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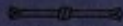


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WALSINGHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1957

to which is appended the

Report of the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR





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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Tolson
From: Mr. [Name]
Subject: [Topic]

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WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. W.H. CRICHTON, C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Engineer & Surveyor, Senior Public Health Inspector.

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

Additional Public Health Inspector

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

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector.

Mr. P.A. PAGE, M.R.S.H., Cert S.I.B.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Water Mains Superintendent

Mr. R.A. CALL

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. E.G. Dodman

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee
1957

Chairman - The Revd. J.C. Pallister

Vice-Chairman - Mrs. J.M. Gosselin

Members - Mr. G.S. Allen
Mr. C.B. Andrews, M.B.E.
Mr. H.A. Bond
Mrs. C.A. Duckworth
Mr. E.F. Hayman
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Mrs. L.V. Neale, J.P.
Miss V.M. Sprott
Mrs. D.B. Thistleton-Smith
Mrs. E.G. Whitehead
Colonel P.H. Labouchere, O.B.E., J.P. (ex officio)
Capt. M.E.B. Sparke, J.P. (ex officio)

PREFACE

The Chairman and Members,
Walsingham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Annual Public Health Report 1957

It gives me great pleasure to submit to you for your information a copy of the Annual Report to the Minister of Health on the health of the District, to which is attached the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on the environmental factors affecting the health of the people.

The salient features of the Report are the following:-

- a) A rise in the birth rate (p.4 & 5)
- b) A fall in the death rate (p. 5)
- c) A rise in the infant mortality rate (p. 6)
- d) A marked increase in the incidence of certain communicable diseases (p. 7)
- e) The progress of the poliomyelitis vaccination programme (p. 9)
- f) The initiation of the B.C.G. vaccination programme (p. 11)
- g) The urgent need of the fluoridation of water supplies to prevent dental decay (p. 12)
- and h) The difficulties which beset the progress of slum clearance (p. 15)

Judged on Vital Statistics, there is every reason for satisfaction. Norfolk belongs to a region which is blest with the lowest mortality rate in the whole of the United Kingdom, as well as the lowest incidence of tuberculosis. It has also the second lowest infant mortality rate but only takes fifth place in the incidence of cancer of the lungs - a chastening thought for those who persist in the theory that lung cancer is solely, or largely, attributable to urban conditions.

Yet, I cannot state I am wholly satisfied. I should like to see less, far less, dental decay particularly among children, less chronic coughs and colds, a better understanding of the relationship between diet hygiene and health and a very much greater realisation of the harm unwittingly done to children by neurotic and over-protective parents.

Also, as I am convinced that each attack causes some setback in the progress of development, I hope to see a less complacent attitude taken towards measles, and other infectious and so called "childish" diseases and that effective practical methods of protection, or at least of attenuation, will be evolved in the near future.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and consideration in the execution of my duties.

Your obedient Servant,

W.H. CRICHTON.

PART I

- General -(1) Staff of the Public Health Department -

There have been no changes in the staff of the Public Health Department in the year under review. The excellent and enthusiastic work of Mr. Eagle, the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector and of the Additional Inspectors, Mr. Doughty and Mr. Page, is gratefully acknowledged and thoroughly appreciated.

(2) Area and Population of the District -

There has been no change in the area of the District (39 Parishes; 88, 818 acres).

The population of the District has been estimated by the Registrar General as 23,850, that is to say 340 less than in the preceding year. It is interesting to note that the natural increase, i.e. the excess of births over deaths, in the District amounts to 218. There has therefore been an apparent total loss of 558 persons through migration.

(3) The Rateable value of the District is £194,633

(4) The Product of the ld. Rate 1956 - 57 = £775

(5) Metecrological Factors -

Once again by courtesy of the R.A.F. Authorities at West Raynham who have furnished the data, some indication can be given of the meteorological circumstances which affected the Area, although the figures shown (Appendix A) cannot apply accurately to each District.

It will be noted that the mean maximum, minimum and daily temperatures were all appreciably higher than those obtaining in the preceding year. This was particularly noticeable during the first three months of the year, usually the most severe part of the Winter season. Indeed it was generally felt that there had been "no winter to speak of".

The total rainfall for the year (26.85 inches) does not differ markedly from that of the preceding year (26.27 inches) but its distribution was very different. Thus the rainfall in February and March was higher than that in the preceding year and especially in September when 4.38 inches were recorded as against 1.58 inches.

The Relative Humidity has not varied widely. It shows the same decrease in April, May and June as it did last year and maintained the high average of well over 80% throughout the rest of the year.

- Vital Statistics -

(1) Births - The Registrar General's figures for births and still births occurring in the District during the year are as follows:-

Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	204 (156)	187 (160)	391 (316)
Illegitimate	10 (5)	7 (5)	17 (10)
			408 (326)
Still Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	2 (5)	6 (2)	8 (7)
Illegitimate	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
			8 (8)

* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

Birth Rate - The crude birth rate represented by these figures is 17.4 per 1,000, an appreciable increase on the figure for the preceding year, 13.46 per 1,000. This upward surge is almost entirely due to the prolificacy of the U.S.A.F. forces whose births far exceed those of the local population.

The corrected birth rate is 22.2 per 1,000 as against 17.36 in 1956.

The Still birth rate is 19.2 per 1,000 total births as compared with 23.9 in the preceding year and 21.8 in the year before that.

The illegitimate birth rate is 1.9% as compared with 2.4% in the preceding year.

(2) Deaths -

(a) The number of deaths reported by the Registrar General was as follows:-

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
107 (129)	83 (73)	190 (202)

This figure represents a crude death rate of 7.5 per 1,000 population, an improvement on the rate for the preceding year when it was 8.34 per 1,000 which conforms with the general downward trend.

The corrected death rate, after adjustment by application of the comparability factor of 1.11 is 8.32 per 1,000 which again compares favourably with 9.17 obtaining in the preceding year.

(b) The Causes of death as recorded by the Registrar General are shown in Appendix B (page 17).

It will be noted that, for the second year in succession, there were no deaths from respiratory tuberculosis. There was also no death from childbirth. Cancer, including leukaemia, accounted for 33 deaths as against 26, the increase being due mainly to cancers of the lung (4) and cancers of the breast (5). Three of the four cases of cancer of the lung occurred among males.

There was also an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia, which cannot be ascribed to the influenza epidemic as they all occurred in the earlier part of the year. Deaths from nephritis and nephrosis (kidney disease) rose to five, and those from congenital malformations to seven, the latter being reflected in the sharp rise in the infant mortality rate.

(3) Deaths by age groups -

The classification of deaths by age groups as recorded in the monthly "particulars" submitted by local Registrars is as follows:-

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
0 - 1	10 (5)	2 (3)	12 (8)
- 5	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
- 10	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
- 20	2 (2)	- (1)	2 (3)
- 30	6 (9)	1 (2)	7 (11)
- 40	2 (7)	1 (2)	3 (9)
- 50	11 (3)	5 (6)	16 (9)
- 60	12 (8)	9 (4)	21 (12)
- 70	19 (24)	21 (15)	40 (39)
- 80	25 (45)	17 (23)	42 (68)
- 90	15 (26)	21 (14)	36 (40)
over 90	2 (4)	5 (4)	7 (8)
Totals	104 (134)	84 (74)	188 (208)

* figures in brackets relate to preceding year.

Excepting for the increase in the infant (0 - 1) deaths and the decrease in those in the earlier adult age groups (11 - 40) there is little change apparent.

