

[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, Walsingham R.D.C.

Contributors

Walsingham (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1945

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/smtrv37p>

License and attribution

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

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

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



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

LIBRARY



WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1945

to which is

appended the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D. Liverp., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Returned from Service with The Royal Air Force 5th
November, 1945).

Temporary Medical Officer of Health :

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
(From January 1st. to November 4th, 1945.)

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector:

H. E. GILBY, F.S.I., Cert. S.I.B., M. Inst. M. & Cy., E.,
Cert. R.S.I., as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Surveyor and Additional Sanitary Inspector:

A. H. EAGLE, Cert. S.I.B., A.M.I.S.E.,
(Commenced duties 15th December, 1945).

Assistants to Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

G. H. S. JONES.
(Now serving with the Fleet Air Arm)

L. H. DOUGHTY.
(Now serving with H. M. Forces).

Temporary Shorthand-Typist:

MISS E. M. WATERSON.

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

D. HUNN.
(Now serving with the Royal Navy).

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. for the Year ending 31st December, 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for 1945. On the 5th November, 1945, on release from the Royal Air Force Medical Service, I returned to your District to take up duties of Medical Officer of Health which duties I had temporarily relinquished during the years of the war. Dr. Irene B. M. Green, who had held the office during my absence relinquished her temporary appointment on my return.

In writing this my first post-war annual report, I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the efficient and conscientious way in which Dr. Green carried out the duties of Medical Officer of Health on my behalf.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	88,818
Resident population mid-year 1946 (as estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	17,220
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945)	...	...	...	...	6,404
Rateable Value (end of 1945)	...	...	...	...	£67,929
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£285

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Wals. E. & W				
Legitimate	266	122	144	}	Birth-rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	...	16.8	16.1
Illegitimate	26	16	10					
Total	292	138	154					
Still Births								
Legitimate	7	3	4	}	Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	...	0.52	0.46
Illegitimate	2	1	1					
Total	9	4	5					
Deaths	Total	202	107	95	Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		11.7	11.4
Deaths from puerperal causes					..	...	nil	

Infant Mortality :—

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	10	1	9
Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
Totals ...	11	2	9

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births ... 37.6 46

(E. & W. = England and Wales).

The birth rate during 1945 was 16.8 and showed a fall as compared with the rate for the preceding year (19.2). The birth rate, however, still compares favourably with that for England and Wales viz 16.1. The birth rates for the years 1938 to 1945 are recorded here for interest.

1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
12.8	14.3	14.2	14.8	16.9	16.7	19.2	16.8

The total number of deaths in the district during 1945 as notified by the Registrar General was 202 of which number 107 were males and 95 females. The crude death rate for 1945 was 11.7 and although the lowest recorded since 1940 was slightly above the rate for England and Wales (11.4).

The crude death rates for the past eight years are as follows :—

1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
10.2	10.65	10.91	14.29	13.01	13.79	13.44	11.66

The most prevalent causes of death were heart disease, cerebral haemorrhage, cancer and senility. There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

The number of deaths uncorrected for inward and outward transfers as supplied by the local registrar of births and deaths was 154. This number has been classified according to (i) age group at death and (ii) cause of death and are set out in the following tables :—

Incidence of death according to age group.

Age group.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	—	7	7
1 and under 2	—	—	—
2 " " 5	—	—	—
5 " " 10	—	—	—
10 " " 20	—	—	—
20 " " 30	3	—	3
30 " " 40	1	—	1
40 " " 50	5	3	8
50 " " 60	11	4	15
60 " " 70	18	9	27
70 " " 80	32	18	50
80 " " 90	16	20	36
90 " " 100	2	5	7
All ages	88	66	154

Deaths classified according to cause.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Heart Disease	33	27	60
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	13	10	23
Cancer	11	13	24
Senility	12	9	21
Accidents	6	—	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2	4
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Nephritis	3	—	3
Prematurity	3	—	3
Diabetes	—	2	2
Diseases of the Central Nervous System	1	1	2
Suicide	1	—	1
Influenza	1	—	1
All Causes	87	67	154

