Library

WAKEFIELD

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

DECEMBER 31st. 1953.

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WAKEFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at present constituted)

CHAIRMAN :- COUNCILLOR E. CROSSLEY.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:- COUNCILLOR J.T. FOLEY, J.P.

MEMBERS :-

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COUNCILLOR R.E. COOPER.	COUNCILLOR J. CROWTHER.
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ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR :- J.C. PAYNE, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.

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P U B L I C H E A L T H D E P A R T M E N T .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1953 :-

W.G. EVANS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Resigned February, 1954).

FREDERICK G.E. HILL, D.S.O., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed Acting Medical Officer of Health, February, 1954)

ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER :-

IRENE HARGREAVES, M.B., Ch.B.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR :-

E. HEALD, M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :-

C. CANNON, A.R.S.I.

CLERK :-

Miss M. LLOYD.

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee :-

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended December 31st. 1953.

Your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953 was Dr. Evans who resigned his appointment early in 1954 and his services to you terminated at the beginning of February, 1954.

In view of proposals made then by the West Riding Council to amalgamate the County's Health Divisions No. 13 and No. 14, no permanent appointment of Medical Officer of Health to your authority was then made, and I have acted as your Medical Officer from February, 1954 up to the present time, carrying out, also, similar duties to the Horbury Council and to the Ossett Council, the other Constituent Authorities of Division 13.

Additionally, I have continued in my appointment of Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Morley and Divisional Medical Officer of Division 14.

The proposals of the County Council in this matter are concerned almost exclusively with administration. No alteration or modification of existing Welfare Services is proposed or contemplated.

The two present Divisional Offices will be merged in one Divisional Office and the clerical staff (a reduced establishment) will attend at the one Divisional Office finally decided on.

There is also a proposed economy of Medical Staff, but this again is an administrative economy and not a proposed curtailment of present essential services.

These proposals of the County Council are in accordance with, and a part of, a longer term policy which has been adopted to reduce, as and when the opportunity arises, the overall number of Medical Divisions in the area of the Administrative County of the West Riding.

These proposals of the County Authority have been accepted by the Minister of Housing and Local Government subject to a review early in 1955.

Referring now to the Annual Report for the year 1953, this year under review was a year in which I had no personal knowledge of the details of the Health Services in the Wakefield Rural District. Because of this, my comments here and in the body of the Report are, of necessity, based on information afforded to me either from personal inquiry or from statistics recorded in the department.

Reviewing the Report as a whole, the position is substantially that shown in recent Annual Reports; your vital statistics show little deviation from the statistics given for recent years and further, they are closely comparable with the National Statistics.

If any comment is called for here, it is that again the general trend is favourable to an improvement.

With regard to infectious diseases, measles was prevalent in Wakefield Rural Area as in most of the West Riding. The incidence of measles varies from year to year, but over a period of years, practically all children contact the illness, being susceptible.

Some cases of infantile paralysis occurred and the increasing incidence of this illness is a matter of serious concern.

Rather more cases of scarlet fever were recorded than in previous years, but again, this fever has shown the symptons of the mild type which has been common for some time. The admission of cases of scarlet fever to isolation hospital as a routine measure is now discouraged. Cases are admitted to hospital only if special indications exist for this

Reference is made to the increase in vaccination protection against smallpox shown in the Report. The occurrence of an outbreak of smallpox in the West Riding in 1953, an outbreak of severe type with a high death rate, induced many to seek protective treatment. No case of ascertained or suspected smallpox occurred in the Council's Administrative Area.

Treatment to ensure protection against diptheria is given and every effort made to persuade parents to accept the treatment for their children.

The acceptance rate has been fairly good but not high enough to be regarded as really efficient or satisfactory.

The County Authority has now approved protective treatment against whooping cough being given to children up to 4 years of age and at an early date protective treatment against tuberculosis will be offered to school children approaching school-leaving age.

The County's Welfare Services have continued in operation and, in general, Clinic attendances have been well maintained this year.