The death in the 0 - 5 group occurred in an infant of 13 months from asphyxia of stomach contents; that of the child of seven (- 10 group) from leukaemia. In the 0 - 20 group, one death was due to drowning; the other to chronic nephritis. All the deaths in the 21 - 30 group were due to injuries (road and flying accidents) except for the female who died of poliomyelitis.

(4) Infant Mortality -

(a) The number of deaths in children under one year of age has risen to 12 as compared with 8 in the preceding year. All occurred among legitimate children. Ten were males and two females.

(b) The infant mortality rate is 29.4 per 1,000 live births, which is appreciably higher than the rate for the preceding year which was 21.4 per 1,000.

(c) The causes of death were as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Prematurity	2	-
Ac. Broncho pneumonia	1	1
Congenital abnormalities - heart.	3	1
" " - kidneys	2	-
Intestinal obstruction.	1	-
Cerebral haemorrhage (birth injury)	1	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>

(d) Neonatal Death Rate - Of these deaths no less than 6 died under 4 weeks of age. Their death may fairly be ascribed to factors concerned with their birth and to congenital abnormalities rather than to their environment. The neonatal death rate which is the number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births is 14.7.

(e) The Perinatal Death Rate is a measure of prenatal, obstetric and congenital factors as distinct from environmental circumstances. This is based on the combination of still births and deaths in the first four weeks of life, that is 8 plus 12, per 1,000 total births, i.e. 43.1 as compared with 44.8 in the preceding year.

This analysis of the infant mortality rate which is accepted as a general index of social progress compounded of genetic, obstetrical and environmental factors, shows that it is not the latter but the two former which exert the greatest influence in infantile mortality in the District.

- Communicable Diseases -

(1) The incidence of communicable disease rose very appreciably during the year. Thus 516 cases were notified as against 145 in the preceding year. This sharp rise was mainly due to the periodic measles epidemic. There was only one death directly attributable to communicable disease namely that due to poliomyelitis. It is noteworthy that besides the "notifiable diseases" a very considerable, but undetermined, number of cases of other communicable diseases occurred, especially influenza (Asiatic), chicken-pox, mumps and endless coughs and colds, despite the mild winter. These 'minor' ailments were responsible for a great deal of ill-health, some short-lived and some prolonged, and seriously disrupted school health programmes.

(2) The diseases notified were as follows:-

Measles	425	(35)	⊗
Whooping Cough	43	(32)	
Scarlet Fever	14	(1)	
Tuberculosis - Pulm.	5	(5)	
" Non-Pulm.	2	(1)	
Hepatitis (Epidemic Jaundice)	1	(4)	
Pneumonia and Broncho- Pneumonia.	19	(14)	
Acute poliomyelitis	2	(1)	
Meningitis	1	(1)	
Food Poisoning	4	(9)	
Dysentery	-	(41)	
<hr/>			
Total.....	516	(145)	

⊗ Figures in brackets refer to the preceding year.

(3) Dysentery - One of the most striking features of this list is that not a single case of dysentery was notified as compared with 41 cases in the preceding year, despite the fact that the same unsatisfactory sanitary conditions which favour its spread prevail and that the incidence of the disease is increasing throughout the Country. It is true that, although the symptoms can be extremely severe, especially among young children and old people, as a rule, they are mild and often do not call for medical attention. On the other hand, the outbreak of "winter vomiting" and diarrhoea reported from Brinton School in March, and of vague abdominal pains and vomiting from Holkham and Gunthorpe Schools later in the year, may have been due to some form of dysentery. The mere fact therefore that no cases of dysentery were notified should not blind us to the urgent necessity of improving primitive sanitary conditions where these exist, particularly in Primary Schools in the rural areas.

(4) Measles - The measles epidemic was expected. Its biennial periodicity has come to be regarded as an inevitable natural phenomenon. I wish there could be less complacency. Apart from the temporary ill-health associated with the acute attack, measles is often the starting point or the booster of chronic infections of the nose and throat among children of school age which hinder, delay or impair their development, physical and mental. In school days lost, measles alone, making due allowance for holidays, must have been responsible for a total of well over 1,800 school days

in the scholastic year and played havoc with immunisation programmes (e.g. polio and diphtheria). Far from continuing to dismiss measles as a matter of no importance, to be encouraged indeed by "measles tea-parties", I wish we could stimulate enquiries into the possibilities of its prevention by specific immunisation. It would be well worth while.

The epidemic affected every Parish in the District more or less and particularly the R.A.F. Camps at Raynham and Sculthorpe. The peak of the epidemic occurred in June and July and the age groups principally affected were school children and pre-school children.

(5) Whooping Cough - 43 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with 32 in the preceding year and 35 in 1952. The majority of the cases occurred during May, June, July and August. Although there has been no dramatic fall in the number of cases of whooping cough since the introduction of the immunisation in 1953, it is generally accepted that the severity of the attacks has been very markedly diminished. It is significant that of the 43 cases notified, 25 cases (or 58%) were five years of age or above and therefore unlikely to have been immunised.

The present practice is for whooping cough vaccination to be combined with diphtheria immunisation, and latterly, with tetanus immunisation. Recent studies have revealed that when poliomyelitis is prevalent, there is a risk of inducing an attack of poliomyelitis when combined vaccinations are carried out. For this reason it has been decided that, as from 1958, vaccination against these diseases should be carried out singly from April to September, the months usually associated with the incidence of poliomyelitis.

(6) Diphtheria - For the fifth year in succession no case of diphtheria was reported. The number of immunisations carried out during 1957 in the Health Area was as follows:-

Age Groups	Under 1 yr.	1 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14	Total
Primary (Dip. & Whooping C.)	311	148	170	629
Booster (Dip. only).	-	-	631	631
Totals	311	148	801	1260
	(248)	(95)	(782)	(1125)

Figures in brackets refer to the preceding year.

(7) Poliomyelitis - Only two cases were notified; both in August. One was an American aged 22 from Sculthorpe who was confirmed as a case of paralytic poliomyelitis and who was dealt with by the Air Force Medical Service. The other was a young married woman of 22yrs, from Thursford, a relatively remote village situated at some distance from main roads and railways, and therefore with little contact with the outside world. The patient herself had not been out of the village for several weeks, nor had she or

anybody in the village been in contact with a case of polio'. Yet she was struck down suddenly with a very severe attack of poliomyelitis which affected her vital brain centres (bulbar) and she died within 48 hours of the onset of her attack. No further case occurred among relatives or neighbours although there appears to have been ample opportunity for the disease to be transmitted by contact. This sad and sudden death of a young and healthy woman from a disease with such inexplicable characteristics profoundly shocked the District and probably accounted, in some measure, for the rise in the demand for vaccination.

The vaccination programme was continued as vigorously as supplies of vaccine and intercurrent diseases (measles, 'flu, whooping cough, chicken-pox and mumps) permitted, and by the end of the year practically all those in the 2 - 10 age group who had registered in 1956 had been vaccinated with two doses. This programme involved over 3,200 injections in Schools and Welfare Centres scattered widely throughout the District.

Plans for the expanded programme making vaccination available to children from 6 months to 15 years, and to priority groups i.e. Doctors, Ambulance Staff, were well advanced by the end of the year.

(8) The Influenza Epidemic - A warning issued in June of the possibility that influenza epidemic in Asia would reach this Country by the Autumn was fully confirmed. The first cases were reported from Air Force and Army Camps in September and three of the first cases were confirmed serologically as Virus A type infections. As soon as the schools re-opened after the summer holidays, the disease infected both staff and pupils and the general public. Some idea of the degree of prevalence of the disease was obtained by the absences reported from schools and these rose steadily from 23% to over 50%. Three schools (Dunton, Wighton, and Binham) had to be closed altogether for a week because of the high percentage of cases among pupils and among the small school staff.

