Wakefield Rural District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:
Councillor R. L. LATHAM.

Vice-Chairman:
Councillor F. H. HUDSON.

Committee:

Councillor	F. BARKER	Councillor	E. KEEN
,,	H. BARKER	,,	H. TAYLOR
,,	A. DWYER	,,	H. SIMPSON
,,	J. GILL	,,	C. W. MARSHALL
,,	A. E. GREAVES	,,	Rev. R. W. HARRIS
,,	G. W. FISHER	,,	R. B. LOFT
,,	J. W. GOODWIN		

Clerk to the Council:
GERALD ARMITAGE.

Deputy Clerk to the Council:
A. ELSTONE.

Medical Officer of Health:
K. S. MACDONALD–SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. E.

Sanitary Inspector:
THOS. H. BRIDDICK, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Etc.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
E. HEALD, M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors:
A. BAXTER. S. V. CROFTON S. STEPHENSON

Clerk:
Mrs. I. MANN.

Disinfector:
G. SCOTT.

Engineer and Surveyor:
W. E. MASSIE, M. Inst. M. & C.E.

PREFACE.

The Annual Report for 1943 is again presented in an abbreviated form, but contains all essential information relative to the health of the Rural District.

A study of the vital statistics for the year shows that the birth-rate is slightly raised. Although there has been an increase in the number of illegitimate births, the legitimate birth-rate is also raised. The death-rate is also slightly higher than last year, and still-births are more numerous.

The infantile mortality rate is still too high and compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales as a whole, and with that for the 148 smaller towns in the country. Deaths of infants under one year comprise 10% of the total deaths in the district. The tuberculosis death-rate is practically unchanged.

With regard to infectious diseases, the measles epidemic which started at the end of 1942 continued well into 1943. No sooner was this over than a major epidemic of scarlet fever started and extended widely through the district. On the whole, scarlet fever is a milder disease now than in years gone by. Comparatively few very severe cases were seen, and only one death was recorded, due to a late complication. The year ended with a sharp influenza epidemic, but as it is not notifiable it is difficult to compare this with previous epidemics. Only four deaths were attributable to this cause.

I should like to record again our thanks to the Staff of the First-Aid Post in Horbury for continuing to treat cases of scabies from our district ; a considerable addition to the voluntary work done by members of the Civil Defence Service.

K. S. MACDONALD-SMITH.

THE WAKEFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

Statistics.

Area.—22,011 acres. Population.—17,840.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Books:—5,072.

Rateable Value.—£80,891.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate.—£306 19s. 4d.

Social Conditions.

Coal-mining and its By-products, along with Agriculture are the chief industries; consequently the District is partly urban and partly rural. Such people as work in mills, etc., at Dewsbury, Ossett, Wakefield, etc., are transported to and fro by the excellent road and rail facilities.

At the end of the year there were 363 evacuees resident in the district, but in no instance was there any overcrowding as a result of this influx of residents.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	347	178	169	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 20.68
	Illegitimate	22	12	10	
		369	190	179	
Still Births	Legitimate	17	9	8	Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births 46.5
	Illegitimate	1	1	—	
		18	10	8	
Deaths		209	118	91	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 11.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN 1943.

Nett Deaths from stated causes under one year of age :—22.

Cause of Death	Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total under 1 Year
Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	11	—	—	—	11	1	—	—	—	12
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Broncho Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	6
Totals ..	12	—	—	—	12	6	3	1	—	22

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

148 Smaller Towns, per 1,000 live births 46

Wakefield Rural District, per 1,000 live births .. 56.91

Deaths from other Causes :—

	Males	Females	Total	Percentage of Total Deaths
Cancer	20	10	30	14.35
Heart Disease	29	23	52	24.88
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	4	3	7	3.35
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	2	2	0.96
Congenital Debility, Malformation, Premature Birth, and other causes	7	6	13	6.22
Diphtheria	—	—	—	0.00
Influenza	4	—	4	1.92
Pneumonia	6	4	10	4.79
Bronchitis	8	6	14	6.71
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	2	2	4	1.92
TOTAL ..	80	56	136	65.10

