

Contributors

Walsingham (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

Persistent URL

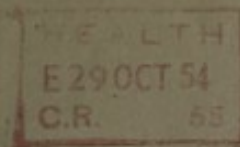
<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/yg8mhqjn>

License and attribution

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

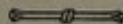
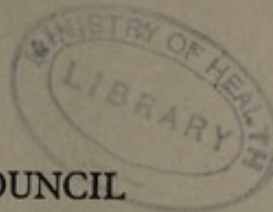
Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

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.



Library

WALSINGHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1953

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

and **SURVEYOR**

and the

Report of the

WATER ENGINEER

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. JOHNSTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(up to 22nd July 1953)

J. H. F. NORBURY, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Acting from 23rd July to 15th December 1953)

J. COUTTS MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(From 16th December 1953)

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector

A. H. EAGLE, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B.

District Water Engineer

E. HAYMAN

Additional Sanitary Inspector

L. H. DOUGHTY, Cert. S.I.B.

Second Additional Sanitary Inspector

P. A. PAGE, Cert. S.I.B.

Clerical Assistant

Mrs E. Dodman

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health

Miss M. Hewitt
(up to 31st October 1953)

The Committee concerned with public health is the Public Health Committee.

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local Health Office,
The Rectory,
W E L L S.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 1953

INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for the year 1953 compiled according to the directions of the Minister of Health.

The outstanding feature of the year was the flood disaster on the night of 31st January/1st February, when the coastal fringe of North and West Norfolk was overwhelmed along with the lowlands on both sides of the North Sea, causing the loss of many lives and heavy damage to property and land. Fortunately this District suffered only slightly.

The general health of the District has been relatively good. Apart from an increase in the number of whooping cough cases there was no epidemic of any significance.

The crude death rate is the lowest recorded for many years and well below that for England and Wales as a whole. The birth rate has risen slightly and there were fewer infant deaths.

I have to record that the work of the Department was done by others to whom goes the credit; my responsibility lies in compiling this Report.

I thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration shown to the Public Health Staff during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

J. COUTTS MILNE.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Walsingham Rural District Council.

PART 1

(General Report of the Medical Officer of Health)

1. STAFF

It is with deep regret that I record the untimely death in July 1953 of Dr J. C. Johnston, who had been Medical Officer of Health for the District since October 1947 and who during that time, had faithfully carried out his chief function of safeguarding the health of the District by all means at his disposal. His care for the people extended beyond his official duties and was shown by his ardent interest and sustained endeavour in regard to safety in the home and Red Cross work.

Dr J. H. F. Norbury, Medical Officer of Health for Cromer and Sheringham Urban District Councils and Erpingham Rural District Council, acted as Medical Officer of Health in addition to his own duties until Dr J. Coutts Milne was appointed to the post. The latter took up duty on 16th December 1953.

Miss M. Hewitt vacated the appointment of Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health on October 31st, and this post remained vacant at the end of the year.

2. The WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT situated in North Norfolk comprises 38 Parishes and has its administrative centre at Fakenham. The District is essentially an agricultural one, although its nine miles of sea coast provide facilities for the mussel industry and an attraction for summer visitors. There are a few factories centred in and around Fakenham. The Village of Walsingham is a place of unique interest as a religious centre and the annual influx of visitors has presented a public health problem of some urgency.

The population of the District, as estimated by the Registrar General, for mid-1953 is 24,780. This shows an increase of 870 over the figure for 1952. The natural increase of births over deaths amounted to 188.

The population varied very little over the past thirty years until 1951 (census year) when it became 23,270, an increase of over 5,000 (approximately 20%) on previous years. In the 1937 annual report the then Medical Officer of Health recorded that not since 1907 had there been any increase in the population and since 1909 it had been falling steadily in spite of a birth rate that always exceeded the death rate. The present increase may be due in part to the increased number of British Servicemen and their families in the District as the population figures now include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area but speculation as to the cause of the increase will need await publication of the detailed figures of the County Reports for the 1951 Census grouped by age, sex and Parish.

3. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE

During the year there were 390 live births giving a birth rate of 15.74 per 1,000 of the population. The comparability factor given by the Registrar General, which when applied to the local rate gives a figure which can be compared with the rates in other areas, is 1.39 for births. This factor makes an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. Thus the adjusted birth rate is 2.8 which compares with the rate of 15.5 for England and Wales as a whole. The high rate in Walsingham District is probably accounted for by the increased number of young Service families in the District. There was an increase in the number of still births - there being 12 (10 were males) as compared with 2 the previous year. This gives a rate of 29 per 1,000 live and still births. The 202 deaths give a crude death rate of 8.15 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - the comparability factor is 1 so that the rate of 8.15 compares with that of 11.4 for England and Wales.

4. INFANT MORTALITY RATE

There were 9 deaths in children under one year, 5 of them being less than 4 weeks old and one of which was due to congenital malformation. The infant mortality rate is 23.08 per 1,000 related births compared with 26.8 for England and Wales as a whole. Although rates based on such a small number are apt to be misleading, this rate is considerably less than that of 38.2 for 1952 and 29.59 for 1951.

5. CANCER

28 of the deaths in the District were recorded from Cancer of various

types. 18 of these were females and 10 were males. 8 of the deaths were from Cancer of the Stomach 5 being females, 3 deaths were from Cancer of the respiratory tract 2 being females.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) General

There were 187 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, a reduction of 74 from the previous year.

(b) Measles

Only 32 cases were reported during the year compared with 216 in 1952. The District was fortunate in this compared with the experience in the rest of England and Wales where the outbreak of measles in the first quarter of the year was very severe - in the sixth and seventh weeks of the year the notifications were the largest notified in any week since notification began. 13 of the 32 cases in the District occurred during March and April. 27 were aged 10 years or under. The attack rate was heavier amongst pre-school children.

(c) Whooping Cough

There was an increase in the amount of whooping cough reported, i.e., 120 cases compared with 13 in 1952. Most of the cases occurred during the last 3 months of the year. 113 of the cases were aged 10 years or under, one was aged 33 years. As is the usual the attack rate was heavier in pre-school children. 36 of the cases occurred in November in the Parish of Hindolvestone.

(d) Scarlet Fever

Six cases were reported; 2 less than in the previous year; 5 of these were in school children, in line with the general experience in this Country where the attack rate is higher amongst school children than among pre-school children. 4 of the cases occurred during the last quarter of the year. The disease continues to be mild in type.

(e) Diphtheria

No case was notified during the year. One case in an adult occurred in 1952; previously the last case reported was in 1947 and the last outbreak was in 1939 when 19 cases were notified. The value of diphtheria immunisation is now fully established but the need for securing immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday and for maintaining immunity by giving booster doses when a child enters school and again 5 years later must continually be impressed on all parents. The recent outbreak of diphtheria in the Midlands has shown that the disease can still occur in this Country.

(f) Poliomyelitis

2 cases of poliomyelitis occurred compared with one case in 1952. One case of bulbar paralysis at Holkham in September in a girl aged 6 years - she had had a tooth extracted on 28th July, the dental attendant developed poliomyelitis on September 1st. Fortunately the child made a complete recovery. The second case, also bulbar, occurred at Great Ryburgh in a boy aged 12 years, who died in hospital after a week's illness.

In the rest of England and Wales the incidence of poliomyelitis began to rise in June and reached a maximum in August and then fell steadily - for 2 weeks in August more cases were reported than in any similar period previously.

(g) Infective Hepatitis

10 cases were notified - all in the last quarter of the year - 6 males and 4 females. Combining the figures for cases of infective hepatitis for three Districts in Area 8, cases notified totalled 34 - among a combined population of approximately 43,000, giving an incidence rate of 0.8 per 1,000 per annum. The disease is said to be most frequent during the autumn and winter and this was the case in Walsingham Rural District and Wells Urban District but in the Docking Rural District most of the cases occurred in February and March. Children of school age are often chiefly affected but amongst the 34 cases - only 11 were of school age. Spread of infection is known to be from case to case and prevention lies in improved personal and environmental hygiene in school and the home.

(h) Tuberculosis

17 new cases were notified during the year, compared with 16 in 1952.