At first the symptoms of the disease were mild, with nausea and vomiting as a predominant symptom, and recovery was rapid. Later however the disease assumed more severe characteristics with bronchial and pneumoniae affection and slow convalescence. The total number of cases of pneumonia notified however (19) was not very much higher than the average for the last six years (13). Several deaths occurred among old people.

The peak of the epidemic occurred during October and it finally waned by late November.

A special-Virus A type - vaccine was offered to Doctors and Nurses, Home Helps and Ambulance personnel. The vaccinations in most cases were carried out by the Family Doctors concerned to whom the vaccine was distributed from the Local Health Office. Some 66 persons in these categories were vaccinated with two doses.

(9) Food Poisoning - In March a small outbreak of food poisoning was reported unofficially after an Officers' Mess Party at West Raynham during which oysters were consumed. Direct evidence of food poisoning organisms was not obtained.

In May two further cases were reported, one in a woman of 44, and the other a child of 9, entirely unconnected but both positive to Salmonella typhimurium.

In July and August two further totally unconnected cases were notified from Fakenham, one being a man of 60 yrs of age, the other a woman of 23. Both were infected with *Salmonella typhimurium*, but the source could not be ascertained. During this period, as a result of an outbreak of food poisoning at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, a number of cases who had been discharged from Hospital were traced and followed-up. Samples were taken from 24 cases and four of these were found positive. Two remained positive until late September.

In October a consignment of dried egg product was found to be infected with *Salmonella typhimurium* and was accordingly confiscated. It was finally released for special heat treatment before being permitted for use other than for human consumption.

(10) Tuberculosis - Five new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. This is the second year in succession in which the incidence of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis has fallen below 10. Except for 1949 when the incidence of new cases was 9, the average incidence during the last ten years has been about 15. This decrease is in keeping with the national trend since the end of the War and reflects the success of the measures now taken to prevent the disease as well as that of the new methods of treatment with anti-biotics. A warning has however been given of the emergence of drug-resistant strains of the tubercle bacillus, a fact which should remind us of the importance of retaining and encouraging all the 'classical' forms of prevention and treatment and particularly environmental factors besides B.C.G. vaccination, early detection of cases and follow-up of contacts etc. It must be clearly borne in mind that Tuberculosis is not beaten yet.

The following analysis of the new cases notified shows the trend of attack among the older age groups, thus:-

Tuberculosis - Analysis of new cases.

<u>Age Groups.</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Under 5	-	-	- (1)	-
5 - 14	-	1	1	-
15 - 24	-	1 (2)	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	-	-
45 - 64	2 (1)	-	-	1
over 65	- (2)	-	-	-
	<hr/>			
* Figures in brackets refer to the preceding year.	3 (3)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (-)

The two non-pulmonary cases were T.B. glands in the neck in a child of 10 years of age and a kidney infection in a woman of 48 years. The source of infection in these cases was not ascertained.

With 8 inward "transfers" (all pulmonary), 7 outward removals (6 pulmonary; 1 non-pulmonary) and one death (Female 55 yrs) from T.B. Meningitis, the final figures on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were as follows:-

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
35	28	3	3
63		6	

B.C.G. Vaccination - In October a beginning was made with the scheme of B.C.G. vaccination of all children of school leaving age. By the end of the year 204 pupils had been tested in five Secondary Schools (Dersingham, Wells, Hunstanton, Fakenham and Melton Constable). Of these 78 (or 38.2%) were found to be positive reactors. 122 of these who were negative were vaccinated with B.C.G. The positive reactors were subsequently X-rayed and were found to be normal.

(11) Scarlet Fever - It is not always easy with the mild form of disease which now prevails, to distinguish between a streptococcal sore throat with a slight toxic rash and a true case of Scarlet Fever. Nevertheless, 14 cases were notified as compared with one in the preceding year and it seems that, in greater or less degree, the disease continues to appear every year without serious complications.

(12) Other Communicable Diseases -

(a) Meningitis - An isolated case occurred in February in a child of 6 years of age. Fortunately the case was mild and the patient recovered but another case - a fatal one - was reported post-mortem in a U.S.A.F. Airman.

(b) Mumps - A brisk epidemic in the south eastern parishes of the District was reported by the school authorities during the autumn. It also affected the polio' immunisation and other school health programmes.

(c) Bovine Anthrax - A case of anthrax in a heifer at Holkham was reported in May by the Police. The usual precautions were taken.

(d) Coughs and Colds - These were responsible for much ill-health among school children and for absences from school. In one case consideration was given to the possibility of closure but the advent of the milder weather in the new year brought about an improvement in the situation. One can only hope that, one day, an effective vaccination against this widespread complaint will be found.

(e) Venereal Disease - Several cases were reported among the U.S.A. Forces. Contacts in most cases are made in a hotel in Fakenham.

(f) Smallpox Vaccination - The following vaccinations against smallpox were carried out during the year.

Age groups.	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 14	15 +	Totals
Primary	367	19	26	18	32	462
Re-vaccinations.	-	-	2	14	83	99
Totals	367(214)	19(15)	28(23)	32(22)	115 (65)	561(349)

Figures in brackets refer to the preceding year.

It will be noted that there has been an encouraging increase in vaccinations at all ages, particularly in infants and adults. The latter is accounted for by the many emigrants who are leaving the Country; the former to a growing understanding of the serious risks of infection to which we are now exposed through faster air travel. This improvement is largely, if not entirely, due to the excellent work of the District Nurses and Health Visitors in their contacts with the people. Satisfactory as this is, there is still need for health education to overcome the prejudiced parent who, for no good reason, just does not "believe in it".

(13) Smoking and Cancer - The findings of the Medical Research Council on the direct association between smoking and cancer of the lung were brought to the notice of the Council in July. Although statistically there can be no doubt of the correlation, the conclusions arrived at appear to have made very little impact on the public, certainly among smokers. These doubts have been inspired chiefly by the fact that non-inhalers of tobacco smoke are alleged to be as liable to cancer as those who do inhale it, and also because so many well known heavy smokers have lived to a ripe old age. These points will need to be explained because the figures so far produced cannot convince the layman. "There are none so blind as those who will not see".

It is a pity that an area which has the best record of health as judged by the lowest mortality from all causes should spoil so good a record by taking only fourth place in mortality from cancer of the lung.

- Fluoridation and Dental Caries. -

The attention of the Council has been drawn to the exceptionally low content of fluorine in the otherwise excellent water supply in the District and to the associated high incidence of dental caries (decay) which is seen among school children.

As will be noted by reference to the summary of analyses of water samples (Appendix D) the fluorine content varies between Nil and 0.2 parts per million whereas it has been shown that an optimum of 1 part per million is required in a good drinking water.

The association of dental caries and lack of adequate fluorine in water supplies has been amply demonstrated by experiments conducted over long periods of years in this Country and abroad and so have the benefits which have accrued in the protection of teeth from decay in areas provided with an adequate fluorine content in their water supplies.

During the current year the Government of New Zealand published a "Report of a Commission of Enquiry into the fluoridation of Public Water Supplies" which, among many conclusions, stated that "no harmful effects on health will follow fluoridation of water supplies" and that they were "satisfied" that widespread use should be made of the fluoridation process.

Finally, the World Health Organisation set up an Expert Committee who declared that "... the effectiveness, safety and practicability of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries is now established". This opinion was based on a review of fluoridation projects in use in no less than 17 countries involving well over 30 million people.