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Birth-rates, Death-rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1943 } { England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures, based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza		Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales	16.5	0.51	12.1	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.37		5.3	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.6	0.63	14.2	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.36		7.9	58
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	19.4	0.61	12.7	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.37		4.4	46
London	15.8	0.45	15.0	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.27		10.4	58
Wakefield R.D.C.	20.68	1.01	11.7	0.00	—	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.22		2.7	56.9

		Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :	Per 1,000 Total Births ..	0.39	1.45	1.84
Wakefield R.D.C. :	Per 1,000 Total Births ..	0.00	2.6	2.6

Section B.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :
K. S. MACDONALD-SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Sanitary Inspector:—Thos. H. BRIDDICK, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(*Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspector of Nuisances. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspector of Meat and other Foods. Diploma, Sanitary Training College, London, for Sanitary Inspection, Law, Science and Hygiene. Diploma, Sanitary Training College, London, for Meat, Food and Drugs Inspection*).

Additional Sanitary Inspector :—E. HEALD, M.S.I.A.

Three Assistant Inspectors, who, acting as Water Inspectors, attend to minor nuisances on the instructions of the Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.

The examination of sputum, swabs and other pathological specimens is carried out by the County Laboratory. Milk is also examined for tubercle bacilli and bacterial content by the County Laboratory, while water and food stuffs are submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. Richardson, of Bradford.

Ambulance Facilities.

There are two motor ambulances for the removal of infectious disease patients to Carr Gate Hospital, and one for smallpox patients, which meet the requirements of the districts.

For non-infectious cases and accidents an arrangement has now been made for the use of Emergency Ambulances in the Rural Area. This is a welcome addition to the Ambulance Service for the District, as during the night it is sometimes impossible to obtain a private ambulance.

Nursing at Home.

(*a*) General Nursing :—No arrangements by the Council.
(*b*) Nursing of Infectious Cases :—No arrangements for nursing at home.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

All clinics and treatment centres are under the jurisdiction of the West Riding County Council. Diphtheria immunisation is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and private practitioners.

Hospitals and Other Institutions.

(*a*) General Infectious Diseases :

(1) Carr Gate Isolation Hospital, Wakefield.
(2) Cardigan Smallpox Hospital, Wakefield.

(*b*) Voluntary Hospitals :

The hospitals used by the inhabitants in the area for accidents and general diseases are :—

(1) Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.
(2) General Infirmary at Leeds.
(3) Hospital for Women at Leeds.

The Council has made no arrangements for the admission of patients into these voluntary institutions.

Some bodies of workmen, *e.g.*, coal miners, make contributions at fixed intervals, *e.g.*, weekly, to these voluntary institutions whereby their claim to admission, free treatment, etc., is secured.

(*c*) County Council Hospitals :

White Rose County Hospital, Wakefield.
Staincliffe County Hospital, Dewsbury.
Walton Hall Maternity Hospital, Walton.

Hospital Accommodation.

Hospital, Zymotic Diseases.

The Carr Gate Hospital at the time of its erection was sufficient for the needs of the area, but the time has arrived when it should be enlarged and modernised.

The hospital is governed by representatives from the Rural District of Wakefield, the Urban District Council of Stanley and the County Borough of Morley.

Persons suffering from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever from these districts are admitted and treated in this hospital.

Occasionally, other infectious diseases, *e.g.*, measles, pertussis, mumps, are admitted, but as a rule accommodation will not allow their admission. Usually their admission follows as a result of doubtful diagnosis, segregation being carried out until diagnosis is established. Accommodation suffers as a result of the absence of an observation block.

Accommodation is provided for cases of erysipelas at the Carr Gate Isolation Hospital and the County Hospital, Wakefield.

Cardigan Smallpox Hospital.