12 were Pulmonary in type, 9 being male patients. One death occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At the end of December there were 81 cases on the register, an increase of 6 since the end of 1952. Of the cases on the register in the age group over 35 years - 19 were males and 6 females; under 35 years there was little sex differentiation.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Fakenham in November 1952 and X-rayed 3,074 people - 1,753 men and 1,321 women. Of these, 47 were referred; 24 for T. B. investigation - 17 men and 7 women, and the remainder being for other chest diseases. The Centre used was the Council Offices at Baron's Hall, Fakenham, which proved most suitable.

7. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

7 Orders were issued during the year to restrict the sale of milk - 3 on account of tuberculosis and 4 for brucella abortus.

8. FLOOD DISASTER 1953

On the night of 31st January - 1st February, a disaster of the greatest magnitude struck the Norfolk coast. A combination of high tides and strong North Easterly gales resulted in flooding all along the coast. Walsingham Rural District, however, suffered small damage when compared with other districts and counties, only one death occurred and that was in Wiveton, calling to mind that Wiveton in the 16th Century formed part of the combined port of Blakeney-Cley-Wiveton. Extensive flooding of houses took place in the coastal villages of Warham, Wiveton, Morston, Blakeney, Stiffkey and Holkham. No problem, however, arose from the rehousing point of view, families finding temporary accommodation with relatives or friends and only one family required to be rehoused. Non-piped water supplies were contaminated and water tanks were set up at Morston, Stiffkey, Blakeney and Wiveton. On the Holkham marshes 400 head of sheep perished but 200 head of cattle were rescued. At Blakeney 22 properties were flooded; sizeable boats including 2 lifeboats and 3 cabin cruisers were carried into the yard of the Blakeney Hotel.

9. HOUSING

Accommodation of families in converted hutments

The future policy in regard to reletting converted hutments when vacated and rehousing of families living in such hutments, in permanent dwellings, was under consideration during the year. It was agreed that all families at present accommodated in temporary dwellings be rehoused on a "length of time occupied hutment" basis and that the present ratio of tenancies of new houses offered to families in temporary accommodation viz : 1 in 4 be increased to a maximum of 1 in 2.

By the end of the year there were 196 converted hutments housing 176 families. 125 of these families have applied for permanent dwellings; most of them wished to live in Fakenham and the only answer would appear to be to build many more houses in Fakenham. On the other hand there were 60 applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year for hutments - from families sharing houses with parents, living in furnished rooms or living in tied houses, and so the hutments serve as a pool of accommodation. As and when more houses are built and the demand for hutments ceases the worst hutments in the less desirable sites should be demolished.

10. ANTHRAX

During the year two Notices declaring and defining an infected place under the Anthrax Order of 1928 were issued by the Police and later withdrawn.

11. FACTORIES ACT

During the year 42 inspections were made.

12. WELL WATER CYANOSIS or INFANT METHAEMOGLOBINAEMIA

is a condition found in artificially fed babies caused by the high nitrate content of the water used. The waters involved are exclusively wells, usually shallow dug wells and the nitrate in the wells would appear to be leached from rich and well fertilised soils. Samples were taken from 33 wells the water of which was intended to be used for bottle feeding infants. Where the water supply

proved to be unsafe a safe alternative supply was found. The extension of public piped water supplies throughout the District should in time reduce the need for using shallow wells.

13. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION IN AREA No. 8

Vaccination

Only 230 children under the age of one year were vaccinated during 1953 in Area No. 8 comprising the Rural Districts of Walsingham and Docking and the Urban Districts of Wells and Hunstanton. There were 848 births during the year in the Area so that only the equivalent of 27% of the children born were vaccinated - not by any means a satisfactory state of affairs. 346 reports of primary vaccination and 232 of re-vaccination were received during the year. The following table gives details of the age groups :-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Vaccinated</u>	<u>Re-Vaccinated</u>
Under 1 year	230	-
Aged 1 year	7	3
2 to 4 years	21	20
5 to 14 years	31	63
15 years and over	57	146
	<u>346</u>	<u>232</u>

International Vaccination Certificates

Persons travelling abroad are required to produce evidence of vaccination within a period of 3 years on the prescribed international certificates. These certificates have to be countersigned by the Medical Officer of Health for the District in which the general practitioner resides who has carried out the vaccination.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria immunisation is best carried out during the last quarter of the child's first year of life and "booster" doses required to be given at the ages of 5 and 9 years. Immunisation is carried out at infant welfare centres and at surgeries and homes and re-immunisations at school medical inspections. The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year in Area No. 8:-