The cost of the process is infinitesimal and averages 5½d. per head per year in the four Centres (Anglesey, Andover, Watford and Kilmarnock) in which it is being demonstrated in this Country.

One would think that on such evidence there would be no possible room for any doubt to be entertained on the advisability of introducing the measure without delay, wherever it is required. This District needs it urgently in the best interests of its people. One can only hope that unprejudiced views will prevail and that steps will be taken as soon as possible to put this important recommendation into effect.

A special Note on this subject, presented to the Council in December, is reproduced as Appendix E.

- Care of the Aged -

Another case had to be removed to an Institution under the provisions of the National Assistance Act in August, because of his age, infirmity and inability to devote to himself sufficient care and attention. This case had all the assistance that the Health Services can provide him with, as well as the kindly interest and help of his neighbours. A time comes however when even these do not suffice and the provisions of the Act must be invoked however distasteful the task may be.

None-the-less a special effort was made during the year to inform all concerned of the services which the County Health Service can provide in this type of case and to rekindle Parish interest in local Committees designed to assist aged persons living alone, so as to ensure, as far as is humanly possible, that they remain at home among their friends and familiar surroundings.

It is a sad commentary on modern civilisation that relatives are frequently unable to take an aged parent into their care because of the lack of adequate accommodation. It is therefore very gratifying that the Council have advanced plans for the construction of a colony which will house 34 aged persons at Fakenham. This will not solve the problem but it will at least provide more suitable accommodation for a number of aged persons who would otherwise be condemned to live in large or inconvenient houses which may be lacking in essential conveniences.

- Environmental Hygiene -

(1) Housing - I am indebted to Mr. Eagle, the Engineer & Surveyor, and to Mr. Riches, the Housing Manager, for the data used in the compilation of this section of the Report. Further details are shown in the Engineer and Surveyor's Report (Part II).

The housing situation in the District at the end of the year was as follows:-

a) The estimated number of unfit houses.....	135	(484)	£
b) Demolition Orders made during the year.....	32	(39)	
c) Unfit houses demolished.....	10	(6)	
d) Houses rendered fit by owners during the year.....	12	(23)	
e) Improvement grants awarded under the Housing Act 1949 -	£14,500		
	for 57 dwellings		
		(£29,825)	
f) Houses completed during the year			
By the Council	17)	(119)
Privately.....	30)	
g) Houses under construction at end of year)			
By the Council	24)	(24)
Privately	12)	
h) Number of applicants on Waiting List	380	(410)	

(x) This figure comprised the estimate of houses to be dealt with under the acts plus the number of condemned houses standing at that time.

AnalysisUrgent Cases

Families in Class 5 houses, overcrowded, medical cases, living in hutments	114 (138)
Families sharing accommodation	77 (86)
Engaged couples	22 (21)

Less Urgent Cases

Families in Class 3 houses	}	167 (165)
" requiring smaller accommodation		
" " accommodation nearer work		
" having to move from tied houses		

Total..... 380 (410)

There is still a very urgent need of houses in Fakenham and Hempton as 204 of the applications are for Fakenham and Hempton. A recent review by the Council placed these applicants in the following order of priority:-

109	Priority 'A'	- urgent need of rehousing.
61	" 'B'	-
20	" 'C'	-
14	" 'D'	- Applications which could not be entertained. Removed from Waiting list.

Families living in HutmentsLittle Snoring -

On requisition from Ministry	13
Owned by Council	16

Lengham

On 21 yr. lease	13
Owned by Council	1

Pudding Norton

On requisition from Ministry	61
------------------------------	----

Total 104 (85)

5 families have been rehoused from hutments and 8 families transferred from hutments to married quarters.

The Council relet 26 houses during the year, 6 of which were allotted to families living in condemned properties. 4 exchanges were also effected and 14 hutments were relet on sites retained by the Council.

Building Programme for 1957 - The restrictions imposed by the financial policy of the Government have necessitated the limitation of the building programme to 10 dwellings at Briston, 34 old person's dwellings in a Communal Centre in Fakenham, and 20 dwellings in Fakenham to rehouse families living in hutments. Ministerial approval for the old peoples centre and for the 20 houses in Fakenham is still awaited.

The Council has also purchased a house at Little Snoring (Red House) formerly a County Council Childrens Home, to convert into two dwellings.

Slum Clearance - Mr. Eagle on page 26 of his report has given details of the progress made in Slum Clearance. Taken in conjunction with the figures shown above of "urgent" cases needing rehousing because of unsatisfactory accommodation, this chronic and serious defect can only be reported as "doing as well as can be expected". In fact, it is a very frustrating situation as it is impossible for any substantial progress to be made without the means of providing alternative accommodation for the people who have to be rehoused. Indeed, in the present financial circumstances, it seems scarcely worth while to initiate action under the Housing Acts as one inevitably comes up against this insuperable obstacle. It is sad to reflect that we must spend such vast sums on our national defence while we leave so many of our people unguarded against the physical and moral hazards of a slum existence for an indefinite period - if not for a lifetime.

(2) Water - In a summary of report on water samples taken during the year (vide Appendix C, page 18), the very unsatisfactory state of well water sources can be easily seen. It is therefore particularly gratifying to note that the long deferred but much needed extension of water supply services to the south eastern Parishes in the District has been authorised and a tender for the work accepted (p. 33 of Mr. Eagle's Report).

Fluoride - A brief reference was made in last year's report to the inadequate fluoride content in the public water supplies and to the effect this has on the incidence of dental caries (decay) among children in the District. Further samples tested during the year gave the following results:-

18th October, 1957	- Nil	parts per million.	(Fakenham)
1st November, 1957	- 0.2	" " "	(Hindolvestone)
" "	- 0.05	" " "	(Melton Constable)

These quantities obviously fall seriously short of the optimum required, namely 1 part per million. (See page 12).

(3) Meat Inspection - It is not possible to furnish a percentage of meat inspected because the exact amount of meat imported is not known. Of the meat slaughtered locally most, if not all, is inspected regularly. This is a duty which imposes a heavy strain on the Health Inspectors. The statement on meat inspection¹⁸ on pages 30-31 of Mr. Eagle's report.

(4) Conservancy and Sewage Disposal -

It is gratifying to note the progress made with the Fakenham and Hempton sewage disposal scheme and with the Walsingham connections. Clearly, the greater the number of conversions to a water borne system of disposal the better the environment and the less the risk of spread of disease (vide details on pages 28-29 of Mr. Eagle's Report.)

There are still nearly 3,500 pail closets in the District, of which 829 are cleared twice a week and the remainder, 2671, only once a week. This is perhaps not an unusual circumstance in an essentially rural area. It is nevertheless unsatisfactory and an obvious menace to health. The sooner this primitive method can be dispensed with the better.

This is particularly true of Blakeney, a charming village which attracts a growing number of visitors every year and which is still mainly served by pail closets. It is to be hoped that the sewage disposal scheme designed to include Morston and Wiveton will receive early sanction. .

APPENDIX A.