This hospital is governed by a Smallpox Joint Hospital Board, comprised of representatives from the City of Wakefield, the Wakefield Rural District Council, the Urban District Councils of Stanley, Methley, Horbury and Rothwell, and the County Borough of Morley.

At the present time it is leased to the West Riding County Council and used as a sanatorium. The County Council has entered into an agreement to vacate immediately these premises should an outbreak of smallpox occur in any of the above districts.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

All houses in the district, with the exception of 39 isolated houses, have a piped supply of water laid on.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewers are still required in the parishes of Warmfield-cum-Heath, Sharlston, Crofton, Crigglestone, Sitlington, Bretton, Woolley, Notton and Wintersett.

In the parish of Warmfield-cum-Heath with the exception of the new Council Houses the whole of the houses drain into cesspools or open ditches.

In the hamlet of Warmfield the conditions are very unsatisfactory. Several of these open ditches are for the greater part of the year full of stagnant sewage, some of them within a few feet of the public footpath.

Spring Hill Area in the Parish of Crofton drains into the brook which flows through that part of the district. A scheme for its drainage is held in abeyance during the war.

In the Parish of Sharlston, Foulby Area is developing and here cesspools are constructed to take the drainage from all the houses.

This area is one in which developments would rapidly proceed if there was an efficient sewer constructed.

Woolley Moor, Dennington and Great Cliffe, in the Parish of Crigglestone, are unsatisfactorily sewered. At Dennington the house drains discharge into the brook, at Great Cliffe part of the houses discharge into an open ditch and the remainder into the covered drain discharging into the stream near the Railway Station.

All sewage works in the district are quite satisfactory and the sewage conveyed thereto has been treated in an efficient manner, with the exception of the Parish of Sitlington. Reconstruction of the sewage works at Horbury Bridge is suspended until the end of the war.

947 houses are not connected to the sewers. These drain into cesspools and ditches.

Rivers and Streams.

There were no complaints from the West Riding of Yorkshire Rivers Board regarding any of the affluents from the sewage works except Horbury Bridge Sewage Works.

Pollution of rivers and streams is prevalent in Crigglestone and Crofton. This pollution taking place through the house drainage finding its way direct without treatment.

Closet Accommodation.

Types of Closet Accommodation in the District.

Water Closets	3799
Slop Closets	—
Tub Closets	69
Privy Middens	501

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

153 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

The attack rate per 1,000 population was 8.52.

Notification of all infectious diseases is chiefly given by telephone. This expedites the removal of the patients to the Isolation Hospital and to a large degree minimizes the spread of infection.

149 cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital, and there were no deaths there. The one death attributable to Scarlet Fever was due to a late complication of the disease and occurred in another hospital.

Diphtheria.

26 cases of Diphtheria were reported and 21 of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital; there were no deaths.

The attack rate per 1,000 of the population was 1.45

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1943.

Wakefield Rural Sanitary District.

Cases Notified or otherwise ascertained																										Cases removed to Hospital							
			Enteric Fever																Malaria														
Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	Typhoid	Paratyphoid	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Typhus Fever	Relapsing Fever Continued Fever	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Respiratory Tuberculosis (New cases only)	Other forms of Tuberculosis (New cases only)	Contracted in England	Contracted abroad	Chickenpox	Measles (excluding German Measles)	Whooping Cough	Other Diseases (Please specify)	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Other Diseases (Cerebro-Spinal Fever)	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Whooping Cough
—	153	26	—	—	35	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	12	7	—	—	—	325	77	—	—	149	21	—	—	—	—	2

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1943.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths		
			M.	F.	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	153	149	—	1	1
Diphtheria	26	21	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	35	—	6	4	10
Other Diseases generally notifiable :					
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	—	1	2	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	9	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	325	—	2	—	2
Whooping Cough	77	2	—	1	1
Totals ..	629	172	10	8	18

Causes of Death in 1943.