Primary Immunisation

<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1 year</u>	<u>2 years</u>	<u>3 years</u>	<u>4 years</u>	<u>5 to 9</u>	<u>10 to 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
203	124	8	2	3	1	4	345

Booster doses

<u>5 to 9 years</u>	<u>10 to 14 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
139	32	171

The number of children in Area No. 8 known to have been immunised at any time up to the end of 1953 is as follows :-

<u>Under school age</u>	<u>School age</u>	<u>Total</u>
1,649	5,009	6,658

14. FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises in the District, by way of type of business, are as follows :-

Bakehouses	25
Butcher's Shops	20
Provision Shops	90
Public Houses	65
Restaurants and Cafes	17
Fish Shops	17
Slaughterhouses	4
Ice Cream Premises (Registered under Food and Drugs Act) . . .	58

Condemed food is disposed of by the two knacker's yards in Fakenham, all

condemned meat being dyed green by the Inspector before it leaves the slaughterhouse, and all canned foods being punctured before delivery to the knacker's yard.

PART 11
(Medical Statistics)

TABLE 1 - GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in Acres)	88,818
Estimated Resident Population	24,780
Rateable Value	£83,281
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£320

TABLE 2 - LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	203	168	371
Illegitimate	6	13	19
	209	181	390

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population 15.74

TABLE 3 - STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	10	2	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	10	2	12

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population 0.48

TABLE 4 - DEATHS (ALL AGES)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	96	106	202

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population 8.15

TABLE 5 - INFANT MORTALITY (DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	7	6	13
Total Adjusted (Inward and Outward Transfers)	5	4	9

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 23.08

TABLE 6 - DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	3	2	5

TABLE 7 - CAUSE OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prematurity	4	3	7
Congenital atelectasis	1	-	1
Broncho Pneumonia	-	1	1
Anaencephaly	-	1	1
Anoxia	-	1	1
Gastro enteritis	-	1	1
Acute Bronchiolitis	1	-	1
	6	7	13

TABLE 8 - DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	7	7	14
1 and under 5	2	1	3
5 and under 10	2	1	3
10 and under 20	2	3	5
20 and under 30	9	3	12
30 and under 40	5	-	5
40 and under 50	4	5	9
50 and under 60	10	8	18
60 and under 70	16	17	33
70 and under 80	18	39	57
80 and under 90	20	20	40
90 and under 100	5	6	11
	100	110	210
Total Adjusted (Inward and Outward Transfers)	96	106	202

TABLE 9-CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2	3
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	1	2	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	10	16
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	6	23	29
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	9	23
20. Other heart disease	12	18	30
21. Other circulatory disease	5	3	8
22. Influenza	2	3	5
23. Pneumonia	4	5	9
24. Bronchitis	5	3	8
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	6
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32. Other defined and illdefined diseases ..	8	11	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
34. All other accidents	15	6	21
35. Suicide	1	1	2
All Causes	96	106	202

TABLE 10 - CANCER

The following table shows the incidence of Cancer Deaths during the past five years :-

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Males	6	16	17	11	10
Females	9	26	15	14	18

TABLE 11 - SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population	17,990	17,862	23,270	23,910	24,780
Live Births	316	345	338	340	390
Still Births	2	11	3	2	12
Deaths	220	227	241	226	202
Infant Deaths	10	3	10	13	9

TABLE 12 - SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Live Births	17.55	19.32	14.53	14.63	15.74
Still Births	0.11	0.62	0.13	0.08	0.48
Crude Deaths	12.78	12.71	10.36	9.45	8.15
Infant Mortality	31.6	8.7	29.59	38.24	23.08

TABLE 13 - BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1953.
PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	Walsingham Rural District
RATES PER 1,000 Home Population				
<u>Births</u>				
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	15.74
Still Births	(0.35	0.43	0.34	0.48
	(22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	29.85(a)
<u>Deaths</u>				
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	8.15
Typhoid and paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.04
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.08
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.44
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection ..	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	0.27
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	4.84
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	Walsingham Rural District
RATES PER 1,000 Home Population				
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	1.41
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.44
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis				
Paralytic	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.04
Non-Paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	2.45(a)