An increased establishment of Home Helps is recorded.

With regard to Health Environmental Matters, I would mention in particular Housing.

It is noted that continued progress was made in 1953 with the clearance of unfit houses and with the provision of new Council houses.

Now a revision of the National policy requires a speeding-up of the clearance of unfit houses and a scheme to ensure this must be submitted to the Minister of Housing by a date in 1955.

This requirement will bear a close survey and reconsideration of the Local Housing position and any scheme drawn up and submitted will have to take into consideration local building resources and the Ministry's approved allocation to the Authority.

I wish to thank the Council for their understanding and support during the period I have served the Wakefield Rural District Council and also I wish to thank my colleagues for their ready co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERICK G. E. HILL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year ended DECEMBER 31st. 1953.

SECTION A - GENERAL STATISTICS

AREA : ..... 21,503 acres.

POPULATION (REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE, MID. 1953 ... 19,120.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (RATE BOOKS) 5,761

RATEABLE VALUE (1/4/53) .....£ 84.878

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE .....£327. 7. 7.

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS :-

BIRTH RATE :-

		Males	Females	Total
Live Births:-	Legitimate	162	164	326
	Illegitimate	8	10	18
	TOTALS	170	174	344

Birth Rate (Registrar General's) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :- 18.0

		Males	Females	Total
Still Births :-	Legitimate	2	3	5
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	TOTALS	2	3	5

Still Birth rate calculated per 1,000 live and still births :- 14.3

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total
	109	63	172

Death rate (Registrar General's) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.0

T A B L E I . CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE DISTRIBUTION.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Year		1 - 4		5 - 14		15 - 29		30 - 44		45 - 59		60 - 74		75 and over		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Enlarged Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	13	6	4	4	22	11
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	2
Coronary diseases, Angina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	8	3	6	3	19	6
Other Heart and Circulatory Diseases	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	10	17	18	11	31	31
Pneumomia and Bronchitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	-	2	1	10	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Gastritis and Enteritis	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1
Pregnancy and Childbirth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	-	-	1	3	1	8	8
Motor Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	8	-
Suicides	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
T O T A L S	4	5	-	-	1	1	3	2	8	3	15	2	43	30	35	20	109	63

TABLE II

Total Deaths of infants under 1 year from defined causes - 9

Analysis of Infant Deaths :-

INFANT MORTALITY

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
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Gastro Enteritis	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Birth Injury	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	6	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	9

Death Rate of infants under 1 year :-

Administrative County of West Riding of Yorkshire 29.3
Wakefield Rural District 26.2
England and Wales 26.8

TABLE III

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1948 - 1953

	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate.	Still Birth Rate
1948	18,270	19.9	9.3	11	30	26
1949	18,540	18.5	11.8	13	38	25
1950	18,810	16.4	9.7	12	39	19
1951	19,230	17.0	10.1	5	15	15
1952	19,270	15.8	9.6	6	19.7	28.8
1953	19,120	18.0	9.0	9	26.2	14.3

SECTION B

General provision of Health Services in the District.

Laboratory Service:-

The Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield (County Medical Officer's offices in Wood Street, Wakefield) will receive specimens for bacteriological and other examinations from the Health Department and from Practitioners in the area of the Rural Council.

The service provided by the Laboratory is equal to the demands made on it and the personal advice and assistance of the Director of the Laboratory and his staff is always readily available on request.

Ambulance Service :-

Ambulance services for the Rural District are provided by the West Riding County Council. This includes emergency and accident cases, general illness, maternity cases, and for infectious illness.

The service has been well provided and efficient so far as demands on it from this area are concerned during the year under review.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

The usual Hospital to which cases of infectious illness are sent is Snapethorpe, Wakefield.

With regard to certain illnesses, e.g. infantile paralysis, special provision for treatment and nursing is provided for at Seacroft Hospital, Leeds and elsewhere, and special arrangements are made for after-care at Pinderfields Hospital where there is an Orthopaedic Unit.

The Isolation Hospital accommodation provided has been sufficient and satisfactory during the year under review. It is noted that no cases of diptheria have been notified and few cases of Scarlet Fever are now sent to Isolation Hospital. This latter is in accordance with modern practice.

General Hospital Accommodation.

The General and Special Hospital accommodation for acute sick cases and for emergency sick cases is reasonably satisfactory. On the other hand, the accommodation for chronic sick patients is still restricted and for a number there is a longer or shorter waiting period before admission is secured.

With regard to the elderly and infirm requiring Institutional accommodation, the position is less satisfactory, although here again there has been an improvement effected over recent years and this improvement has been shown again in 1953.

No action under the National Assistance Act, Section 47 (including the Amending Act) was taken by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Hospital After-Care.

The after-care of patients who have been treated in Hospitals is the duty of the Local Health Authority and during the year there has again been a number - indeed a slightly increasing number - of requests for this welfare service.

The demands made on the Service provided are very varied and range from requests in respect of maternity cases, general sick and accident cases, to mental health and others.

Even so, it is felt that the total requests fall far below what might be expected, but no doubt as the value of this service becomes better known and appreciated, the demands will increase considerably.

Domiciliary Nursing.

There are six Domiciliary or Home Nurses employed in the Wakefield Rural area.

Changes during the year in the establishment were through the resignation of Nurse Staples in November, 1952 and the transfer of Nurse Jackson from Midwifery to General Nursing duties in April, 1953, Nurse Jackson then taking over the area Sharlston, Warmfield and Kirkthorpe, and the duties of Nurse Staples. In the interim period, this work was carried out by the Relief Nurse.

The following is a statement of the work of the Home Nurses during 1953.

Name	Area	No. of Visits	No. of Cases.
Nurse M. Cockshott (District Nurse - Midwife)	Bretton, Notton, Woolley.	2,123	127
Nurse O. Gardner (District Nurse - Midwife)	Middlestown, Overton, Netherton.	2,876	206
Nurse F.E. Ellis (Home Nurse)	Crofton, Wintersett,	4,261	115
Nurse M.E. Smith (Home Nurse)	Crigglestone, Walton, Newmillerdam.	2,578	179
Nurse T. Pickersgill (Relief Home Nurse)	Sharlston, Warmfield, Kirkthorpe.	967	78
Nurse L. Jackson (Home Nurse from 1/4/53)	- do -	1,487	127
		14,292	832

MATERNITY SERVICE.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

Cases requiring Institutional accommodation for confinements are booked at the County General Hospital, Wakefield, at Woolley Hall Maternity Home and a few at Manygates Maternity Hospital.

The beds available have been sufficient for the demands made on them during the year.

There was a slight falling away in the demand for Institutional beds in 1953 - in 155 cases out of a total of 349 compared with 150 in 1952 out of a total of 313. The percentages were 44.4 and 47.9 respectively.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

Changes in staff were made during 1953 because of the transfer of Miss Jackson to District Nursing and in view of this Nurse Campbell was transferred to take over Miss Jackson's previous midwifery duties.

The percentages of domiciliary confinements in Wakefield Rural area slightly increased this year - 55.6 as compared with 52.1 in 1952.

The present tendency is for confinements to be approximately half domiciliary and half Institutional, although in some areas, where housing conditions are bad and where there is overcrowding or lack of amenities, so that the homes are unsuitable for home confinements, the percentage of Institutional bookings tends to be higher, in some cases much higher.

GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA.

All Nurses in domiciliary midwifery practice are trained to give this service to patients in labour and are provided with the necessary equipment.

During the year this treatment was given to 162 cases from a total of 194 cases, a percentage of 83.4 compared with a percentage of 61.0 in 1952 when there were 163 domiciliary confinements which gas and air was given to 100 cases.

Pre- and Post-natal Clinics:

Returns from the pre- and post-natal clinics for the year 1953 show attendances as follows:-

Clinic	Sessions held	No. of mothers attending pre-natal	No. of mothers attending post-natal	Total attendances. pre-natal	Total attendances. post-natal
Crigglestone	Monthly	22	3	198	3
Crofton	Alternate Weeks	26	0	54	0
Middlestown	"	25	3	97	3
Sharlston	"	37	10	120	10
		110	16	469	16

Attendances at the pre- and post-natal clinics, show some falling away from the figures given for 1952 - 126 mothers attending in 1953, as compared with 146 attending in 1953. On the other hand, the total attendances were slightly higher.

It is, however, a matter of general experience that attendances at Local Health Authority Clinics are dropping due to the alternative arrangements for this care made under the National Health Service Acts. This is even more marked in the returns for 1954 and will be referred to in the next Report.

Maternal Mortality, 1953.

No maternal death is recorded for the year and consequently the maternal death rate for the Rural District for the year is shown as nil.

Premature Babies.

Special arrangements are made by the County Authority for the care of premature babies born in domiciliary practice.

Selected midwives are specially trained in the particular care of premature infants and when the birth of a premature infant is reported, one of these midwives immediately undertakes the special care of the infant leaving the midwife in attendance free to undertake the care of the mother.

Suitable equipment is provided - a premature baby cot - special heating arrangements to ensure a constant and optimum temperature for the baby and equipment for oxygen supply and other nursing facilities.

Immediate transport for the midwife and this equipment to any home where it is wanted is also arranged for.

These special arrangements are necessary because the first few hours of life are very critical ones, calling for special care if the premature infant is to survive.

Premature Babies continued.

The following table is a statistical survey of the premature infants in the area born in 1953 and notified to the Department.

Return of Babies (including still-births) of 5½ lbs in weight or under at birth delivered in the year 1st January 1953 to 31st December, 1953.

Weight at birth lbs.	No.of Premature Births Born Alive	Born Dead (over 28 wks. duration of pregnancy	No.dying Days and hours of survival	No.surviving over 28 dys.
Under 2½ lbs.	1	-	1 - lived 35 hrs.	-
2½ - 3 lbs.	-	2	-	-
3 - 3½lbs.	4	-	-	4
3½ - 4 lbs.	2	1	-	2
4 - 4½ lbs.	3	-	-	3
4½ - 5 lbs.	4	-	-	4
5 - 5½lbs.	7	-	1 - lived 3 days. 1 - lived 24 days	5
TOTAL	21	3	3	18

0

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Clinic held at	Sessions held	Medical Officer Attending	Health Visitor	Attendances Children aged 0-1 yr.	Attendances Children aged 1-5 yrs.
Crigglestone	Weekly	Dr. G.R. Wightman	Nurse E.E.Driver	1153	574
Crofton	do	Dr. I. Hargreaves	Nurse M.A.Taylor	956	529
Middlestown	do	Dr.G.M. Aitken	Nurse A. Holder	725	393
Sharlston	do	Dr. I. Hargreaves	Nurse M.A. Ward	811	729

Here again, there has been a falling off in attendances during 1953. In the age-group of infants 0-1 year the attendances have been 3645 compared with 4409 in 1952, and in the 1-5 age group, 2225 compared with 2528 in 1952.

This again c onfirms what is being experienced generally but in spite of some falling off in attendaces one can see from the figures given that the clinics are still well attended.

The work of the Voluntary Committees in providing the social amenities of the Centre, and in other ways is a definite factor in maintaining the attendances and this is acknowledged and appreciated.

Venereal Diseases.

Facilities for treatment (free and confidential treatment) are readily available for both men and women in all the General and Special Hospitals in the neighbouring County Boroughs.

Notices exhibited in appropriate places give full information to the General Public of these facilities which are provided locally.

Additionally, National and Central Authorities draw the attention of the public to the dangers of venereal disease, in particular to the danger of neglecting treatment when these illnesses have been contracted.

School Health Service:

The school roll at the end of 1953 was 2429. There are 14 schools.

During the year periodic inspections have been carried out in three age-groups - infant or entrants, an intermediate group at age 11 and a group of leavers in the term before they leave school.

Summary of Medical Inspections in Schools, 1953:-

School	Sessions	No.of examinations carried out	
		Periodic	Non-periodic.
Crigglestone C.P.(Inf.)	5	102	17
Crigglestone C.P.(Mixed)	3	38	57
Crigglestone C.ofE.	2	44	8
Newmillerdam C.P.	1	21	10
West Bretton C.P.	2	23	8
Walton C.P.	3	65	6
Woolley C.ofE.	1	12	3
Woolley Colliery C.P.	2	51	-
Netherton	3	45	36
Middlestown C.P.(Inf.)	2	42	6
Middlestown C.P.(Mixed)	2	24	32
Sharlston C.P.(Inf.)	4	57	44
Sharlston C.P.(Mixed)	3	41	42
Sharlston National	-	-	-
Warmfield	-	-	-
Heath	-	-	-
Crofton	15	227	164
	48	792	433

It is proposed in future routine inspections to include a fourth inspection group, at the age of which children normally pass from the primary to the Junior Departments.

Nutrition.

At medical inspections in schools, the nutrition of the children examined in the routine age groups is assessed and a statement of the findings is given in the following table:-

	A.	B.	C.
Entrants	198	242	1
Second age group	102	161	-
Leavers	45	43	-
	345	446	1
	43.56%	56.31%	.13%

This shows that one child only, that is 0.13% of the total number of children examined, was suffering from a condition which could be regarded as malnutrition

a)

Cleanliness Surveys.

All children in attendance at schools in the Area are inspected once in each term for uncleanly and verminous conditions.

These inspections are carried out by the School Nurses.

Where children are found to be uncleanly or verminous, action taken depends on the kind and on the severity of the condition found to exist and may range from a simple notice to the parent up to school exclusion or cleansing at the clinic by arrangements made by the Local Health Authorities.

Inspections are followed in a few days by re-inspections of the children found uncleanly or verminous and again appropriate action is taken where this is indicated.

The reports of the nurses from their cleanliness surveys are given in this table:-

School	No.on register	No.of individual children found infested	Percentage of individual children found infested	
			1952	1953
Crigglestone C.P.(Inf.)	132	14	8.33	10.61
Crigglestone C.P.(Mixed)	206	20	12.62	9.71
Crigglestone C.ofE.	96	-	-	-
Newmillerdam C.P.	50	5	2.0	10.0
West Bretton C.P.	51	-	-	-
Walton C.P.	202	7	8.81	3.46
Woolley C.ofE.	21	3	4.76	14.27
Woolley Colliery C.P.	99	7	7.71	7.07
Netherton	146	15	5.48	10.27
Middlestown C.P.	235	13	7.23	5.57
Sharlston C.P.(Inf.)	172	22	12.34	12.79
Sharlston C.P.(Mixed)	343	43	8.45	12.54
Sharlston National	100	11	-	11.00
Warmfield	78	11	12.84	14.10
Heath	41	-	-	-
Crofton	456	31	3.5	6.79

Handicapped Pupils.

A special register is kept of handicapped pupils who are defined as children with a disability, physical or mental, which interferes with their ability to profit personally from the education provided in the normal school curriculum.

For such children, special educational facilities must be provided, either at boarding schools, or residential institutions or at special day schools, or in other cases at occupational centres.

In some cases Home Teachers may be provided. Again, total exclusion from school may be necessary.

Handicapped Pupils, 1953:-

No.of Handicapped Pupils examined	4
No.of Handicapped Pupils recommended Special School	3
No.of Handicapped Pupils admitted to Special Schools	2
No.of E.S.N. children examined	5
No.of E.S.N. children recommended Special School	3
No.of E.S.N. children admitted to Special School	2

a)

Home Help Service.

There has been a further increase in the number of persons benefiting from this service, 88 cases in 1953 compared with 70 in 1952.

The various illnesses or disabilities for which domestic home helps were provided are analysed as follows:-

	No. of persons.
Maternity Cases	13
Tuberculosis	3
Chronic sick and Elderly infirm	62
Other	10
Total	88

Again, the divisional establishment of home helps has been increased in response to the increasing demands which come in to the Divisional Office for the service of these Domestic Helps.

The service is a valuable one in many ways, not least in the provision it makes for those infirm persons and elderly chronic sick without adequate help at home and who are unable to get the institutional accommodation they require.

The service helps to an economy of hospital and institutional beds.

Mental Health.

There were 50 mentally defective persons under statutory supervision of whom 21 were adults in regular employment. Seven children attended Occupation Centres, 4 at Wakefield and 3 at Castleford and the provision made for these children has been a great boon to their parents.

Six patients were under voluntary supervision and of these, four were in regular employment.

One patient under guardianship lost the employment he had had for several years and owing to his condition, could not be found other work.

One adult patient was admitted to Hospital because of misbehaviour.

Six new cases were referred from mental hospital for after-care.

SECTION C.
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(a) Water Supply.

Apart from a well in Woolley Village, the Rural District has no water supply of its own and arrangements are in force to take water from Wakefield City (approximately two thirds of the total requirements of the area) from Dewsbury County Borough, (rather more than one sixth of the total requirement) and small quantities from Royston, from Darton, from Kirkburton and from Hemsworth to serve localized districts in the administrative area of the Rural Council.

There have been local water shortages during 1953 due to various causes but the Council has made efforts to deal with the problem of short supply as they have arisen and the general overall picture shows an improvement and will continue to do so.

There are at present 8 houses only not on the general Mains Supply.

Waters are submitted for chemical and bacteriological examinations and during 1953 reports were received on 7 samples examined bacteriologically and 4 samples examined chemically.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage.

During 1953, improvements and extensions were carried out at Notton where there was inadequacy of provision for the District.

There are improvements and extensions required at present in various parts of the District and in particular at Bretton, at Woolley, at Crofton, at Horbury Bridge, at Sharlston and Kirkthorpe.

These matters are at present under consideration by the Council.

(c) Housing.

Action under the Housing Acts was taken in respect of 26 individual houses in 1953.

Additionally 3 houses which were unfit were voluntarily closed by owners.

In respect of the 26 individual houses dealt with by the Council, 16 demolition orders were made and carried out and in 10 cases, undertakings were accepted that the houses would not be re-let or re-occupied for human habitation.

New housing provided in the area in 1953 is shown as follows:-

New Council Houses completed in 1953	128
New houses provided by private enterprise and completed in 1953	18
Total	146

Inhabited Houses.

Parish.	Houses.
Chevet	11
Crigglestone...	1428
Crofton	912
Newland-cum-Woodhouse	7
Notton	210
Sharlston	906
Sitlington	1125
Walton	419
Warmfield-cum-Heath	304
Bretton West	106
Wintersett	13
Woolley	320
	5761

Sanitary Inspection of Area

General District Inspection	143
Dairies	32
Meat Distributing Centres	70
Interviews and appointments	378
Investigation of Complaints	243
Ice-Cream Shops	36
Petroleum	21
Inspection of Works in Progress	82
Drain Testing	295
Shops	105
Inspection of Houses	599
Refuse Tips	170
Salvage and District Cleansing	296
Bakehouses	12
Factories	80
Rats and Mice	65
Other Visits	169
Fish Shops	14
Water Samples	25
Tents, Vans and Sheds	95
Homeworkers Premises	-1
	2931

Food Condemned 1953.

35 lb. Part Hind Quarter of Beef.
30 lb. Ox Stomach and Intestines.
12 lb. Allowrie Boneless Ham.
5 2lb. 3oz. tins Gevato Ham and Veal.
1 ¾ lb. tins Minced Beef Loaf.
2 1½ lb. tins Danish Pork in juice.
1 tin (8ozs) Hurcules Brand Tomatoes.
1 tin (14 ozs) Lockreel Tomatoes.
1 tin (16 ozs) K.Y. Peaches.
1 tin (6 ozs) Nestle's Cream.
2 tins (14½ ozs) Carnation Milk.
7 tins (20 ozs) Smedley's Red Plums.
2 tins (19 ozs) C.W.S. Victoria Plums.
5 tins (14½ ozs) Apperto Sliced Apples.
10 tins (2 pints equivalent) Wheat Sheaf Evaporated Milk.
5 Sheep Plucks, 17 lbs.
1 entire Pig Carcase and Organs, 20 stones.
12 lbs Allowrie Mild Cured Shoulder Ham.
825 lbs. 10 ozs Sljeme Tinned Gammon Ham.
6 lbs. Castle Brand Picinic Ham.
2¼ lbs. Danish Pork in Natural Juices.
1½ lbs. Danish Pork in Natural Juices.

3 lbs D.A.K. Jellied Veal.
26 Windmill Fruit Puddings.
4 15½ oz tins Bartlett Pears.
3 Entire Pig Carcases and Organs, 60 Stones.
2 tins Golden Vale Full Cream Condensed Milk.
1 10 oz tin Smedley's Kidney Soup.
1 10 oz tin C.W.S Peas.
1 19½ oz tin Garden Peas.
1 19 oz tin C.W.S. Strawberries.
1 19 oz tin Corbatch Strawberries.
1 15 oz tin of Koo Beans in Tomato.
1 15½ lbs tin of Hill Hall Cream of Chicken Soup.
2 14½ oz Lockreel Tomatoes.
4 14½ oz tins Carnation Milk.
5 tins Mountain Maid Unsweetened Milk.
2 10 oz tins C.W.S. Beans in Tomato.
4 14½ oz tins of Apperto Sliced Apples.
6 ozs Emerald Ham.
1 12 oz tin Pork Luncheon Meat.
16 oz tin Stewed Steak.
1 Pig Stomach and Intestines, 30 lbs.
4 Pig Lungs 12 lbs.
10 lbs Belly Pork.
1 Packet Dried Peas.

Disinfections.

Disinfections are carried out by a workman specially trained for this work and the method adopted is spraying. During the year 56 disinfections were carried out by this method. In the case of verminous houses, de-infestation is done by spraying with Insecticide and during the year 23 houses were so treated

Disinfectants are supplied free for use in houses where a case of Infectious disease has occured and where Tuberculosis patients reside.

	DISEASE.											
	Dysentery.	Tuberculosis.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric.	Diphtheria.	Poliomylitis.	Vermin.	Cebro-Spinal Fever.	Scabies.	Pneumonia.	Other Cases.	
Private Dwelling Houses.	2	5	26	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	56
Schools.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Day Nurseries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Maternity Homes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	2	5	26	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	Total. 56

Food and Drugs.

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

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During the year, 12 persons held licences authorising the use of the Special Designation Tuberculin Tested.

2 Supplementary Licences were issued to dealers outside the district authorising the use of the Special Designation Tuberculin Tested in relation to milk sold within the area.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During the year, 15 persons held licences authorising the use of the Special Designation Pasteurised in relation to milk sold by them in this district, and 9 persons held licences authorising them to use the Special Designation Sterilised in respect of milk sold by them in this district.

2 Supplementary Licences were issued to dealers operating from premises outside the district authorising them to use the Special Designations Pasteurised or Sterilised in relation to milk sold by them in this district.

Milk.

11 samples of milk produced at farms in the district were submitted for biological examination, all samples were found to be satisfactory.

Petroleum and like Substances.

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

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 543

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... 37

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 164

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without the service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officer ... 114

3. Action under Statutory Power during the year.

A. - Proceedings under sections 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners... ... ... Nil
(b) By local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of notices:-

(a) By owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

C. - Proceedings under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 16
(2a) Undertaking accepted 10
(2b) Volenterily closed 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 37

D. - Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders ... . Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenements or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ... Nil

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SECTION D.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER IFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received in the Health Department in 1953 :-

(The notifications are analysed in age-groups and the admissions to hospitals are shown also in this table).

DISEASE.	Ages (years) 0-1	1-2	3 -4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over.	No.of cases.	Admit. Hosp.
Scarlet Fever	-	4	7	21	4	2	-	38	30
Whooping Cough	14	16	25	26	-	-	1	82	3
Measles	16	52	75	127	14	4	3	291	-
Pneumonia	2	2	2	5	-	1	8	20	4
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	2
Acute Encephalitis .	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	9	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	3

Add itionally, 16 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

The Table shows a high incidence of Measles and a lesser high incidence of Whooping Cough during the year. This conformed with the general position in the West Riding in 1953, when Measles, in particular, was prevalent. Additionally, 38 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, a rather higher incidence than usual.

There was no undue prevalence of other infectious diseases during the year but 9 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified to the Department. Puerperal Pyrexia as notified to the Department today is the notification of a temperature attaining a certain height in a mother in the early days after confinements; it does not indicate necessarily a puerperal infection, and there is no record of a puerperal infection being ascertained in any of the cases notified as puerperal pyrexia. It is significant that none of these cases was admitted to Hospital.

Three cases of infantile paralysis were reported. This condition has been prevalent in recent years. All three cases were admitted to Hospital.

FOOD POISONING.

An extensive and serious outbreak of food poisoning occurred in Wakefield City and the neighbouring areas in 1953 and in connection with that outbreak 5 cases of food poisoning were notified in persons living in the Wakefield Rural District. In four of these cases, the infecting organism, Salmonella typhi-murium, was isolated. This is the organism responsible for the Wakefield outbreak. In one case, the infecting organism was not identified.

No serious illness occurred in any of the five cases referred to here and with an illness of a few days duration only, all recovered.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The number of persons vaccinated in 1953 is shown in the following statement :-

Age	No. Vaccinated.
Under 1 year of age	36
1 - 4 years of age	62
5 - 15 " " "	184
15 years and over	154
TOTAL	436

Additionally, 166 persons who had had a primary vaccination at some time previously, underwent a re-vaccination.

These numbers are in contrast with those for 1952 when 70 persons (including infants) were vaccinated and 11 re-vaccinated.

The increase was due to the outbreak of smallpox in the West Riding in 1953 - an outbreak, although limited, nevertheless an outbreak of great severity of illness in many cases and with a high death rate.

The occurrence of this outbreak, its spread and high mortality rate, once more draws attention to the potential danger existing for unprotected individuals who may be exposed to infection, although the danger of the community at large was arrested through the prompt measures taken of investigation, isolation and selective protective treatment, and the control of contacts.

DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children receiving a full immunisation treatment in 1953 262

Number of children receiving a re-inforcing or booster treatment in 1953 353

Total number of infants and of children up to the age of 15 years who, at the end of 1953 had received a full course of immunisation treatment 2,512

Percentage of the total child and infant population represented by the figure of 2,512 ..... 55.1%

No case of diptheria was notified in 1953 and there was no death from this condition.

It is general experience that in these conditions, the numbers coming forward for protective treatment tends to fall.

It is pointed out that the percentage shown - 55.1 is too low to give adequate protection to a child community against this disease, and, of course, the unprotected children in such a community are at risk.

Efforts are constantlt being made to persuade parents to accept treatment; largely through personal persuasion by Health Visitors and other Social Workers. The absence of diptheria experienced at present has engendered a sense of complacency in many cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases were notified as follows :-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	7	5	12
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-
	7	5	12

The following cases were removed from the Register during the year:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	9	6	15
Non-Pulmonary	1	3	4
	10	9	19

Cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were :-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	39	24	63
Non-Pulmonary	4	8	12
	43	32	75

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955 for the Rural District of Wakefield, in the County of York on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

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1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupier Prosecuted (5)
1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	20	-	-
2) Factories not included in(1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	37	-	-
3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	6	-	-
Total	61	63	-	-

2. Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions Instituted
Want of Cleanliness	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	0	0
(c) not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences - (not relating to outwork)	0	0	0	0	0