As was to be expected, the highest incidence of deaths occurred during the months of January, February and March whilst the lowest occurred during the late summer and autumn viz:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
19	18	17	15	13	10	10	16	6	9	9	12

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of infectious diseases which were notified during the year is shown in the subjoined tables:—

Disease.	Total Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	13	—
Pneumonia	11	—
Erysipelas	7	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—
Pemphigus	1	—
All causes	34	—

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases grouped according to age :—

Disease.	Under One Year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	13
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	1	3	11
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	2	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pemphigus ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
All causes ...	4	—	1	—	—	11	2	1	5	2	3	5	34

The incidence of notifiable diseases showed a marked decrease as compared with the previous year and no epidemics occurred. The most prevalent notifiable diseases were scarlet fever and pneumonia. The cases of scarlet fever were widely distributed throughout the district and were of a mild character.

No cases of puerperal pyrexia or diphtheria were notified.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases for the last 8 years.

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
24	34	31	55	25	60	82	34

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The number of cases of Measles notified during the year was 106, approximately the same as the previous year. The incidence of Whooping Cough, however, fell from 102 in 1944 to the very low figure of 4 cases in 1945.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Deaths.
Measles	106	—
Whooping Cough	4	—

The following table gives the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough for each of the last six years :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Measles	95	406	38	88	116	106
Whooping Cough ...	24	15	44	9	102	4

Tuberculosis.

Of the 16 new cases of Tuberculosis which were notified in the Walsingham Rural District during 1945, 8 cases were Tuberculosis of the lungs and 8 were Tuberculosis of other parts of the body. Details of the new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis are set out in the following table:—

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	4	2	—	—	—	—
15—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
45—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
All Ages	5	3	5	3	3	2	1	—
	8		8		5		1	
	16				6			

The numbers of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year are as follows:—

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	43	26	69
Non-Respiratory	28	26	54
TOTALS	71	52	123

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The District Council's diphtheria immunisation scheme was continued throughout the year during which time 129 pre-school children and 55 school children were immunised. An analysis of the diphtheria immunisation records are given in the table below. These figures show the numbers of children who have been immunised at any time during their lives.

	Under School Age.					5—15	Total
	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—		
Numbers immunised ...	2	67	135	161	182	1974	2521
Estimated population ...			1410			2440	3850
Percentage immunised ...			38.8			80.9	65.3

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and seriological examinations are now carried out at the Emergency Medical Services Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, under the direction of Dr. MacDonald whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

Ambulance Facilities.

As in the past the removal of infectious cases is undertaken by the ambulance of the Dereham County Isolation Hospital. Non-infectious cases are transported by the ambulance of the St. John and Red Cross Society stationed at Fakenham.

Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

There are no Hospitals in the Walsingham Rural District. General Medical and Surgical cases are admitted to the

- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Jenny Lind Children's Hospital, Norwich.
- (iv) Cottage Hospital, Wells-next-the-Sea.

There are no Maternity Hospitals in this area and the provision of such a hospital under the direction of the County Council Maternity Scheme is one of the urgent necessities of the present time.

Infectious disease cases are admitted when necessary to the County Council's Isolation Hospital at East Dereham.

Accommodation for cases of Smallpox is available at the Smallpox Hospital owned jointly by the Walsingham and Docking Rural District Councils.

Infant Welfare.

Infant Welfare Centres under the direction of the County Medical Officer are held at the following places and times:—

Binham, The Reading Room.	Held on	1st Tues.	in the month.
Fakenham, Court House.	do.	2nd Wed.	do.
	do.	3rd Thurs.	do.
Melton Constable, Railway Inst.	do.	1st Wed.	do.

Attendances continue to be good, due in great part to the energetic efforts of the local district nurses. The Clinics are also used as Diphtheria Immunisation centres for children under five years of age and it is gratifying to note that the great majority of mothers who attend accept for their children the immunisation offered.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES TABLES.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES			
with mechanical power ...	8	2	—
without mechanical power ...	10	2	—
WORKPLACES	—	—	—
Total	18	4	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient	2	2	—	—
Acommo- { unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
dation { not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—

Conclusion.

