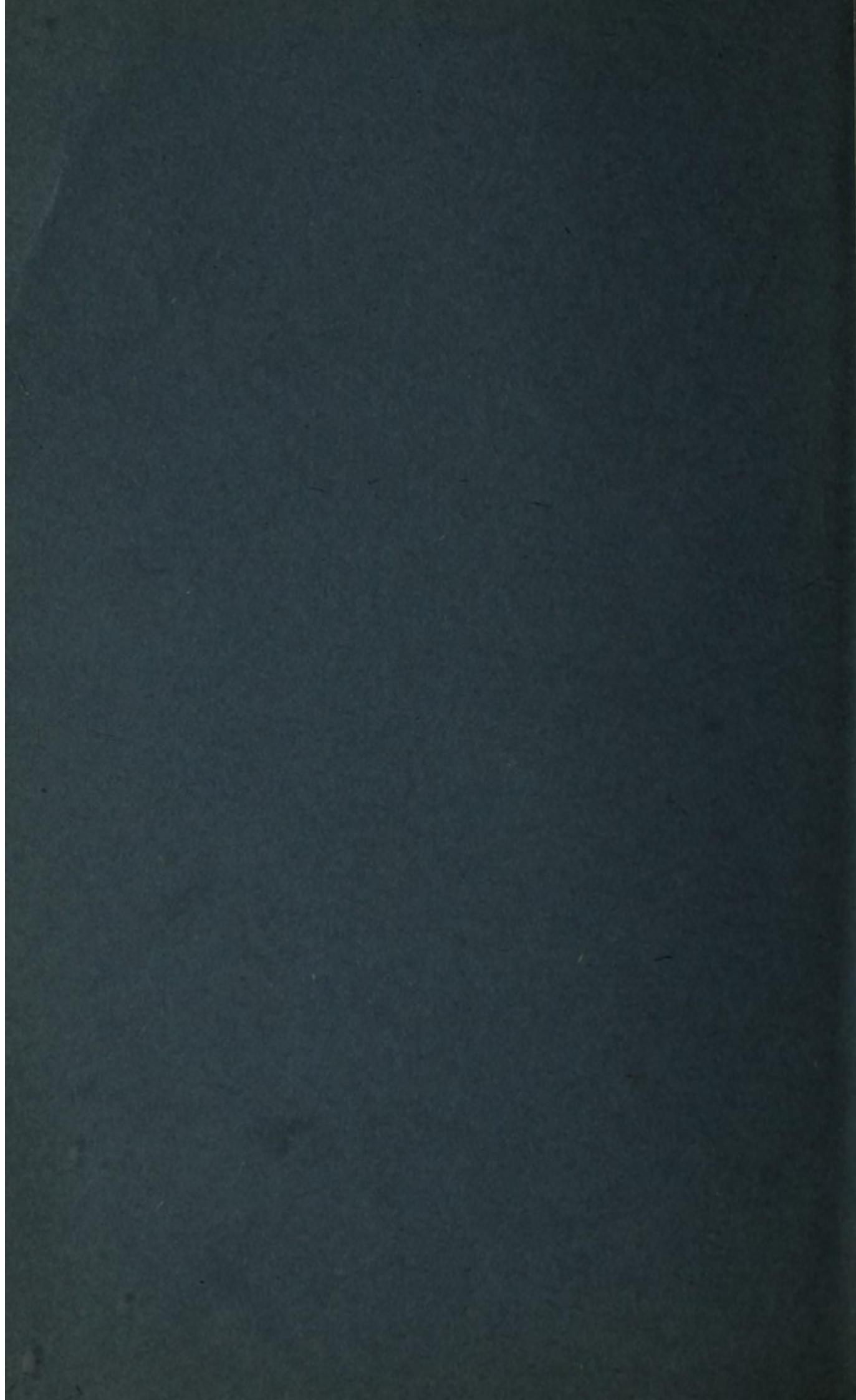
By

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

TEMPORARY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

THORNE

W. Wrigley and Son, Printers, Market Place



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1917

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REPORT MADE UNDER THE HEALTH

THORNE
By W. H. Bury and J. H. Bury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As advised by the Ministry of Health in its circular 170/47, dated 31st December, 1947, the annual report on the health of the district is again presented in condensed form. The statistical tables are in the forms required by the Ministry.