- CLIMATIC DATA -

	Mean daily Maximum Temp.	Mean daily Minimum Temp.	Mean daily Temp.	Total rainfall (inches)	Mean Relative Humidity
January	44.9 (40)	37.6 (34)	41.3 (37)	1.87 (3.33)	88.8 (90.7)
February	45.3 (33.9)	35.3 (25.4)	40.3 (29.7)	3.12 (1.80)	89.8 (88.8)
March	53.6 (48.8)	41 (34.7)	47.3 (41.7)	2.41 (0.96)	86.3 (81.7)
April	53 (49.0)	39.9 (35.4)	46.5 (42.2)	0.54 (1.31)	80 (77.7)
May	56.6 (63.1)	42.1 (44.1)	49.3 (53.6)	1.29 (1.15)	76.5 (70.7)
June	67.5 (60.1)	48.8 (47.8)	58.1 (53.9)	1.74 (3.27)	73.3 (80.2)
July	67.9 (66.1)	54.4 (53.8)	61.1 (59.9)	3.33 (3.61)	84.3 (82.5)
August	65.6 (62.9)	52.4 (48.9)	59 (55.9)	2.39 (3.70)	83 (83.0)
September	59.8 (64.2)	48.3 (50.4)	54.1 (57.3)	4.38 (1.58)	83.8 (86.5)
October	56.9 (54.3)	46.5 (43.1)	51.7 (48.7)	1.47 (2.54)	87 (87)
November	46.6 (46.3)	40. (37.6)	43.3 (41.9)	1.71 (1.55)	87.3 (92)
December	42.8 (45.2)	35.4 (38.8)	39.1 (42.0)	2.60 (1.47)	89.8 (91.2)

Figures in brackets denote preceding years' figures.

APPENDIX B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1. Tuberculosis - respiratory	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
2. " - other	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
3. Acute Poliomyelitis	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
4. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
5. Cancer, stomach	2 (3)	1 (5)	3 (8)
6. " Lung	3 (2)	1 (-)	4 (2)
7. " breast	- (-)	5 (-)	5 (-)
8. " uterus	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
9. " other forms	9 (11)	9 (4)	18 (15)
10. Leukaemia	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
11. Diabetes	- (2)	- (2)	- (4)
12. Vascular lesions, nervous system	8 (8)	10 (16)	18 (24)
13. Coronary disease	16 (19)	5 (7)	21 (26)
14. Hypertension, with heart disease	2 (1)	- (1)	2 (2)
15. Other heart disease	18 (29)	17 (11)	35 (40)
16. Other disease of the circulation	4 (9)	7 (7)	11 (16)
17. Influenza	2 (2)	1 (-)	3 (2)
18. Pneumonia	7 (4)	3 (2)	10 (6)
19. Bronchitis	2 (5)	5 (3)	7 (8)
20. Ulcers, stomach and duodenum	1 (1)	- (1)	1 (2)
21. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea.	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
22. Nephritis and nephrosis	2 (1)	3 (-)	5 (1)
23. Prostatic enlargement	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
24. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
25. Congenital malformations	6 (-)	1 (-)	7 (-)
26. Other diseases	11 (7)	9 (10)	20 (17)
27. Motor vehicle accidents	4 (3)	- (-)	4 (3)
28. All other accidents	5 (14)	2 (1)	7 (15)
29. Suicide	2 (2)	- (-)	2 (2)
Totals	107 (129)	83 (72)	190 (202)

* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

APPENDIX C.

Report on Bacteriological examination of samples of water taken during year.				
Parish	Public Supply		Private Sources (Wells)	
	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Barney	1	-	-	-
Barsham	-	-	-	1
Briningham	-	-	2	4
Brinton (Sharrington)	-	-	7	14
Briston	-	-	10	10
Dunton	2	-	1	-
Fakenham	18	-	-	-
Helhoughton	1	-	-	2
Hindringham	1	-	-	1
Holkham	-	-	3	8
Kettlestone	-	-	1	5
Melton Constable	-	-	3	3
Raynham	-	-	3	4
Great Ryburgh	-	-	2	-
Sculthorpe	1	-	2	2
Little Snoring	-	-	1	-
Stibbard	-	-	-	1
Stiffkey	1	-	1	1
Swanton Novers	-	-	4	3
Thurning	-	-	1	-
Walsingham, Gt.	2	-	-	-
Warham	-	-	1	-
Wighton	1	-	-	-
Wood Norton	-	-	2	1
Totals	28	-	44	60

Where samples taken from private sources were found to be unsatisfactory, the owner of the supply was required to cleanse the well concerned, or, if a mains supply was available, to connect the premises to the mains.

APPENDIX D .

- Analyses of Water -

Sources of Samples and Dates.	(1) Tap at Walsingham R.D.C. Office 2.10.57.	(2) Hindolvestone Main Supply 21.10.57	(3) B. Railways Supply - Melton Constable 21.10.57.
Appearance	Clear	Slightly opalescent rusty deposit	Clear, rusty deposit.
Nature of deposit	Nil	Iron compounds.	Organic debris iron compounds.
Colour	Nil	Yellow	Slightly yellow.
Reaction	Faintly alkaline.	Neutral	Neutral
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.4	7.1	7.3
Taste	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Negligible trace.	0.38	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.01	0.06	0.02
Nitrate Nitrogen	8.5	Nil	0.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	28	30	28
Total hardness	340	235	?
Fluorine	Nil	0.2	0.05
OPINION -	Fit	Fit	Fit

These are tabulated summaries of three analyses carried out by Messrs. Lincolne, Sutton and Wood.

APPENDIX E.

Note on the

Fluoridation of Water Supplies.

As requested by the Council, I have prepared a brief note on the question of fluoridation of water supplies.

Dental caries (= decay) among school children is widespread. It has in fact become a major public health problem particularly since the War ended owing principally to three factors namely - bad food habits, increased availability and consumption of sweets and an increasing shortage of dentists.

The healthy structure of the teeth is dependent on mineral elements contained in certain foods i.e. calcium, phosphorus and Vitamin D which are to be found in vegetables, meat, fish, eggs, milk, nuts and fruit and regular cleansing habits to remove accumulations of food, especially carbohydrates (sweets, cakes, bread and other starchy foods) which tend to accumulate in teeth crevices where they ferment and attack the protective enamel of the teeth.

It is notorious that the diet of most of our children contains an excess of carbohydrates and not enough of the protective foods and furthermore, that thorough and regular cleansing habits are seldom acquired or maintained.

Dental health education is a difficult and long term process and the effective control of dental caries is probably beyond the resources of the dental services available today, but we have in fluoride a measure of prevention, the efficacy of which is now beyond dispute.

Fluoride is a natural component of many foods and is also present in drinking water in varying and variable degrees. Its association with the prevention of dental caries is interesting in that it was incidental to another enquiry. At the beginning of the century a young dentist (McKay) in Colorado U.S.A. observed and studied the causes of certain mottling of the teeth.

This led to further studies which finally established by the 1930's that fluoride (in excess) was the cause of the mottling and that where this occurred decay of the teeth was progressively diminished (Dean 1946). Thus, at a level of 1 part of fluoride per million parts of water (F 1 ppm), the rate of dental caries among children who had consumed water from birth was found to be 60% lower than among comparable groups who had water containing practically no fluoride (Forest).

As a result of these findings, it was decided to ascertain whether similar results could be obtained by adding fluoride to waters in which it was lacking. Experiments were carried out in 1945 at Grand Rapids, Newburgh, and Brantford in U.S.A. over a period of 10 years. The final reports, published recently, show that there is marked reduction of dental caries among children who have drunk fluoridated water all their lives.

In this Country the survey carried out by Weaver in North and South Shields in 1943 is of particular interest. The fluoride content of these adjacent and similar communities was ascertained. In North Shields it was 0.25 ppm; in South Shields it was 1.4 ppm. One thousand children of comparable age groups and circumstances were examined in each area and it was found that the incidence of dental caries, in both temporary and permanent teeth, was 56% less among the children of South Shields than it was among those of North Shields.