Causes of Death	Males	Females
All Causes	118	91
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
2 Measles	2	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	1
4 Whooping Cough	—	1
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Influenza	4	—
7 Encephalitis lethargica	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	1	2
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	3
10 Other tuberculous diseases	—	2
11 Syphilis	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	20	10
14 Diabetes	1	—
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	9	9
16 Heart disease	29	23
17 Aneurysm	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	2	2
19 Bronchitis	8	6
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	6	4
21 Other respiratory diseases	2	2
22 Peptic Ulcer	4	—
23 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	—	1
24 Appendicitis	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	—	2
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	2	3
29 Puerperal sepsis	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	—	1
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, etc.	7	6
32 Road Traffic Accident	1	—
33 Suicide	1	—
34 Other violence	8	1
35 All other causes	7	11
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Total	10	12
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Legitimate	10	10
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Illegitimate	—	2
Live Births — Total	190	179
Live Births — Legitimate	178	169
Live Births — Illegitimate	12	10
Still Births — Total	10	8
Still Births — Legitimate	9	8
Still Births — Illegitimate	1	—
Population (Resident)	17,840	

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
35—	3	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	8	4	4	3	4	3	—	2

Verminous Persons.

Arrangements for cleansing of verminous people, clothing, bedding and all textile articles likely to contain vermin, are made with the City of Leeds when the occurrence arises. The infested articles are steam disinfected and, during the occupier's stay at the cleansing station, the premises are fumigated. It was not necessary to take any action during 1943.

Disinfection.

This is carried out at every place where a notifiable infectious disease has occurred, and where there has been a death from Tuberculosis. Houses in which active cases of Tuberculosis reside are disinfected periodically—every 3 months. Disinfection is also done when a tuberculous person leaves home and enters a sanatorium.

The method employed is formalin sprayer and lamps.

This work is done by a trained workman under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Prevention of Blindness.

It was not found necessary to take any action during the year for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from injury or any diseases of the eyes.

WAKEFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Gentlemen,

I respectfully submit my Annual Report for the year 1943.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. H. BRIDDICK, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

Notices and Correspondence.

	Number of Statutory Notices served, Public Health Act, 1936	1
Do.	Statutory Notices, Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1936, Sec. 269	—
Do.	Statutory Notices (Sec. 92) Public Health Act, 1936	1
Do.	Statutory Notices (Sec. 39) Public Health Act, 1936	14
Do.	Statutory Notices, Milk and Dairies, 1926	1
Do.	Informal Notices served	69
Do.	Letters sent	1324
Do.	Sec. 127, Housing Act, 1936	—
	TOTAL ..	1410

Number of Nuisances reported to Sanitary Committee	16
Number of reported nuisances outstanding, 1942 ..	—
Number abated on service of Statutory Notice (Public Health Acts)	16
Do. abated before Statutory Notice was served..	—
Do. of reported nuisances outstanding, 1943 ..	—

Houses Erected, 1943.

	Bretton	Crigglestone	Crofton	Chevet	Newland	Notton	Sharlston	Sitlington	Walton	Warmfield	Wintersett	Woolley	Total
Private Enterprise and Subsidy ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
By the Council under 1936 Acts—Houses ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Inhabited Houses.

Parish	Houses
Chevet	
Crigglestone	
Crofton	
Newland-cum-Woodhouse	
Notton	
Sharlston	
Sitlington	
Walton	
Warmfield-cum-Heath..	
Bretton West	
Wintersett	
Woolley	
TOTAL	5072

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases	194
Cowsheds	298
Distributing Centres	114
Interviews and Appointments in District	360
Investigations of Complaints	264
Inspections of Works for the Abatement of Nuisances ..	156
Petroleum	40
Drain Testing	116
Shops	230
Inspection of Houses	77
Refuse Tips	94
Privy Conversions	7
Bakehouses	2
Workshops	67
Military Camps	64
Government Evacuation Scheme	3421
Other Visits	122
Fish Shops	39
TOTAL ..	5665

Nuisances Abated and Improvements Effected.

No. of	Privies converted into water closets	3
,,	New water closets erected at old property	—
,,	Tub closets converted	—
,,	Tub closets repaired	—
,,	Tub closets abolished	—
,,	Privy Middens abolished	2
,,	Water closets repaired	15
,,	Privy Middens repaired	12
,,	New ashbins provided	94
,,	New drains constructed	12
,,	New gullies fixed	24
,,	Slopstone sinks provided and renewed	3
,,	Waste pipes renewed and trapped	16
,,	Inspection chambers built and repaired	5
,,	Ventilating shafts to drains	3
,,	Stopped drains released	43
,,	Lighting, ventilation and floors	14
,,	Windows repaired	11
,,	Ceilings repaired	8
,,	Eaves, spouts and downpipes repaired	12
,,	Roofs repaired	7
,,	Flooding of cellars remedied	1
,,	Houses where dampness was remedied	6
,,	Nuisances abated arising from keeping of animals	3
,,	Dirty houses cleaned	4
,,	Offensive accumulation	1
,,	New privy middens built	—
,,	Yards re-paved	2
,,	Cowsheds repaired	4
,,	Old drains reconstructed	7
,,	Urinals repaired	1
,,	Downspouts disconnected from drains	1
,,	Cleansing of workshops	—
,,	Occupation of sheds abated	—
,,	Dairies constructed	4
,,	Quarries fenced	—
,,	Baths complete	1
,,	House walls repaired	2
,,	Food stores repaired	—
,,	Cesspools constructed	1
,,	Cesspools repaired	2
,,	Other items not mentioned above	13
	TOTAL	337

Ditches cleaned out (yds.) 90

Disinfections.

Disinfections are carried out by workmen specially trained for this work and the method adopted is spraying with Formaldyhyde and Formalin Lamps. During the year 243 disinfections were carried out by this method. In the case of Verminous houses, de-infestation is done by spraying with a special insecticide and fumigation with sulphur candles.

Disinfectants are supplied free for use in houses where a case of infectious disease has occurred and where Tuberculosis patients reside. Stores for the supply of disinfectants are situated in each of the Townships and supplies are issued on the production of a note signed either by myself or the disinfector.

The wasteful manner in which it was used in the past compelled me to curtail the issue of fluid disinfectant.

The following disinfections were carried out during 1943 :—

DISINFECTIONS	DISEASES										
	Tuberculosis	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Cancer	Vermin	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Scabies	Erysipelas		Total
Private Dwelling Houses	2	149	28	14	1	38	4	3	1		240
Schools	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		2
Day Nursery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		1
TOTAL ..	2	151	28	15	1	38	4	3	1		243

The result of the disinfections for zymotic diseases has been very satisfactory and no secondary cases have occurred that could be traced to the inefficiency of the method adopted.

The total number of houses disinfected for tuberculosis during the year was 2. This service has been curtailed during the year, due to other duties of the disinfector in connection with disinfection of respirators.

Disinfestation.

38 houses were found to be infested with bugs during the year.

Food and Drugs.

No samples were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year.

Cowsheds, Milk Shops, Dairies.

On the 31st December, 1943, there were 32 wholesale producers, 63 producer retailers and retailers.

298 visits were made during the year to farms and dairies; the average number of dairy cattle kept in the district was 1180.

44 samples of milk produced in the district and submitted for examination and test. 5 samples were found unsatisfactory.

Food Inspection.

The following food was found to be totally unfit for human consumption :—

1 Pig Head (T.B.)	3 pints Evaporated Milk (decomposition)
1 Beast Liver (Distoma Hepaticum)	204 lbs. Lemon Curd ,,
	7½ lbs. Pork Sausage ,,
3 cwt. Sugar	10 lbs. Chopped Ham ,,
2 stones Flour (decomposition)	24 lbs. Corned Beef ,,
	48 lbs. Corned Mutton ,,
25 lbs. Figs ,,	6 lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat ,,
1, 2½ lbs. Tinned Meat (decomposition)	2 tins Bachelor Beans ,,

Offensive Trades.

In the district there are 28 Fish Friers. The conditions at these premises were found satisfactory.

Petroleum and like Substances.

29 premises are licensed for the storage of Petroleum. There were no accidents during the year and no contraventions of the Petroleum Act discovered.

Canal Boats.

There are no Canal Boats registered in the district. Canal Boats worked in the district are chiefly day boats on which there is no sleeping accommodation. No inspections were made during the year.

HOUSING AND SANITARY SURVEY, 1944.

In the preparation and survey of the housing conditions in the district, it appeared to me to be desirable that there should be on record, not only the housing conditions, but also a comprehensive table of other unsatisfactory or undesirable features in the district, in order that you may be fully conversant with these conditions and be in a position to include improvements in any plans which may come before you and which would tend towards the elimination of undesirable features and provide for improved amenities for the health and welfare of the community. Not only of the Wakefield Rural District but also that of the adjoining districts.

Housing is one of the problems which will require much of your attention and the Minister of Health desires all local authorities to be in a position to comply with any demand regarding housing that may be made on them immediately the war is over.

In order that the Wakefield Rural District should not be behind in this matter I respectfully submit for your consideration my report on the housing conditions, and coupled with that I have also added other sanitary conditions which, in my opinion, are of equal importance as the housing, and require attention at a date as early as practicable.

During my term of office many improvements have been effected, but the improvements fall short of what would have been done had the war not intervened, and what I, as your health officer, would like to see accomplished.

The suggestions which I venture to put forth, I fully realize cannot be put into operation for some time, but trust they will help you to make such preparations as will enable them to be dealt with at the appropriate time.

In the following tables you will note many factors for consideration, such as :—unsuitable houses ; overcrowded houses ; houses capable of repair ; houses for demolition ; types of sanitary accommodation ; absence of sewers ; and the water supplies.

Table 1.—There are 4,895 houses which have been included in this report; those omitted are houses which do not come within the Housing Act. 301 of these houses have not through ventilation, and while some of them can be provided with through ventilation there are many of them which are incapable and therefore are unhealthy and unsuitable for human habitation. 847 houses are not in a reasonable state of repair and can be made to comply with the Housing Act, 1936, at a reasonable cost. 720 houses are, in my opinion, unfit for human habitation and the majority are houses which were built many years ago and have served the purpose for which they were built; the main structure is perished, excessive dampness prevails and adequate ventilation cannot be provided. 99% of these will be included in clearance areas and the remainder included in individual demolitions. Overcrowding is prevalent in 117 houses, which is not a high percentage—2.4%. 25 overcrowded houses are houses which I have scheduled for demolition and that leaves 92 houses to be dealt with for overcrowding alone.

Almost 50% of the houses in the district are detached or semi-detached, the remaining being in terraces or blocks of four and upwards.

Table 2.—The water supply throughout the district is most favourable. Only 12 houses are without a supply within a reasonable distance and 27 not connected to the mains. In the township of Walton it will be noted that 19 houses are dependent on wells or springs. Of these 19 houses, 14 are scheduled for demolition.

In examining the drainage table it will be seen that 949 houses are not connected to the sewers and are drained into cesspools or ditches. This unsatisfactory condition calls for serious consideration, especially in the townships of Bretton, Crigglestone, Crofton, Sharlston, Warmfield and Notton. A complete scheme for the sewering of the whole of Bretton is necessary as only 11 houses can be considered to have suitable drainage. The remaining houses drain into a small stream flowing towards Haigh Station.

Crigglestone.—Unsatisfactory drainage is in three sections: (1) Great Cliffe; (2) Woolley Moor; (3) Dennington and Calder Grove.

Great Cliffe and Dennington are drained direct into streams without any form of treatment. At Calder Grove 14 drain into the stream without any treatment and the remainder are provided with cesspools.

Warmfield-cum-Heath (with the exception of the Council's Housing Estate at Kirkthorpe).—The township of Warmfield is most unsatisfactory and calls for serious consideration at an early date.