RATES PER 1,000 Live Births

Deaths

All causes under 1 year of age	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	23.08
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.00

- (a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
(b) Per 1,000 related live births

TABLE 14 (a) - INFECTIOUS DISEASES (ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPING OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES QUARTERLY RETURN)

	Under One	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	25 and Over	Total
Scarlet Fever. ..	-	-	2	3	1	1	7
Whooping Cough ..	10	22	33	50	4	1	120
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Measles	2	6	5	14	4	1	32
	12	28	40	68	10	3	161

TABLE 14 (b)

	Under 5	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 65	65 and Over	Total
Acute Pneumonia ..	3	1	3	2	2	11
Erysipelas	-	-	1	2	-	3
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	1
Jaundice	1	4	4	1	-	10
	5	5	9	5	2	26

TABLE 15 - MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Measles	7	451	137	216	32
Whooping Cough	11	209	111	13	120

TABLE 16 - TUBERCULOSIS (DETAILS OF NEW CASES DURING 1953)

Age Period.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	2
Carried Forward	-	-	1	2

Age Period.	Brought Forward	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
		-	-	1	2
15		-	-	-	1
25		3	2	-	1
35		-	-	-	-
45		4	1	-	-
55		2	-	-	-
65		-	-	-	-
Over 65		-	-	-	-
Age Unknown		-	-	-	-
Total		9	3	1	4
Totals		12		5	
Grand Total		17			

TABLE 17 - TUBERCULOSIS (NUMBER OF CASES ON T. B. REGISTER ENDED 1953)

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	44	27	71
Non-Pulmonary	2	8	10
	46	35	81

TABLE 18 - TUBERCULOSIS (DETAILS OF NEW CASES FOR LAST FIVE YEARS)

		1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pulmonary	M.	6	9	6	6	9
	F.	3	11	8	7	3
Non-Pulmonary	M.	0	3	4	1	1
	F.	1	1	2	2	4
		10	24	20	16	17

PART III

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1953

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for 1953, being the eighth Annual Report during my service with your Council.

At the outset I wish to record my appreciation of the work and the inspiration given to me by the late Dr J. C. Johnston, your Medical Officer until his untimely death in July 1953. As I refer to my 1953 diaries in the preparation of this Report with their frequent records of my Meeting with Dr Johnston it seems impossible that he is no longer with us, no longer likely to stroll into the office to discuss our shared work. I say "stroll" because it was his informality and his enthusiasm which gained our respect and co-operation and our affection.

The Record of Inspections reveals a slight increase of inspections over the year, ignoring those under the heading of "Flood". This latter event occurred on 31st January and affected the coastal Villages and involved a good deal of running about. A falling off in the number of premises inspected for rat infestation is noted though the number of treatments is slightly increased on 1952 as is the number of bodies found.

District Scavenging did not proceed upon the smooth path I forecast for it in 1952, and the latter months of the year presaged an unfortunate phase of labour troubles and dis-satisfaction by the public, the latter manifesting itself mainly in the current year.

The lessening of building restrictions was not followed by the flood of applications by owner/occupiers which had been expected and, in fact, the building licensing work of my Department became less in the year. Building Byelaws inspections with the scrutinisation and presentation of plans to the Plans Committee continues to be an important aspect of my work and in all 440 plans were presented.

Newly installed sewerage remained the least active public health service though I am glad to report the completion of the East View, Hempton, and Pudding Norton sewerage scheme and the commencement of a system to sewer Mount Pleasant, Little Walsingham, which will be one step on towards the Walsingham scheme insofar as most of the rising main will be installed by this smaller scheme. Both contracts were under my supervision.

Extension and modernisation of the Fakenham (1914) system with the sewerage of Hempton as part of the scheme remains an urgent necessity and I took the opportunity of giving that opinion to the Public Health Committee on 16th December 1953. Similarly, Blakeney demands early consideration.

I hope that the Council will soon be able to tackle the extension of sewerage to all sizeable Villages in the same way in which the District water system is being pushed ahead.