Similar reports with similar findings can be multiplied "ad infinitum" and in 1952, following the report of a special mission sent by the Medical Research Council to America to study fluoridation, demonstration projects have been started in Andover, Anglesey, Kilmarnock and Watford.

My own experience of the fluoride content in this District is so far strictly limited but samples are being taken to ascertain this in different parts and from different sources at frequent intervals. This is necessary because of its variability. However, as you are aware, I had a sample tested at Burnham Thorpe last year (September) where I had noticed an unusually high (some 90%) incidence of dental caries among school children. The Analyst's report was reported to you in my Monthly Report at the time and more recently in my Annual Report. The Analyst's opinion was as follows:-

"Fluorine content..... very low compared with figures usually obtained for East Anglian public supplies which are in the neighbourhood of 0.1 ppm..... The very low figures now recorded may be associated with the observation by the M.O.H. that there appears to be a high incidence of dental caries among school children and suggests that fluoridation of this water supply would be in the public interest".

Reference to the County Council in October 1956, following these findings, elicited the reply that in 1954 the Ministry of Health offered to make the City of Norwich (and its County environments) an area of fluoride demonstration but that it was rejected by the Norwich Corporation. The County Medical Officer is now awaiting the result of routine dental inspections and treatment in the area.

Objections against fluoridation of water supplies have been raised on ethical grounds that it is an infringement of human rights and also on the grounds that fluoride in the drinking water can be harmful. It is difficult to reconcile acceptance of the addition of Chlorine or Ammonia or water softeners on ethical grounds with the objection to the addition of fluoride. As to harmful effects it has been established beyond serious dispute by one eminent authority after another, after the most exhaustive studies that it causes no harmful effects. Amongst these may be cited the report by Alcock on the critical surveys conducted in the cities of Newburgh and Kingston in the U.S.A., over a period of 10 years which concluded that "fluoridation of water supplies carries no risk to the general health and well being of the Community".

During the current year the Government of New Zealand, which is renowned for its thorough Public Health Services, published a "Report of a Commission of Inquiry into the fluoridation of Public Water supplies" which among many conclusions stated that "no harmful effects on health will follow fluoridation of water supplies". Furthermore they were "satisfied that widespread use should be made of the fluoridation process" and recommend the formation of a national body to encourage, advise and assist local authorities who wish to adopt the process.

Finally, the World Health Organisation, this year set up an Expert Committee on fluoridation who have declared that "the effectiveness, safety and practicability of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries is now established" - this opinion being based on a review of fluoridation projects in use in no less than 17 countries involving well over 30,000,000 people.

There remains the question of the cost of fluoridation. Quoting from a paper by John Longwell, Senior Principal Scientific Officer, Department of Government Chemist - "The costs in this country are based on the actual expenditure at the four fluoridation centres; and of necessity development costs which should not recur if fluoridation becomes a general measure throughout the Country and do not include cost of labour..... since in no instance were additional employees necessary because of fluoridation.

The capital cost of the equipment has been taken on the basis of a loan for 10 years repayable annually at 6% interest.

Place	Population	Water consumed galls/per head/ per day.	Total cost pence/per head/ year.
Anglesey (Half island)	25,000	40	4.7
Andover	16,000	49	7.4
Watford	70,500	43	3.4
Kilmarnock	47,500	85	6.2

The total cost of the National Dental Health Service in 1955 was £33,286,816 and this does not include the cost of the School Dental Service. On a population of 50 millions, this works out at 13/6d. per head (per annum) plus the cost of the School Dental Service.

If the findings of the investigations now in progress in the District confirm our fears that the fluoride content of the water is consistently deficient, there seems to be a clear case, on the evidence submitted, for a recommendation to be made that a scheme for the fluoridation of the water supply should be instituted.

There is however one important point to bear in mind and that is that fluoridation, however effective as a preventive measure against dental caries, should never be regarded as a substitute for the education of the public in good food habits and dental care and hygiene but rather as a most useful complementary measure.

PART II

THE REPORT OF

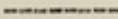
Mr. A.H. EAGLE, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., Cert S.I.B.

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



RECORD OF INSPECTIONSPublic Health Acts

Initial Inspections	339
Revisits	88
Means of Escape from Fire ,	5
Smoke observations	1

Housing Acts

House Inspections	179
Revisits in connection with above	82
Visits in connection with applications for grants under Housing Act 1949	214
Visits re Slum Clearance	776

Food and Drugs Act

Premises Inspected	350
Visits re manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	25
Visits to dairies and inspections of milk retailers vehicles	5
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection visits	327
Visits re Shellfish	1

Sewerage

Inspections of sewerage system, disposal works and sewer ditches	351
Visits to Fakenham Pumping Station	39
Visits to Fakenham Sewage Farm	13
Visits to Housing Sites in connection with proposed or existing sewerage and water supplies	2
Contract (Sewerage) visits	96
House Drainage Reconnection Visits	
Walsingham (Section 42))	591
Closet Conversion Visits) Public Health Act 1936	
Walsingham (Section 47))	148

District Scavenging

Visiting workmen on rounds, investigating complaints etc.	157
Refuse Tips	109

Factories Act

Inspection of factories with power	11
Inspection of factories without power	5

Building Byelaws Inspections

Inspections during course of construction	562
--	-----

Infectious Diseases

Cases Investigated	145
Rooms Disinfected	5

Rooms Disinfected

.. .. .	14
---------	----

Petroleum Acts

Installations inspected and tested	27
--	----

Small dwellings Acquisition Act

Valuation and visits	11
------------------------------	----

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

Inspections	35
---------------------	----

Knackers' Yards

Inspections	16
---------------------	----

4,729

<u>Street Naming and Numbering</u>		
Visits	228	
<u>Water Supply - Existing mains</u>	123	
<u>Water Supply - New Contracts</u>	81	
<u>Buildings of Historic or</u> <u>Architectural Interest - Visits</u>	121	
<u>Other Inspections</u> - Not classified under the headings above but made in connection therewith	57	
		<hr/>
		5,339
		<hr/>

NOTICES SERVED.Informal Notices

Public Health and Housing Acts	170	(49)
Food and Drugs Act	52	(92)
Factories Act	8	(1)
Buildings Byelaws	148	(22)
Prevention of Damage by pests Act 1949	13	(1)
Street Numbering	59	(7)
		<hr/>
Total Notices Served	<u>450</u>	<u>(172)</u>

Notices served last year are shown in brackets.

Formal NoticesPublic Health Acts

Permission to serve	197	(2)
Served	197	(2)

Housing Acts

Permission to serve	1	(11)
Served	1	(11)

Food and Drugs Act

Permission to serve	1	(14)
Served	1	(11)

 Total Formal Notices Served

199 (24)

Similarly last year's totals are shown in brackets. It will be seen that emphasis has shifted to the Public Health Acts and the majority of these notices are concerned with the conversion of earth closets to water closets in the Walsinghams.

In one case it was necessary to enforce the notice under the Food Hygiene Regulations taking legal proceedings against a stallholder.

HOUSING(a) Slum Clearance

Continuing its Slum Clearance campaign, the Council's Housing Inspection Sub-Committee made 127 inspections in 15 Parishes during the year.

The following table sets out progress made under this heading, but a note of warning must be sounded. Many of the houses condemned before the war still stand, about half are occupied. As well as these there are the houses condemned under post-war slum clearance which are still occupied. Twenty four houses were under construction for the rehousing of persons living in condemned houses at the end of the year.