The death on June 8th, 1947, of Dr. J. M. Taylor, left a vacancy which I have filled in a temporary capacity since August 1st, 1947. Dr. J. M. Taylor served as your Medical Officer of Health continuously from May 22nd, 1919, and during his twenty-eight years of office saw a great improvement in the health of the district. On looking back through his past annual reports it is interesting to note some of the outstanding facts.

In 1919 the population was mostly agricultural, but has gradually changed its character, so that since 1925 miners have substantially outnumbered the agricultural workers. The population has grown from 10,000 to over 30,000, reaching an estimated peak of 32,420 in 1933, since when it has declined slightly.

The death rate has fallen from 16.07 per thousand of the population to 9.1 in 1946. The infantile mortality from 133.6 in 1919, to 47 in 1946. This latter figure is a good index of social conditions. It was always a rather high figure in this district until 1938, after which it has declined rapidly, coinciding with the period of full employment in the mining and other industries.

During this period there has been a steady development of the sewerage system, though there still remain several extensions that are urgently required, particularly the elimination of an open sewer which still exists in Thorne town.

The Thorne Water Company has extended its piped water supply, so that all the area South of the river is now well supplied. The Parishes of Fishlake and Syehouse, however, are still without a piped supply, and most of the wells there are unsatisfactory, the Council being at the moment actively exploring the possibility of remedying this state of affairs.

Other outstanding episodes occurring during Dr. Taylor's term of office were the outbreak of smallpox in 1927 when 81 cases occurred. The disease was, however, quickly brought under control by the extension of the isolation hospital (by the use of a barn) so that all cases were isolated, and by the vaccination of contacts.

In 1930 there was an outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis. This brought to a head the question of the inadequacy of the isolation hospital, which, after the death of the matron, was closed, and the present arrangements with the Doncaster and Mexborough Joint Hospital Board, to take the local patients with infectious diseases into the Conisborough Isolation Hospital, was commenced, this having worked satisfactorily ever since.

In 1934 the number of cases of diphtheria rose to 106 in the year, and diphtheria immunisation was started on a large scale in the schools. This policy has been rewarded by a sharp decline in recent years of the number of diphtheria cases, and since 1944 there has not been a single death from diphtheria in this district.

The population given by the Registrar-General for calculating the birth and death rates is 29,820, an increase of 300 from the number for 1946.

The Birth Rate for 1947 is 26.66 per 1,000 population, an increase of 2 from the rate for 1946. The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1947 is 20.5. There were 58 more births than in 1946.

The Death Rate for 1947 is 10.76 per 1,000 population. In 1946 it was 9.1. The rate for England and Wales for 1947 is 12.

The Infant Mortality Rate is higher at 66.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales is 41. This is a very disappointing figure after the steady progress made since 1942.

In general the number of notifications of infectious diseases continued at a low level, exceptions being an increased number of measles and three cases of poliomyelitis.

Yours obediently,

H. S. BURY

Temporary Medical Officer of Health

May 26th, 1948

Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Thorne Rural District for 1947

General Statistics relating to the Rural District

The Rural District comprises five civil parishes, and has an area of 38,419 acres.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population for the year 1947 is 29,820.

The total number of inhabited houses in the district at the end of 1947, according to the rate books, was 7,154.

The Rateable Value of the district is £121,689.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £454.

Vital Statistics

Births

The estimate of population supplied by the Registrar-General for calculating the birth rate is 29,820.

The total number of births during 1947 was 795.

Of these 419 were males and 376 were females.

Legitimate births numbered 750.

Of these legitimate births 398 were males and 352 females.

Illegitimate births numbered 45, 21 being males and 24 females.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 26.66.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales is 20.5.

The total number of stillbirths was 24.

Of these 14 were males and 10 females; 22 were legitimate.