One's experience of "the law's delays" between the stage when Village sewerage schemes are first demanded by Members in Council and the stage when the first trench is dug is that years may elapse. With that experience in mind I would like to see the Council push on with a Blakeney scheme (not yet at Inquiry stage) simultaneously with the Fakenham (extensions) and Hempton scheme. Coming up behind, and constantly in the Council's programme as real possibilities should be a Briston and Melton Constable scheme and Village schemes for Great Ryburgh, Binham and Sculthorpe.

There is no financial return in sewerage but surely there is an unseen return in the health and comfort of the people who live in the Villages.

The maintenance of existing sewerage systems continued at Melton Constable (an outdated and inadequate works) and Fakenham, together with the heterogeneous systems of pipes with outfall to noisome ditches at Sculthorpe, Binham, Brinton, the Walsinghams, Blakeney (to the sea), Helhoughton, Great Ryburgh, Wood Norton, Field Dalling and Sharrington.

Proceedings resulting in a fine were taken under the Food Handling Byelaws and routine inspections under the Food and Drugs Act continued. The general standard of food premises in the District is fair only and there are one or two shops where the will towards cleanliness is absent. It is hoped the new legislation for clean food will strengthen the Council's hand in these cases.

Under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts the Department continued to provide information on housing conditions at times of allocation of Council

houses and a large proportion of our recommendations were accepted. Over 60 condemned houses continued to be occupied however, and over 600 families continued to dwell in unfit houses in the District. The present rate of building cannot reduce this number appreciably for, despite the "make do and mend" patching carried on by a few landlords the majority of the lower category houses have no maintenance whatever and are deteriorating daily to take the place of the unfit houses replaced by new building. Only a campaign against slums can make an impression. Tenders for work to be done in default of the owner were obtained in two cases and the work proceeded with in one case.

An unusual case under the Housing Act 1936 occurred during the year. A Demolition Order had been made upon a property in Briston to which the owner made no objection. The tenant, however, who was also the occupier of a fish and chip shop adjoining to, but not included in the property which was the subject of the Demolition Order, appealed to the County Court for the quashing of the Order. Upon assurance that the occupier would receive consideration in the allocation of a Council house the Demolition Order was upheld by the Court. At the time of writing I am sorry to report that the Council has not rehoused the man and his family despite urgent recommendations from my Department as to the state of the house.

1. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Initial Inspections	495
Revisits	245
Means of Escape from Fire	8
Smoke Observations	13

HOUSING ACTS

Housing Inspections	269
Revisits in connection with above	177
Visits in connection with applications for grants under Housing Act 1949	23

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Premises Inspected	278
Visits re manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	56
Visits to dairies and inspection of milk retailers' vehicles	32
Slaughterhouse Inspections	4

SEWERAGE

Inspections of sewerage systems, disposal works and sewer ditches	177
Visits to Fakenham Pumping Station	58
Visits to Fakenham Sewage Farm	30
Visits to Housing Sites in connection with proposed or existing sewerage and water supplies	5
Contract (Sewerage) visits	124

DISTRICT SCAVENGING

Visiting workmen on rounds, investigating complaints, etc.	153
Refuse Tips	133

FACTORIES ACT

Inspection of factories with power	22
Inspection of factories without power	20

BUILDING LICENSING CONTROL VISITS

BUILDING BYELAW INSPECTIONS

Inspections during course of construction	875
---	-----

<u>ROOMS DISINFESTED</u>	10
----------------------------------	----

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases Investigated	11
Rooms disinfected	7

Carried Forward 3,239

PETROLEUM ACTS

Installations inspected and tested 10

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT

Valuations and visits 6

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Inspections 206

KNACKER'S YARDS

Inspections 14

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT

Inspections re precautions on Pleasure Boats 2

HEATING APPLIANCE (FIREGUARDS) ACT VISITS 5STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

Visits 142

FLOOD DAMAGE VISITS 1,094OTHER VISITSNot classified under the headings above but made in connection
therewith 204

4,915

NOTICES SERVED - INFORMAL NOTICES

Public Health and Housing Acts... .. . 153

Food and Drugs Act 39

Factories Act 4

Building Byelaws 34

Petrol Storage Regulations 1

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 1

Street Numbering 77

Total Notices served

309

FORMAL NOTICES SERVEDPUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Permission to serve 11

Served 9

HOUSING ACTS

Permission to serve 8

Served 8

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Permission to serve 2

Served 2

Total Formal Notices served

19

2. FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following meat has been condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

Home killed meat	581 lbs
Imported and canned meat	36 lbs
Fish	67 lbs
Other foods (including canned foods)	2,717 lbs

These figures include a large quantity of food, plus half ton potatoes, which was condemned because of contamination by flood water.

3. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

During 1953, 4,897 premises were inspected by the rat-catchers, and of these 1,751 dwellings were treated. Poisoning of tips, buildings and other land belonging to the Council totalled 37 treatments. 236 non-domestic properties were treated and charges were made at 167 premises. A sum of £104. 3s. 9d., was charged in fees for poisoning. Records show that 3,494 bodies were picked up after poisoning.

4. WATER ANALYSIS

	R E S U L T S		
	TOTAL	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
Samples submitted to ascertain suitability as domestic water supply	99	49	50
Water samples submitted to assess nitrate content in connection with Methaemoglobinemia	33	19	14

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

A. H. EAGLE.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary
Inspector.

PART IV

REPORT OF DISTRICT WATER ENGINEER

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the Waterworks undertaking for the year ended 31st October 1953.

1. HOUGHTON ST GILES PUMPING STATION

The water pumped during the year 31st October 1952-53 totalled 66,129,000-gallons.

2. REGIONAL WATER SCHEME - SUB-STAGE IIA

House connections carried out by the Department's own staff have made considerable progress during the year. A good response for connections to the piped water supply came from the Parishes of Little Walsingham, Wighton and Blakeney. It is to be regretted that there are considerable numbers of domestic consumers in Parishes where the piped water supply is available, who have not yet taken advantage of the public supply. A satisfactory supply has been maintained throughout the year with very few disruptions.

3. WATER ANALYST'S REPORT

Regular bacteriological samples were taken from Houghton St Giles, Blakeney and Hindolvestone water supplies by the Public Health Department, and all these were satisfactory (see attached certificates).

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks for the co-operation and assistance rendered to me by the Public Health Committee, the Clerk and Officials of the Council.

I am, Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E. HAYMAN.

District Water Engineer.

APPENDIX "A"
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
ISOLATION HOSPITAL
BOWTHORPE ROAD
NORWICH

WATER
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Copy sent to : The M. O. H., Norfolk

Authority or Sender : A. H. Eagle, Esq.,
Walsingham R.D.C.

Lab. Ref. No. P.957

Nature of Sample : Water from a bore - Fakenham and Hempton main supply
Sample taken from tap - Baron's Hall, Fakenham.

Date and hour of collection : 4.30 p.m. 7. 12. 53.

Date and hour of arrival : 8. 12. 53.

R E P O R T

Date of Report : 10th December 1953

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coliper 100 ml.

REMARKS

This sample is highly satisfactory

(Sgd)

L. M. DOWSETT

APPENDIX "B"
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
ISOLATION HOSPITAL
BOWTHORPE ROAD
NORWICH

WATER
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Copy sent to : M. O. H. Norfolk

Authority or Sender : A. H. Eagle, Esq.,
Walsingham R.D.C.

Lab. Ref. No. 3107

Nature of Sample : Water from a bore - 200' deep, Hindolvestone Council
Houses and Public main supply.
Sample taken direct from rising main, Church Lane,
Hindolvestone

Date and hour of collection : 1. 2. 54. 12.00 noon

Date and hour of arrival : 2. 2. 54.

R E P O R T

Date of Report: 4th February 1954

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. 0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml.

REMARKS

This sample is highly satisfactory

(Sgd) L. M. DOWSETT.

APPENDIX "C"

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

BOWTHORPE ROAD

NORWICH

WATER

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Copy sent to : The M. O. H., Norfolk

Authority or Sender : A. H. Eagle, Esq.,
Walsingham R.D.C.

Lab. Ref. No. O. 168

Nature of Sample : Water taken from dug well 62-ft deep - main piped supply
Sample taken from tap over sink - Houghton pumping station

Date and hour of collection : 3. 11. 53. 10.20 a.m.

Date and hour of arrival : 3. 11. 53.

R E P O R T

Date of Report : 5th November 1953

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml.