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	10	(6)
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Council	4	(9)
Number of houses made fit by owners as a result of formal action	12	(14)
Number of houses made fit after the service of formal notices by Council in default of owners	Nil	(Nil)
Undertaking given by owners not to re-let dwellings until repairs completed	10	(18)
Undertakings given by owners that houses will cease to be used for human habitation	6	()
Number of demolition orders made during the year ..	32	(39)
Number of closing orders made during the year	12	(7)

(b) New Dwellings (This figure includes conversions of non-domestic buildings to give domestic accommodation)

By private persons	-	30 (12 under construction)
By the Local Authority	-	17 (24 under construction)

(c) Improvement Grants

There has been no falling off in this work. The necessity for these grants has been debated nationally and locally but, whatever opinion is held, the fact remains that in this District, for example, fiftyseven more houses now have some of the essential amenities required for comfortable occupation such as warmth, light, a wholesome water supply and water-borne sanitation.

In 1957 the Council notified its intention of granting £14,500. 0. 0. in respect of 57 dwellings.

The analysis of the effect of these grants since their inception is as follows:-

<u>Total Amount notified to rank for grant</u>	<u>For occupation by:</u>		<u>Grant essential to preserve house & provide amenities.</u>	<u>Grant to improve amenities only.</u>
	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Tenant</u>		
<u>Up to December 1956</u>				
£29,825. 3. 0.	43	68	30	81
<u>January - December 1957</u>				
£14,500. 0. 0.	15	42	6	51
£44,325. 3. 0.	58	110	36	132

(d) Caravans

There is no real caravan problem in this District. Except for Wicken Field, which houses 88 American families in caravans, and two small coastal camps of eight vans in all, the remaining 22 are sited on individual sites and provide reasonable accommodation at this time of continuing acute shortage of houses.

Plans brought before the Plans Committee

The following table sets out plans considered by the Plans Committee during the year:-

<u>New dwellings.</u>	<u>Alterations to Dwellings</u>	<u>Factories</u>	<u>Domestic Garages</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
34	82	7	35	61

Excavation for new drains and alterations of closets has revealed instances of very poor workmanship in the past and undoubtedly the "weekend worker" installing his unauthorised drainage must largely bear the blame. This and similar structural work often carried out by amateurs ignorant of the building codes of practice or by semi-skilled workers after working hours is hard to detect, carried out as it is at weekends or at night.

DISTRICT SCAVENGING

I would repeat figures quoted last year which showed the following service is given:-

Once weekly refuse collection is done at 4,153 premises.

Once fortnightly refuse collection is done at 2,252 premises.

A weekly clearance of trade refuse is given to about 50 shops in Fakenham.

Cesspool emptying of (estimated) 1,270 loads in 1957.

Twice weekly pail emptying occurs at 607 premises.

Once weekly pail emptying occurs at 2,811 * premises.

* But 199 houses and 23 schools also have a second emptying.

A replacement sideloader refuse vehicle was purchased, and the "Nuffield" tractor with hydraulic shovel and dozer blade proved invaluable, dispensing with two tip men, and is doing a very efficient job of levelling and sealing with earth.

Experiments with sprayed sump oil over refuse tips and the nightsoil pit were partially successful against flies and smell nuisances. Concentrated disinfectant was also sprayed on to the nightsoil pit.

The 1,000 gallon cesspool emptier was lent for a week with a driver for duty at the Royal Show at Costessey in July.

New schedules for collection of nightsoil were introduced during the year, made possible by the purchase of the 1,000 gallon emptier last year - After some initial labour difficulties involving negotiations with the Trade Union concerned, it was found that the new arrangements were quite easily worked and are proceeding satisfactorily with a saving of one man's time.

Conference at Eastbourne

The Council sent Mr. Doughty to the Conference of Public Health Inspectors and he reported on the several excellent papers read and the discussions which took place on Housing, Meat Hygiene, River and Sea Pollution and Caravans.

I know of no better antidote to the "parish pump" attitude of mind than this and similar conferences. Elected representatives and officers are able to realise that their mountainous problems at home are molehill queries when compared with others' difficulties. They exchange with others ideas which must, ultimately, give the Council better results in its committee rooms and day-to-day administration.

SEWERAGE

(a) Reconnection Contract at Great and Little Walsingham - Section 42, Public Health Act 1936

Ten tenders were received for this contract based on plans and specification prepared in the office and was obtained by Messrs. F.W. Shanks Limited of Hunstanton valued at £8,934. 0. 0. It was completed by the end of the year and 210 properties in the parishes formerly connected to the surface water system or draining to cesspools were connected to the new sewerage systems.

(b) Conversion of pail closets to water closets in Great and Little Walsingham - Section 47, Public Health Act 1936

Limited progress can be reported under this heading by the end of the year despite the services of formal notices requiring property owners to alter closet accommodation to water closets. At the time of this report of 404 premises which could have water closets installed 243 are so provided and 101 of these are the Council's own houses.

A Sub-Committee was set up to deal with the complicated questions arising out of contribution by the Council towards work done by owners under Section 42 and Section 47 of the Act.

(c) Fakenham and Hempton.

After years of delay a contract for £36,874. 0. 0. was obtained by Messrs. F.W. Shanks Limited for Part I of the Fakenham and Hempton Sewerage Scheme. There were thirteen tenders. This involves:-

- (i) modifications to Hall Staithe Pumping Station utilising the existing tank to form a pumping sump and pump chamber and the installation of three electrically driven pumps;
- (ii) a new 9-inch rising main from Hall Staithe via Fakenham West Station to Flagmoor, Pudding Norton; and
- (iii) the construction of a new sewage works at Flagmoor.

Prior to the final permission to proceed being granted, a delegation from the Council and from the East Suffolk and Norfolk River Board had attended the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to state

the urgency of this scheme and numerous samples of the River Wensun and sewage effluent were taken as evidence to support the case.

(d) Blakeney, Wiveton and Morston Scheme

No further progress can be reported on the preliminary stages of this scheme.

(e) Melton Constable

The effluent drain has been improved here but the works are old and overloaded and will require improvement in the foreseeable future.

(f) Sewer Ditches

Ditches at Briston, Sculthorpe and Field Dalling were piped in during the year. Some ditches with good fall lend themselves to this temporary remedy of nuisance, others are better left open to allow for regular removal of sludge.

(g) Fakenham Sewers - Cleansing

A serious blockage of the 12-inch sewer in Star Meadow occurred in February. The Council authorised 350 yards of this sewer to be cleansed by a specialist firm who employed power winches and cables attached to which were conical shaped buckets of varying sizes. Two heaps of debris 5' x 3' x 2' 9" high were removed.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

There has been comment in the local Press recently on the work carried out by the Agricultural Executive Committee whose rat killing services, it has been rumoured, may be withdrawn.

One speaker at a National Farmers' Union meeting has said there was apparent lack of co-operation between different organisations and another said that it often happened that when rats were driven from one place they infested another and then returned to their original haunts.

In this District two ratcatchers are employed and working village by village they treated 1,475 domestic and 196 other premises last year, having made 6,531 inspections of property to decide which needed treatment. At the same time refuse tips receive three treatments yearly and sewers twice yearly treatment.

Charges amounting to £56.11. 3d. were made for treatments to 115 business premises.

This still leaves large areas of land which are not inspected, or treated by the Agricultural Executive Committee or the Council's ratcatchers. To do the job properly a large increase in the number of ratcatchers would have to be made and, to ensure complete treatment of all land, much enforcement of notices at court must be envisaged involving extra administrative costs.

I think the job is worthy of extension for a countrywide coverage but it must be remembered that until every District agrees to co-operate (and this Council is doing its fair share) a really efficient scheme is impossible. Meanwhile residents appear to be satisfied with what is being done and it is rare for requests or complaints not to be dealt with expeditiously.

FOOD.(a) Milk

Walsingham Rural District has now been included in a area wherein only designated milk (that is to say only "pasteurised", "sterilised" or "tuberculin tested" milk) may be sold.

There are twelve registered distributors of milk, two of whom also produce the Tuberculin Tested milk they sell on their own farms premises. One retailer sells milk from local farms which he pasteurised and nine other retailers obtain their designated milk supplies from pasteurising plants outside the district.

One complaint was received of foreign matter discovered in a bottle of milk. Investigations made by the distributor and at the pasteurising plant (not in the District) revealed that this was one of those cases where the "human element" had failed despite the elaborate mechanical precautions taken in producing the milk. I took up the matter with my colleagues in the area where the milk was bottled and was assured of the efficiency usually exercised at the premises concerned.

Thirtyfive samples were taken by the County Council Officers. Three failed the phosphatase test for efficiency of heat treatment and one failed the methylene blue or cleanliness test. Two samples were void.

(b) Food preparing premises

The number of premises under this heading shows little change from last year except there is one less village bakehouse functioning (the common tendency nowadays) and an additional wet-fish shop has opened.

Bakehouses	6	Fish Shops	3
Butcher's Shops	12	Market Stalls	12
Catering		Provision Stores	43
Establishments	12		

Seventyeight premises are registered for the sale of icecream. With the exception of one, the ice-cream sold is of the three well-known proprietary brands and is wrapped. Eighteen samples of ice-cream were taken, nine being classified as Grade I and nine as Grade II, both being acceptable classifications.

(c) Meat Inspection

The following table shows an increase of carcasses inspected, last year's figures being shown in brackets.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemed - For the year ended 1957.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Inspected	365 (295)	17 (16)	655 (488)	551 (584)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis				
Whole Carcasses condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	54 (55)	- (1)	8 (23)	23 (27)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.8%	-	1.2%	4.2%

<u>Tuberculosis Only -</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole Carcases condemned	1 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (1)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9 (11)	1 (-)	- (-)	7 (15)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.7%	5.9%	(-)	1.3%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	6 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Generalised and totally condemned	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Attention is drawn to the incidence of cysticercosis, six affected carcasses being discovered in six months. All were submitted for refrigeration but the high incidence led me to ask the Council to take up the matter with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It was however found impossible to ascertain the source of infection and the Divisional Veterinary Officer could only reiterate the difficulties of tracing the movements of affected animals prior to slaughter and that only adequate inspection could obviate the danger of infection of consumers by infected meat.

Although there is no obligation upon butchers to treat infected meat which they surrender voluntarily the three slaughterhouse owners operating in this area all permit condemned meat to be dyed before removal to knacker's yards.

FACTORIES

(a)	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. Inspected</u>	<u>No. in which defects were found</u>	<u>No. in which defects were remedied by</u>	
				<u>Informal Notice.</u>	<u>Formal Notice</u>
	88	17	5	8	Nil

(b) Means of Escape from Fire

Three certificates on adequacy of means of escape from fire were issued in respect of premises in the District.

STREET NUMBERING.

Street numbering was carried out in the Parish of Field Dalling.

WATER SUPPLIES

Regrouping of Water Undertakings

On 18th January I appeared before the Technical Panel set up by the Norfolk County Council to investigate the needs of the County in the light of the Minister's Circular 52/53 concerning the Regrouping of Water Undertakings.

Details of sources of supply, storage, consumption and means of pumping were provided and I quote the paragraph dealing with:-

Distribution and Consumption

- (a) Acreage of statutory area - 88,818
- (b) Total mileage of existing mains - 72
- (c) Total population in statutory area - Total by census 1951 22,893. Estimated population mid-year 1957 = 24,190.
- (d) Total population supplied - 8,700 (estimated)
- (e) Total average daily consumption - 260,000 gallons.
- (f) Maximum seasonal daily consumption - Ex Gunthorpe Reservoir

<u>May 1956</u>	*	<u>July 1956</u>
358,000		369,000

* (Langham and Stiffkey Camps occupied).

Connections to Main

175 connections of domestic premises and 30 metered supplies have been made in the year, a fall off from last year when the figures were 368 and 41 respectively, but it should be remembered no major extensions to the mains were made during the year.

Fractures to the main occurred at Helhoughton and Fakenham (two cases) Great Snoring, Stiffkey, Walsingham (2) and Langham.

Extensions to the 4-inch Main were made by the manual staff to Egmere Farm and Cottages, a 3-inch supply was made available to the Blakeney Hotel and swimming bath and seven other minor extensions of services to farms or individual houses were similarly completed.

The Blakeney Water Tower was painted.

The Parish Well at Great Snoring was filled in, having been regarded as dangerous by the Parish Council.

Pumping Details

	<u>Total</u> <u>(gallons)</u>	<u>Daily</u> <u>Average(gallons)</u>
Houghton to Gunthorpe - January	7,544,000	243,354
- February	6,695,000	239,107
- March	7,706,000	248,580
- April	8,055,000	268,500
- May	9,147,000	295,064
- June	9,352,000	311,733
- July	8,965,000	289,193
- August	9,704,000	313,032
- September	8,401,000	280,033
- October	8,359,000	269,645
- November	8,018,000	267,266
- December	8,000,000	258,064

	<u>Total</u> <u>(gallons)</u>	<u>Daily</u> <u>Average (gallons)</u>
Gunthorpe Reservoir to Fakenham Tower:		
- January	3,177,000	102,483
- February	2,803,000	100,107
- March	3,217,000	103,774
- April	3,125,000	104,166
- May	3,562,000	114,903
- June	3,727,000	124,233
- July	3,587,000	115,709
- August	3,623,000	116,870
- September	3,527,000	117,566
- October	3,604,000	116,258
- November	3,463,000	115,433
- December	3,502,000	112,967

South Eastern Parishes Contract

Good news was received by the end of the year when this twice postponed scheme was at last authorised; twenty seven tenders were received and that of Messrs. W. Ames of Great Yarmouth for £39,731 was accepted.

Evidence of need submitted to the Ministry showed that of forty-three samples of existing drinking water supplies taken, twenty-eight had been reported as unsatisfactory, or suspicious.

Swanton Novers Extension

This projected extension from the 8-inch main at Briningham involves boosting over the high ridge roughly on the line of the railway and it is estimated the cost of supplying the seventy-eight properties will be £8,000.

Fakenham Waterworks

I reminded the Water Supplies Committee in July that this works had only one pump in action and had been so for four years after the dismantling of the other pump for repairs. I had frequently referred to this position and was authorised to obtain quotations for the supply and installation of a submersible pump.

North Creake Waterworks

Two failures of this pump are reported during the year.

Parish of Kettlestone

Five wells sampled in this parish proved unsatisfactory. A canvass of owners of fortyone properties in the village in October showed all were willing to connect to a main supply if mains were available.

Bulk Supply of Water to Wells U.D.C.

An approach was made by the Wells U.D.C. in February for a bulk supply of 70,000/100,000 g.p.d. with the probability of the U.D.C. supplying Holkham, or alternatively, a 20,000 g.p.d. supply to augment the existing Wells waterworks supply.

I submitted three alternative schemes to make this supply available and the Consultants were asked for a report. To date no progress has been made on this project.

Irrigation Supplies

The first applications received for a supply of water for land irrigation was considered by the Council this year and it was decided not to make the supply available in this particular case in view of the rate of flow demanded per minute and its effect upon the pressure in the mains.

A.H. EAGLE.

Engineer and Surveyor
Senior Public Health Inspector.



