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WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1954

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.



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WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1954.

Area (in acres)				33,115
Population 1951 (census)				12,760
Population, 1954			and house	14,270
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931	(census)			3,558
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1954				4,601
Rateable value, 1954				£62,117
Product of a penny rate				£236
LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	170	95	75	
Illegitimate	12	6	6	
	182	101	81	12.76
	102	101	01	12.70
STILLBIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	2		2	211110
Illegitimate	-			
megiuniate				
	2	_	2	0.14
	_			
	Total	Male	Female	Rate
DEATHS (all causes)	144	76	68	10.09
DETTITO (an eauses)	1-1-1	,,	00	10.05
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—				
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	_	_		
Other puerperal causes	_	_	_	
Total				Nil
INFANT MORTALITY-rate for 1,000 live	births.			
Legitimate	2	_	2	
Illegitimate	_	_	_	
megamate				
	2	-	2	10.98
	-		177	
Deaths from (a) Cancer (all ages)				35
(b) Massles (all ages)			main in	Nil
(a) Whooning Cough (all ages)				Nil
" " (d) Diarrhoea (under 2 years)				2

Wellingborough Rural District Council

Members of the Public Health Committee:

MESSRS. R. GRIGGS (Chairman), D. S. WILSON (Vice-Chairman), REV. L. A. EWART, MESSRS. F. BOULTON, W. T. DRAGE, J. C. HALLIDAY, R. H. PARSONS, T. REYNOLDS, T. P. ROBERTS, R. J. SANDERS, B. A. J. TAYLOR, J. M. THOMPSON.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

also holds appointment of:

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary:

MISS J. PEARSON. .

Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc.:
GEOFFREY HERBERT COWLES, Certified S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN STEPHEN GEE, Final A.L.P.A. (Hsg.Man.), Certified S.I.B., A.R.San.I., A.S.I.A.

(From 1st December, 1954)

Health Department, Swanspool, Wellingborough.

July, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wellingborough Rural District Council:

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JAMES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the area for the year 1954. The vital statistics for the year were as follows: the birth rate 12.76, showed a fall on the previous year when it was 13.29 per 1,000 of population. The number of stillbirths was lower than in 1953 and the rates for the two years were 0.14 and 0.34 respectively. The number of deaths that occurred during the period showed an increase on the figures for 1953 and the rate was 10.09 compared with 8.70 per 1,000 of population. It will be remembered that the death rate in 1953 was the lowest recorded for many years. For the seventh year in succession no maternal deaths occurred, which is very satsifactory. The infant mortality rate for the year 10.98, must be one of the lowest ever recorded which is very pleasing to report. The rate for the previous year was 31.41 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 25.5, which was the loweset rate recorded for the country.

In Section B an account of the Health Services available for the area is given and from it will be seen that the area is well provided for.

Section C deals with the Sanitary Circumstances of the area and it is interesting to note how well the different parishes are catered for with regard to piped water supplies and the disposal of sewage. The sewage disposal schemes for Grendon, Orlingbury, Lt. Harrowden and Gt. Harrowden were proceeded with during the year. The standards in the area must compare very favourably with any other Rural area in the country.

Section D is concerned with Housing and the programme for the year was a very full one. The clearance of unfit properties will figure very largely during the next five years, and consideration will have to be given to the provision of bungalows for old people.

In Section E reference is made to action taken following the de-control of meat. All animals in the area slaughtered for human consumption are inspected. The inspection of meat is an important service in the interest of the health of the community.

Section F is concerned with the prevalence and control of infectious diseases. The two infectious diseases that showed most variation during the year as compared with the previous year were measles and whooping cough. There were no cases of measles notified, compared with 223 cases in 1953. The number of cases of whooping cough showed a considerable increase, 73 being notified compared with 5 in the previous year. The other infectious diseases were small in number and it is pleasing to note that no cases of food poisoning were notified. The vaccination figures for the year were most

disappointing and it is hoped that 1955 will show an improvement in these figures. Smallpox is a serious disease and rears its ugly head in this country from time to time. Prevention is better than cure, and parents would be well advised to protect their children against this disease.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their assistance and encouragement throughout the year. I should also like to thank the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for information supplied for this report, and also to thank Mr. Cowles for his ever ready assistance and co-operation throughout the year. I appreciate the assistance received from the Clerk and Treasurer in matters throughout the period, and finally wish to record the assistance received from Miss Pearson in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA.—The Rural District of Wellingborough covers 33,115 acres and there are 18 parishes in the district. The density of population is 2.3 persons per acre and the housing factor 3.2 persons per house.

POPULATION.—The Registrar-General has estimated the resident population for the mid-year 1954 to have been 14,270. This is 100 below the estimated figure for the previous year. Births outnumbered deaths by 38 during the year.

DEATHS.—144 deaths were recorded during the year. This gives a rate of 10.09 per 1,000 population compared with 8.90 in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 11.3 A Classification of the Causes of Deaths will be found in Table No. 1, page 22. From this table it will be seen that once again diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System was the greatest cause of death. The number of deaths from Cancer showed a marked increase, while for the second year in succession no deaths from Tuberculosis occurred. With regard to deaths from Cancer, it must be remembered that at the present time there are so many more persons in the older age groups, the number of cases are bound to show an increase, unless medical science in the future can find some preventive measure.

BIRTHS.—182 (101 male and 81 female) births were recorded, which gives a rate of 12.76 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 13.29. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 15.2.

STILLBIRTHS.—Two stillbirths were recorded. This gives a rate of 0.14 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.34 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 0.36.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.—12 Illegitimate births were recorded compared with 7 in the previous year. The rates for the two years were: 1954, 0.84 per 1,000 of population; and 1953, 0.48.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—For the seventh year in succession no maternal deaths occurred, which is a very satisfactory record.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Two infant deaths occurred during the period. This gives a rate of 10.98 per 1,000 live births. In the previous year six deaths occurred which gave a rate of 31.41. The rate for 1954 must be the lowest recorded rate for very many years, which is a very satisfactory state of affairs. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 25.5.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.—The two infant deaths were in this subdivision of the Infant Mortality rate, which concerns infant deaths within 28 days of independent existence. The rate for the year was 10.98 compared with 31.41 for the previous year. Further information concerning infant mortality will be found in Table No. 10, page 28.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY SERVICES.—Facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton, and the Laboratory at the Kettering General Hospital, for the examination of specimens in connection with cases of infectious and communicable diseases. The Laboratory at Northampton also examines samples of water, milk and ice-cream.

The assistance received from Dr. Hoyle and Dr. Voss during the year was much appreciated.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.—The incidence of Diphtheria continues to fall. No request for anti-toxin was received. It is interesting to note the dramatic fall in this disease brought about by preventive measures. The figures for 1945 compared with those for 1954 give a clear picture of the situation.

They were as follows:

Year	Deaths	Corrected Notifications
1945	722	18,596
1954	9 (provisional)	182 (provisional)

The deaths include 'late effects', i.e., those occurring more than a year after the acute episode.

Supplies of anti-toxin are kept at the following places:

Wellingborough Hospital Northampton General Hospital Rushden House Sanatorium Kettering General Hospital

The Oxford Regional Hospital Board are responsible for this supply.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.—This has been provided on an agency basis by St. John Ambulance Brigade, acting for the County Council. The Rural area is covered by two stations, one at Church Street, Wellingborough, and a second at Finedon.

In view of the increasing demands on the ambulance service, it has been found necessary to install radio-control, and this means a full time service. The County Council will be taking over early in 1955 and a new depot at Wellingborough should be operating early in the year.

NURSING IN THE HOME, HOME HELPS.—These services are provided by the County Council and details concerning the area will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer. Every effort is made to provide Home Helps in suitable cases and arrangements are made by the County Medical Officer through the Health Visitor or District Nurse.

HOSPITALS.—The Oxford Regional Hospital Board covers the area and hospital accommodation is as follows:

General Hospitals-Northampton and Kettering.

Wellingborough.-Wellingborough Hospital and Highfield Hospital.

Wellingborough Park Hospital—Chronic Sick, the aged, and old persons in need of care and attention.

The Park Hospital also has a maternity block.

For old folk there is accommodation also at Oundle and St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering.

Rushden—The Rushden House Sanatorium provides accommodation for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The Hayway Hospital, Rushden, provides out-patient clinics as follows:

Gynaecological 1st and 3rd Monday morning.

2nd and 4th Tuesday morning.

Medical 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday afternoon.

Surgical 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon.

2nd, 4th and 5th Friday morning.

E.N.T. 2nd and 3rd Wednesday morning.

1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday afternoon.

Eyes 1st and 3rd Thursday morning.

Orthoptist Every Thursday morning and afternoon.

Urological 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon.

Physiotherapy Monday afternoon.