REMARKS

This sample is highly satisfactory

(Sgd) L. M. DOWSETT.

APPENDIX "D"
LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD
CLARENCE HOUSE
6, CLARENCE ROAD
NORWICH

Cert. No. 830.E.

23rd November 1953

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received from Walsingham R. D. C.

Marked 76' well, public supply, High Street, Blakeney

Date Received: 17th November 1953

Appearance when received : Clear.
Trace of whitish deposit

Nature of Deposit : Organic debris

Colour : Nil

Odour : Nil

Reaction : Neutral pH 7.0

Taste : Satisfactory

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.01	Hardness as CaCO_3	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.01	Total	---
Nitrate nitrogen	15.5	Carbonate (temporary)	---
Nitrite nitrogen	practically nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	---
Chlorine as chlorides	7.0	Alkalinity as CaCO_3	---

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. The salinity is satisfactorily low. In our opinion, this water is fit for drinking and general purposes.

(Sgd) Eric C. Wood
for LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD

APPENDIX "E"
LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD
CLARENCE HOUSE
6, CLARENCE ROAD
NORWICH

Cert. No. 919E

22nd December 1953

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received from Walsingham R. D. C.

Marked 200' bore, Council House Supply, Hindolvestone, taken from 22 Church Lane, Hindolvestone

Date received : 3rd December 1953

Appearance when received : Slightly opalescent. Moderate orange-brown deposit

Nature of Deposit : Iron compounds

Odour : Nil

Colour : Brownish-yellow

Reaction : Neutral

pH

7.2

Taste : Slightly ferruginous

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.16	Hardness as CaCO ₃	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.06	Total	230
Nitrate nitrogen	nil	Carbonate (temporary)	205
Nitrite nitrogen	0.04	Non-carbonate (permanent)	25
Chlorine as chlorides	32.0	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	205
Oxygen absorbed (4hr. 27°C)	0.88	Free carbon dioxide	23.0
		Total solids (at 180°C)	310
		Iron (total)	2.5
		Metals in solution	nil

OPINION

This analysis shows small variations as compared with the analysis made of the same water in December 1952 (our certificate No. 779.D) but the differences are not very important. The only feature of note is an increase in the total iron content from 1.75 parts per million on that occasion to 2.5 parts per million now. The water is of good organic quality and free from chemical signs of pollution. It is moderately hard, nearly all the hardness being caused by the presence of dissolved chalk. It is almost neutral in reaction and would not be expected to have any serious corrosive action on metals. Apart from the presence of iron, which may be an inconvenience in giving rise to brown stains and deposits, and which gives the water a slight characteristic taste, this water is, in our opinion, fit for drinking and general purposes.

(Sgd) Eric C. Wood
for LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD

APPENDIX "F"
LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD
CLARENCE HOUSE
6, CLARENCE ROAD
NORWICH

Cert. No. 783E

9th November 1953

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received from Walsingham R. D. C.

Marked 62' well, public supply, Houghton Pumping Station

Date Received 3rd November 1953

Appearance when received : Clear

Nature of Deposit : Nil

Colour : Nil

Odour : Nil

Reaction : Neutral pH 7.0

Taste : Satisfactory

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.01	Hardness as CaCO ₃	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.02	Total	310
Nitrate nitrogen	7.5	Carbonate (temporary)	245
Nitrite nitrogen	nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	65
Chlorine as chlorides	28	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	245
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr. 27°C)	1.0	Free carbon dioxide	34
		Total solids (at 180°C)	450
		Iron (total)	nil
		Metals in solution : Copper : 0.05	
		Others : nil	

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality, and the chemical analysis as a whole shows no sign of pollution. Whereas the short analysis made in July 1952 (our certificate No. 329.D) showed the water to be somewhat alkaline in reaction, the present sample is neutral. The water is hard but not unduly so, most of the hardness being due to the presence of dissolved chalk. This type of water may be found to have a slight corrosive action on metals, inspite of its neutral reaction, and it may be for this reason that a very slight trace of copper was present in the sample. Other metals were absent. The trace of copper present is of no significance from the public health point of view and this water may confidently be accepted as fit for drinking and for use as a public supply.

(Sgd) Eric C. Wood
for LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD