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 28.08

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 population is 0.8

Deaths

The total number of Deaths during 1947 was 321.

Of these 187 were males and 134 females.

The actual or crude death rate for the district is 10.76 per 1,000 population.

The death rate for England and Wales is 12.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

The total number was 53.

Of these 32 were males and 21 females.

The death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births is 66.6.

The death rate for England and Wales is 41.

The following table gives the Infantile Death Rate for the last six years :—

1941	.....	79.2	per 1,000 live births
1942	.....	68.3	" "
1943	.....	61.8	" "
1944	.....	52.84	" "
1945	.....	56.37	" "
1946	.....	47.0	" "

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 41
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 2
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 9

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:

From Sepsis, none.
 Other causes, two.

Causes of Death in the Thorne Rural District, as supplied by the Registrar-General for 1947

Causes of Death	M	F
All causes	187	134
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	10	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	2
Influenza	2	2
Measles	1	0
Whooping Cough	1	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	2	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	4
Cancer of Breast	1	2
Cancer of all other sites	18	7
Diabetes	2	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	11	10
Heart Disease	38	29
Other Diseases of circulatory system	6	2
Bronchitis	17	10
Pneumonia	13	5
Other respiratory diseases	2	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5	4
Appendicitis	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	3
Nephritis	2	3
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	0	1
Other maternal causes	0	2
Premature Birth	9	6
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	11	7
Suicide	3	0
Road traffic accidents	6	2
Other violent causes	6	0
All other causes	9	18

Notifiable Diseases during the Year (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	After Confirmation	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	29	29	3
Diphtheria	5	5	6
Pneumonia	12	12	1
Erysipelas	4	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	2
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1
Dysentery	0	0	0
Measles	216	216	0
Whooping Cough	41	41	0
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	7	3	4
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	1	1	1

The following table gives a summary of the Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum) notified during the year, and arranged in age periods:

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Enteric Fever
Age Periods						
0	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	1	—	—	—	—	—
4	2	—	—	—	—	—
5	6	—	—	—	—	—
10	10	3	—	—	—	—
15	7	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	2	7	—	—	—
35	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	3	3	—	—
65 } And upwards	2	—	1	1	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	5	12	4	0	0

Diphtheria

The Diphtheria case rate for the district works out at 0.16 per 1,000 population, whereas the rate for England and Wales is 0.13.

The Scarlet Fever case rate for the district is 0.96 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales is 1.37.

Measles and Whooping Cough

Under provisional regulations which came into force on October 23rd, 1939, Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable diseases. There were 216 notifications of measles, and 41 of Whooping Cough.

Anterior Poliomyelitis

There were seven suspected cases notified in the district. Only three were confirmed as being definite cases.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations 1917

No vaccinations under these regulations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives a summary of the cases notified during the year, arranged in age periods. The deaths are given in so far as details have been received.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
15	3	2	0	0	0	5	0	0
25	5	3	0	0	2	2	0	0
35	2	5	0	1	1	2	0	1
45	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
55	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
And upwards 65	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15	14	3	2	10	10	1	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Four cases were notified, and recovery was complete in all.

School Closures

There were no school closures during the year.

Water Supply

A piped water supply is provided by "The Thorne and District Water Company." The water is derived from a bore-hole and continues to be of excellent quality.

Ten samples have been taken at various points during the year and all have been satisfactory.

Extensions completed during the year 1947 have been at the Lands End Road Housing Site:

5 inch main	.....	264 lineal yards
4 inch main	.....	366 lineal yards
3 inch main	.....	338 lineal yards

The following table gives the present position:

Parish	No. of Houses	With piped supply	Served by stand pipe	Wells, etc.
Thorne	3381	3067	177	137
Hatfield	1948	*1697	33	218
Stainforth	1558	1493	5	60
Fishlake	151	—	—	151
Sykehouse	116	—	—	116
	<hr/> 7154	<hr/> 6257	<hr/> 215	<hr/> 682

*Includes 207 houses supplied by water from a private borehole owned by a private housing estate.

As is seen nearly 700 houses in the district are not on a piped water supply and depend on shallow wells.

Fifteen samples were taken from representative wells during the year and of these five were unsatisfactory, two doubtful, and only two satisfactory. Many of these wells are situated on farms, the water being also used for the cleansing of milk utensils, etc.

Sewerage

There was one small extension to the sewers during the year, 370 yards of 9-inch stoneware pipe being laid from Green Lane, Thorne, to Messrs Fairbrothers factory. There are still many houses without main drainage and new schemes are urgently needed to supply places that already have a piped water supply laid on, such as Hatfield Woodhouse and Kirton Lane, Thorne.

Both of the sewage disposal works need enlargement as they are overloaded and cannot deal adequately with the present flow. In consequence the effluent from them is far from satisfactory.

Table showing present state of sewage disposal (figures approximate only):

	Thorne	Stainforth	Hatfield	Fishlake	Sykehouse
No. of Houses	3381	1558	1948	151	116
On Main Drainage	2970	1440	1650	—	—
On Cesspools	21	5	140	4	2
Use Pan Closets	265	49	147	35	14
Use Privy Middens	125	64	11	112	100

Milk Supply

There are 57 licensed retailers of milk in the district; 23 supply only pasteurised milk, 26 only raw milk, and 8 supply both. The retailers of raw milk are mainly small producer retailers who supply only a few customers. I have estimated that over 80% of the milk supplied in the district is pasteurised and bottled, which for a rural area is very satisfactory.

The following tests on milk were carried out during the year:

Biological Tests for Tuberculosis. Four samples, all satisfactory.

Methylene Blue Test. Pasteurised milk—Five samples, all satisfactory.

Ungraded milk—Four samples, two satisfactory, two unsatisfactory

Tuberculin tested milk (non pasteurised) — Six samples, all satisfactory.

Phosphatase Test. Pasteurised milk—Five samples, all satisfactory (group 1).

Ice Cream

A close watch was kept on the vendors of ice cream in the district during the Summer and no case of disease due to the consumption of ice cream came to notice.

Ten samples were taken for submission to the Methylene Blue Test, with the following results:

Group 1—4

Group 3—4

Group 2—2

Group 4—0

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

W. BELL, M.S.I.A.

H. MORDUE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk: P. WHEATCROFT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this report on the work of the department during the year.

Housing

The main concern of the department has been the abatement of housing defects and to this end full use of power under the Public Health and Housing Acts has been made.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :*

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	.....	612
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	1687
2	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.....	nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	nil
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		
	Houses	.....	6
	Caravans	.....	nil
4	Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	573

2. *Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	269
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :*

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936:			
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.....	92
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
	(a) By owners	.....	86
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	6
(b)—Proceedings under sections 93 and 94 of the Public Health Act 1936:			
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	212
2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
	(a) By owners	.....	128
	(b) By owner after Litigation under sect. 94	.....	10

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:	
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
2 Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil
(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
1 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
2 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:*

(a)—1 Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	35
2 Number of families dwelling therein	52
3 Number of persons dwelling therein	116
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	112
(c)—1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	70
2 Number of persons concerned in such cases	211
(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	nil

Number of New Houses erected during 1947

1 State Aided	80
(a) by the Local Authority	80
(b) by Private Enterprise	nil
Public Utility Societies, etc.	
2 Without State Aid	9

Water Supply

The results of routine sampling are shown below:

Source	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Doubtful
Thorne & District Water Company	10	1	2
Dunsville Estates Ltd.	1	—	1
Wells	5	9	—
Stream	—	1	—
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 3

The cause of the unsatisfactory and doubtful samples from the mains was due to insufficient chlorination and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

Public Cleansing

During the year the process of changing over from contract to direct labour was undertaken and it was anticipated that the change over would take place as from the 1st of April.

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining delivery of the necessary refuse collecting vehicles and it was not until after 1st April that deliveries were made.

As vehicles were delivered they were put into service and the contractors withdrawn.

The fleet of vehicles consists of a Karrier cesspool emptier with a capacity of 750 gallons adapted for the collection of night soil, six Karrier Bantam refuse collecting vehicles of 7 cubic yards capacity, and a utility vehicle.

Garages and a workshop have been set up and maintenance of all vehicles is carried out by the Council's employees. When the petrol pump is installed the service will be self contained at the West Street Depot, Thorne.

Atmospheric Pollution

The National Coal Board replied favourably to a suggestion for the installation of plant to minimise the emission of grit from their collieries in the district.

Shortage of plant and labour prohibit the putting into operation of this plan at the moment. The Council were also advised that it is the policy for spoil to be pneumatically stowed underground wherever possible.

A manufacturing concern plans to instal a new boiler incorporating modern fuel consuming apparatus and to change another to oil burning.

Five observations of thirty minutes were made without any unsatisfactory conditions being observed.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Comment has been made elsewhere on the results of milk and ice cream sampling.

Application for the registration of a food preparing place was refused until radical alteration had been carried out and compliance made with the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations.

Cowsheds and Dairies

There are 94 wholesale traders and 57 retail milk traders registered. The cowsheds were regularly inspected during the year.

Swimming Baths and Paddling Pools

The swimming pool was tested daily and two paddling pools were treated and tested daily during the outbreak of poliomyelitis.

Common Lodging Houses

There are three registered and they are regularly inspected. The influx of smallpox contacts into the district was carefully observed and the late Dr. Taylor vaccinated several people in these premises.

Flooding

Appropriate measures were taken re water supply, disinfection and cleansing when a small part of the district was under flood water.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Because of the housing shortage the number of movable dwellings has increased. These are controlled particularly with regard to siting and living conditions.

Food Inspection

Two tons of foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Slaughter Houses

There are none in the district, slaughtering for the area being done at Doncaster.

Bakehouses

There are eight registered and routine inspection has shown them to be in satisfactory condition.

Shops Act, 1934

Forty seven shops were inspected during the year and found to be satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937

There are 71 factories in the district and regular routine inspection is carried out.

Canal Boats

176 are registered and 32 were inspected.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 Infestation Order, 1943

The Council has accepted the scheme N.S. 19 and routine work is done accordingly.

Common Lodging Houses

These are places where persons are lodged for hire, and are usually of a small size, and are often found in the poorer districts of the city. They are often very filthy and are a great source of danger to the health of the community.

Flooding

Flooding is a great danger to the health of the community, and is often caused by the overflow of water from the rivers or the sea. It is a great source of danger to the health of the community, and is often caused by the overflow of water from the rivers or the sea.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

These are places where persons are lodged for hire, and are usually of a small size, and are often found in the poorer districts of the city. They are often very filthy and are a great source of danger to the health of the community.

Food Inspection

This is a branch of the public health service, and is concerned with the inspection of food, and the prevention of food poisoning. It is a great source of danger to the health of the community, and is often caused by the overflow of water from the rivers or the sea.

Slaughter Houses

These are places where animals are slaughtered, and are often found in the poorer districts of the city. They are often very filthy and are a great source of danger to the health of the community.

Bakeries

These are places where bread is made, and are often found in the poorer districts of the city. They are often very filthy and are a great source of danger to the health of the community.

Shops Act 1934

This is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and is concerned with the regulation of shops. It is a great source of danger to the health of the community, and is often caused by the overflow of water from the rivers or the sea.

Factories Act 1937

This is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and is concerned with the regulation of factories. It is a great source of danger to the health of the community, and is often caused by the overflow of water from the rivers or the sea.

Canal Boats

These are places where persons are lodged for hire, and are usually of a small size, and are often found in the poorer districts of the city. They are often very filthy and are a great source of danger to the health of the community.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919

This is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and is concerned with the destruction of rats and mice. It is a great source of danger to the health of the community, and is often caused by the overflow of water from the rivers or the sea.

Infestation Order 1944

This is an Order of the Ministry of Health, and is concerned with the infestation of premises. It is a great source of danger to the health of the community, and is often caused by the overflow of water from the rivers or the sea.