It may be stated that whilst the health of the population in the area has been satisfactory during the past year the problems associated with insanity houses still remain. The schemes for the provision of new houses, adequate and wholesome water supplies and satisfactory sewerage and sewerage disposal arrangements are as yet only in their initial stages but the implementation of these schemes is being pushed ahead with all possible speed.

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the progressive and encouraging support given to the Medical Officer of Health and his department by the Chairman and Members of the Walsingham Rural District Public Health Committee and to the conscientious support and loyal co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. ANDERSON,

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1945.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Seventh Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1945. This has been condensed as far as possible under a number of main sub-heads.

The following table shows the number of inspections made for all purposes during the year:—

NATURE OF INSPECTION.	No. OF VISITS
Housing Inspections including Hobhouse Survey	299
Housing Re-visits	65
Inspections in connection with the Housing (Rural Workers) Act	4
Public Health Inspections	419
Public Health Revisits	383
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	294
Inspections of Slaughterhouses and Foodshops	62
Inspections of Sewers, Sewer Ditches, Sewage Works, etc.	296
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Arrangements	402
Investigations respecting Infectious and Contagious Disease	57
Rooms disinfected	16
Inspections of Public Conveniences	13
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	18
Inspections of Petroleum Stores	6
Miscellaneous visits to owners, etc.	221

Emergency Work.

Inspections in connection with the Civilian Deaths Scheme	6
Inspections in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme	82
Inspections in connection with the Salvage Scheme	10
Visits in connection with Gas Contaminated Foodstuffs	5
Visits in connection with British Restaurant	9

TOTAL 2,667

Housing and Public Health.

The survey of drainage arrangements and allocation of street numbers in the Parish of Fakenham was completed, 208 premises being inspected for this purpose, making a grand total of 1,051 premises in the Parish. Subsequently a report on the sanitary circumstances revealed by the survey was presented to the local Parochial Sanitary Committee and a number of important recommendations were made as to the future arrangements for scavenging and sewage disposal.

A start was also made with the preliminary Housing Survey recommended by the Hobhouse Report, this work was commenced in December with the Parishes of Hempton, Pudding Norton and Great Ryburgh, and 262 dwellings had been inspected by the end of the year. A summary of the conditions found is as follows:—

Number of dwellings.			
Class.	Hempton.	Pudding Norton.	Great Ryburgh. (Parish completed January, 1946)
I	39	30	31
II	37	18	56
III	46	4	54
V	25	—	17*
	147	52	158

*This includes 1 occupied house already the subject of a Demolition Order.

The Classification is as follows:—

Class I=House fit in all respects for human habitation.

Class II=House fit after minor repairs.

Class III=House fit after major repairs.

Class V=House unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense.

This is not a final classification and it may well be that many houses in Class III will be re-classified as V's, this position cannot be fully clarified until detailed information of each house becomes available after careful individual inspection. No attempt has been made to classify any dwelling in Class IV=house suitable for reconversion under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. This omission is due to the fact that Class IV is in effect a sub-division of the main classes III and V, although the amount of money that an owner is prepared to spend is often the deciding factor quite apart from the position which has arisen due to the lapse of the Rural Workers Acts.

Jointly with the foregoing a survey of Sanitary arrangements was put in hand in connection with the proposed District Scavenging Scheme, while the policy of allocating street numbers wherever possible was continued.

During the year 150 letters were sent requesting attention to various matters at 250 premises. Statutory Notices requiring the provision of ashbins were served in 23 cases whilst further Statutory Notices were served requiring the repair of a well serving 8 dwellings,

The following table summarises the works carried out as a result of this action. No legal proceedings were necessary:—

NATURE OF WORKS.	Number
Windows repaired or made to open ...	20
Floors repaired or relaid ...	16
Plaster to walls or ceilings repaired ...	28
Stairs and doors repaired ...	13
Dampness remedied ...	8
Walls repaired ...	7
Overcrowding abated ...	1
Houses demolished ...	—
Firegrates and coppers repaired ...	18
House roofs repaired ...	17
Accumulations of refuse removed ...	5
Outbuildings repaired ...	12
Sanitary conveniences repaired or reconstructed ...	7
E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s ...	37

NATURE OF WORKS.					Number
Lavatory basins provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	—
Sanitary pails provided	...	...	...	...	17
Rainwater guttering and fallpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Wells cleaned or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Drains unstopped, trapped or repaired	...	...	...	...	12
New ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	35
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous items dealt with	...	...	...	...	5

Control of Civil Building,

The necessity to concentrate the maximum of building materials and labour upon new housing work led to an extension of the system of control by the issue of Building Licences in conjunction with the Ministry of Works. Subject to certain free allowances and with effect from August 1st Building Works costing over £10 became licensable and Local Authorities were given responsibility for issuing all licences covering jobs costing between £10 and £100 whilst the Ministry deals with licences in excess of the latter amount except in the case of new dwellings erected by private enterprise, this again being the responsibility of the Local Authority.

A considerable amount of work is involved in making a satisfactory assessment of the various applications although the large majority of applications are in respect of essential works, the following table summarises the position for the five months ending December 31st:—

(a) Maintenance Licences.

Type of premises.	Number of Licences.	Properties.	Authorised Maximum Expenditure.		
			£	s.	d.
Estates	5	54	2523	0	0

(b) Operational Licences.

(i) Dwellings—Repairs, etc.	88	104	4786	2	3
(ii) Dwellings—New	7	7	8130	0	0
(iii) Agricultural	16	17	788	17	6
(iv) Business and other	28	28	1110	7	11
Totals	144	210	£17338	7	8

Three licences were reduced in amount by a total of £65 whilst two others were refused, these amounted to £94 18s. 6d. In addition 5 Certificates of Essentiality were granted in respect of £1160 one of these being reduced by £85.

It is noteworthy that £10,354 of the above expenditure was authorised in respect of new dwellings or major reconditioning of dwellinghouses.

Housing Acts—Regulation 68a of the Emergency Powers (Defence) General Regulations.

Temporary licences permitting the occupation of 6 condemned dwellinghouses have been renewed.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

During the year 294 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies attention being called to unsatisfactory methods of production in a number of cases. One cowshed was completely reconstructed. It is to be regretted that the amount of attention which could be given to this aspect of public health work is quite insufficient, and it must be recorded that the continued agricultural labour shortage has in many cases resulted in a further reduction in the cleanliness of the methods of milk production, the need for a legal minimum standard of cleanliness for all milk supplies is again emphasised.

The following table summarises the entries in the Council's registers at the end of the year:—

Wholesale Producers	...	141
Retail Purveyors	...	96
Dairymen	...	6

5 Retailers of milk residing elsewhere are registered for the purpose of retailing milk within the district.

Graded Milks.

The number of Cowkeepers holding licences to produce "Accredited" milk was 38, whilst 12 producers held licences to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

91 samples of milk were taken from "Accredited" farms and 19 of these (nearly 21%) failed to pass the prescribed test: this represents a slight improvement on the figures for the year 1944. The average number of samples taken per producer was 2.39.

Two producers had their licences suspended and one had failed to regain his licence at the end of the year.

56 Bulk samples were also taken from the "Accredited" herds and examined for the presence of Tubercle, one was positive and the necessary follow-up by Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries resulted in the elimination of the affected cow.

Slaughterhouses and Foodshops.

62 Inspections of slaughterhouses and foodshops were made, and the following carcasses were examined:—

Oxen 9. Sheep 30. Pigs 34.

The following were found to be diseased or otherwise unsound and were disposed of so as not to be used for the food of man:—

Beef ... 1 ox carcase and all offal, 1 pair kidneys, 2 livers 3 heads and tongues, 2 sets lungs, 152 lbs. beef.

Pork ... 2 heads, 2 sets lungs, 30 lbs. pork

Mutton ... 1 set lungs.

Tinned or ... 53 tins meat, 120 tins milk, 4 tins soup, 38 Bottled foods tins of vegetables, 43 tins fish, 16 tins jams or marmalade.

Other foods ... 83 lbs bacon, 12lbs. cheese, 52 lbs. dried peaches, 279 lbs. dates, 89 packets cereals.

Total weight of foodstuffs above mentioned—

13 cwt. 70 lbs.

Civil Defence Services.

- (a) Foodstuffs contaminated by Poison Gas.
- (b) Civilian Deaths Scheme.

In common with all other Civil Defence Services the squads appointed to deal with the above matters were disbanded during the year. Thanks are due to the selfless manner in which the volunteers concerned worked to make themselves proficient in their various duties. There is satisfaction in knowing that a competent team was available to function if required.

The fact that neither service was called upon except during exercises, shows how fortunate we in this portion of the country must count ourselves.

Sewerage and Drainage.

SHALLOW SEWERS.

Further attention to the old shallow sewers in Hempton, Tatterford, West Raynham, Little Snoring and Little Walsingham has been necessary during the year, but the general condition of these old pipes and brick arches, often only a matter of inches below the road surface, is such that continuous attention and repair is necessary if nuisance from the recurrent blockages is to be minimised.

SEWER DITCHES.

The position deteriorated during the year and due to shortage of labour only ditches at Fakenham and Barney received the usual attention.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

Fakenham—Routine overhaul of the pumping plant and engines was made during the year and necessary repairs or renewals were made. The engines and pumps have worked a total of 3278½ hours giving an average of nearly 8 hours 59 minutes pumping per day, an increase of over 56 minutes pumping per day when compared with the corresponding figures for 1944. Total rainfall was 29.57 inches.

Melton Constable—Renewals were made to the dosing siphons during the early part of the year and this resulted in an improvement in efficiency but continued trouble was experienced due to discharges of oil which caused partial clogging of the filters and resulted in poor effluent being discharged into the nearby stream.

Pudding Norton—Three new sludge lagoons were constructed during the year giving a 75% increase of area over that previously available. These lagoons together with chemical treatment of the filter beds has resulted in a much improved effluent, but it is still apparent that the sedimentation tank is overloaded with the result that the filters have a considerable amount of fine material deposited upon them with resultant pooling especially during the colder weather. The automatic plant was overhauled and spares were fitted to the pumps. These sewage works are maintained by the Council on behalf of the Ministry of Works.

Great Walsingham—The maintenance of these works by the Council on behalf of the Air Ministry was continued. Towards the end of the year the amount of sewage received from the North Creak Air Station was reduced to negligible proportions.

Public Cleansing.

Removal of house refuse and night soil is carried out in the parishes of Fakenham (Direct Labour), Little Walsingham, Great Walsingham, Blakeney, Stiffkey, Great Ryburgh and Hempton whilst there is a collection of night soil at Briston (all Contracts).

One contract was twice terminated during the year and renewed on each occasion with the same Contractor but at increased cost. The Council directed that a report should be prepared on the question of District Scavenging by direct labour using motor vehicles and subsequently a detailed scheme was approved, this involves the extension of house refuse collection by stages to all parts of the district, and for the maintenance of the existing night soil collections and the emptying of cesspools. The vehicles required were advertised for in December.

Water.

The Council's Main water supply to the Parishes of Fakenham and Hempton has been operating under increasing difficulties due to the lessened yield from the well at Fakenham, but plans for the augmentation of the supply by the sinking of a new shaft at Houghton St. Giles were well advanced by the end of the year.

Apart from one or two isolated cases no water shortages were reported in other portions of the District. A small private water undertaking at Blakeney was offered to the Council during the year but no action was taken in view of the District Water Scheme now in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. A. P. I. Cotterell & Son.

Regular bacteriological samples were taken from the Fakenham and Hempton Public Water Supply, and all these were satisfactory, whilst samples submitted to the Public Analyst on the 20th April, 1946 resulted as follows:—

Chemical Results (Grains per gallon)

Free and Saline ammonia	...	...	nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	0.002
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	5.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.225
Nitrites	...	...	nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	...	...	0.015

HARDNESS.

Total Hardness	16.80
----------------	-------

Bacteriological Results.

Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C.	...	1.
Bacillus Coli	...	Absent in 100 ml.
Physical Characteristics	...	Bright and Clear.

Opinion: "This is a pure and wholesome water, quite fit for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply."

This supply of water is chlorinated before being pumped into a high level reservoir. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

There are 1052 dwellings in the Parishes of Fakenham and Hempton of which 928 are connected to the main water supply, an increase of 52 during the year.

A total of 59 samples of water were taken during the year from 12 different sources of supply. These were made up as follows:—

Routine samples from public water supplies	...	38
Initial samples from private wells	...	11
Repeat samples from private wells	...	10
Sources of water supply found to be unsatisfactory	...	4
Number of premises where an alternative supply was provided	...	6
Wells cleaned out or repaired	...	6

Salvage

Whilst the voluntary collection of salvage has been maintained in a few parishes the large majority failed to maintain the enthusiasm of the earlier war years, this has resulted in a great reduction in the amount of materials dealt with through the Council's Schemes.

Parish Scavengers at Fakenham and Hempton have continued their collections whilst monthly calls at Parish Salvage Depots have been made whenever necessary.

The following table gives details of materials dealt with during the year:—

Material	Received			Disposed of		
	tons.	cwts.	lbs.	tons.	cwts.	lbs.
Wastepaper (all grades)	32	14	109	28	17	95
Bones	1	13	82	1	12	0
Rags	1	0	9		7	35
Bottles and Jars	1	0	0		10	0
Miscellaneous Metals		15	49		—	—
Kitchen Waste (estimated)	18	0	0	18	0	0
Totals	55	4	25	49	7	18

Note: The balance of materials was held at the main salvage depot for disposal in 1946.

The income received during the year was £346 19s. 8d. which represents about 45% of the 1944 figure. During the same period the expenses, including the usual payments to Charities amount to £322 6s. 4d.

Kitchen Waste is collected in the Parish of Fakenham.

Government Evacuation Scheme.

28 Premises were released from requisition leaving 7 dwellings still in use at the end of the year, six other premises were in use by persons inadequately housed.

The Infestation Order, 1943.

The Council decided to utilise the Norfolk County War Agricultural Executive Committee's services in an attempt to co-ordinate the destruction of rats and mice on agricultural and other premises. A further decision involved the payment from the local rate fund of the charges resultant from the disinfestation work.

During the year 27 parishes were dealt with under the scheme at a total cost of £92 5s. 6d. It is hoped that the labour position will improve so that much more will be possible along similar lines in the next year.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

The following is a summary of licences issued and fees received under this heading:—

Number of stores licensed	...	...	...	31
Total storage capacity	...	...	...	89,800 gallons.
Fees received	...	...	...	£32 5s. 10d.

Conclusion.

With the conclusion of the war the activities of the Department began to assume a more natural pattern although the continuance of a system of rationing involving a system of controlled centralised slaughter has limited the amount of meat inspection to that required at retailers shops. It seems that the emphasis given to the provision of new houses and the consequent stringent control of building materials may result in a further deterioration of existing dwellinghouses, and this position will need to be reviewed from time to time so that the best use is made of all available labour and materials.

For practically the entire year the work of the department has been carried on by one qualified inspector and one typist but the appointment of a qualified additional inspector (Mr. A. H. Eagle A.M.I.S.E., M.R.SAN.I.) should greatly assist the outside work. Mr. Eagle commenced his duties in December, and it is now apparent that additional clerical assistance is a prime necessity if the best possible use is to be made of the qualified external staff.

That the present office accommodation is inadequate to present needs is an understatement of the position and the staff can hardly give their best until they are better housed.

The continued interest shown by the Council, the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Clerk, and Drs. I. B. M. Green and L. G. Anderson, together with other colleagues on the staff, is much appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. GILBY,

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.