The remaining parishes—Crofton, Sharlston and Notton—whilst unsatisfactory are not so urgent as those specially mentioned. I would, however, point out that the 575 houses with cesspools in various districts are a most uneconomic arrangement and greatly increase the annual cost of cleansing.

Table 3.—This table gives the types of privy accommodation in all townships. This would have shown a more favourable picture had the war not intervened. Plans for the conversion of the privy middens in the township of Sitlington were well advanced when the war broke out and would have completed the whole of the privy midden conversions that were possible with the existing sewers available in the district.

HOUSING & SANITARY SURVEY.

Parish	Total No. of houses	DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE					CONDITION OF PROPERTY			Houses over-crowded
		VENTILATION		D'tached	Semi-detached	Terrace	Good	Repair-able	Not repairable scheduled for demolition	
		Through	Not through							
Netherton	304	268	36	56	103	145	221	66	17	7
Notton	147	144	3	44	93	10	115	29	3	—
Woolley	224	203	21	51	15	158	93	69	62	*11
Haigh	67	67	—	10	4	53	62	1	4	*4
Walton	366	358	8	66	110	190	282	41	43	*4
Middlestown..	676	595	81	125	237	314	442	152	82	*17
Chevet	16	16	—	10	6	—	9	7	—	—
Crigglestone	1233	1128	105	197	363	673	763	305	165	47
Crofton	790	768	22	60	235	495	633	67	90	*17
Bretton	84	83	1	31	14	39	35	19	30	—
Sharlston	743	728	15	54	159	530	537	53	153	*8
Warmfield-cum-Heath	232	223	9	63	111	58	130	33	69	2
Wintersett	13	13	—	9	4	—	6	5	2	—
TOTALS ..	4895	4594	301	776	1454	2665	3328	847	720	117

* Woolley—8 overcrowded houses for demolition.
* Haigh—2 overcrowded houses for demolition.
* Crofton—6 overcrowded houses for demolition.
* Walton—4 overcrowded houses for demolition.
* Middlestown—4 overcrowded houses for demolition.
* Sharlston—1 overcrowded house for demolition.

WATER & DRAINAGE SURVEY.

Parish	Total No. of houses	WATER SUPPLY			DRAINAGE		
		TOWN		Well or Spring	Sewer	Cesspool	Ditch
		Laid on	Standpipe				
Netherton	304	304	—	—	256	44	4
Notton	147	147	—	—	83	55	9
*Woolley	224	219	—	—	195	21	8
Haigh	67	67	—	—	42	19	6
*Walton	366	343	1	19	316	48	2
Middlestown	676	676	—	1	612	33	31
*Chevet	16	12	—	3	—	13	3
Crigglestone	1233	1233	—	—	978	74	181
Crofton	790	789	—	—	693	78	19
Bretton	84	82	1	1	—	11	72
Sharlston	743	743	—	—	694	49	—
* Warmfield-cum-Heath	232	231	—	1	78	127	27
*Wintersett	13	11	—	—	—	3	10
TOTALS	4895	4858	2	25	3947	575	372

* Woolley—5 without water supply.
* Walton—3 without water supply.
* Chevet—1 without water supply.
* Crofton—1 without water supply.
* Wintersett—2 without water supply.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Parish	W.C.'s		Privy middens	Privies	Pails	Dust-bins	Dry Ashpits
	Ext.	Int.					
Netherton	75	140	49	83	6	196	1
Notton	5	114	21	23	10	118	4
Woolley	104	35	35	45	10	167	5
Haigh	45	4	7	11	7	53	1
Walton	121	211	16	27	1	332	—
Middlestown	195	135	110	189	3	415	2
Chevet	2	7	14	14	—	2	—
Crigglestone	636	407	87	155	5	1051	3
Crofton	407	281	31	81	13	690	3
Bretton	15	32	33	53	6	22	—
Sharlston	429	266	17	27	—	714	—
Warmfield-cum-Heath	19	112	72	114	5	108	—
Wintersett	2	—	9	8	3	—	1
TOTALS	2055	1744	501	830	69	3868	20