Psychiatric Every Friday afternoon.

Skin 2nd and 4th Saturday morning.
Paediatric Every Wednesday morning.

From the above it will be seen that the area is well covered.

The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, deals with cases of infectious diseases from the area. Such cases are removed by a Northampton branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade attached to the Hospital and working for the County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.—Infant Welfare Centres are held in the following Villages:

Bozeat-4th Wednesday of each month, Church Hall.

Wollaston-1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, Parochial Rooms.

Earls Barton—2nd and 4th Friday of each month, Baptist School Rooms.

Irchester—1st and 3rd Friday of each month, Parson's Hall.

These Centres are run by the County Council. A Doctor is in attendance at each Clinic once a month. Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is carried out at these Centres.

OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENTS AND CLINICS.—Ante-natal and Post-natal:

Wellingborough, Oxford Street-Monday afternoons, Thursday mornings.

Rushden, Queen Street-Thursday mornings.

Northampton County Buildings-Monday morning, Wednesday morning.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—No cases were removed under Section 47 of this Act during the year. A number of visits to old folks living on their own were made during the year and the necessary action taken to help in certain instances. The problem of old persons living on their own in unfit houses is one that will have to be dealt with in the future. Suitable accommodation for re-housing will have to be considered.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.—All of the 18 parishes in the Rural area have a piped water supply. This is a very satisfactory situation. A safe water supply is essential in the interest of the health of the community. Shallow wells, if not under constant supervision, can be a dangerous source especially as they tap subsoil water and contamination of the ground in the vicinity may give rise to pollution of water in the well. The Rural area is supplied by two Water Boards. The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board supplies the following parishes:

Hardwick, Lt. Harrowden, Gt. Harrowden, Isham, Orlingbury and Sywell.

There has been no alteration in the sources of supply which are as follows: Impounding reservoir at Hardwick; boreholes with collecting trench and deep well at Orlingbury; wells at Bushfield and a supply of treated water from Corby. Work continues on the new reservoirs at Pitsford and these parishes will eventually receive their supply from this source. The present sources should not be disregarded when this occurs, but kept in reserve in case of emergency in times of drought. Water is treated at Bushfield where it is softened, filtered and chlorinated.

The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board supplies the following parishes: Bozeat, Wollaston, Easton Maudit, Strixton, Gt. Doddington, Earls Barton, Ecton, Mears Ashby, Wilby Grendon, Irchester and Lt. Irchester.

Newton Bromswold has a treated supply from the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District. The Board have an arrangement with the authority for the provision of this supply.

The sources of supply are Sywell reservoir, which is dependent on springs and surface water from the catchment area, and the river gravel wells at Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston. Further sources of supply are being sought by the Board and trials have been carried out at Ditchford Mills where there is a large expanse of water from old quarry workings. The Nene Valley is rich in gravel wells and further wells in the vicinity of Hardwater Crossing works should be available.

TREATMENT.—At Sywell the method adopted is filtration by means of three slow sand filters and then the water is chlorinated. At Wollaston treatment consists of mechanical filtration and then chlorination.

The Earls Barton supply is derived from a well sunk in the Nene river gravels and springs at Debdale. The water is not filtered but is chlorinated. Grendon receives its supply from springs situated near the village. The water is not filtered but is chlorinated.

QUALITY OF WATER.—A chemical analysis of a sample of water labelled 'Rushden, Newton Road Depôt' and examined on the 29th March, 1954, gave the following results:

Physical	characters	 	 	Good
Reaction		 	 	PH 7.2

Some of the ingredients contained in sample were:

				P	arts per 10	0,000
Calcium			 	 	9.9	
Magnesium				 	1.2	
Alkalinity			 	 	18.8	
Total Hardne			 	 	25.5	
Permanent H	ardn	ess	 	 	12.9	
Temporary F	Hardr	iess	 	 	12.6	

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.—Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

REMARKS.—The results obtained on the analysis of this sample indicate a fairly hard water, slightly contaminated with organic matter, though practically free from bacterial contamination. This water as evidence by the sample is safe for drinking purposes.

Table No. 13 gives the results of samples taken in the area. The results were satisfactory. Further samples were taken by the Mid-Northamptonshire Board in areas for which they are responsible.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—The situation in the area is as follows:

BOZEAT—This parish has a modern sewage disposal works which is functioning satisfactorily.

WILBY.—Sewage from this village is carried to the Wellingborough Urban Sewers.

ISHAM.—The outfall sewer is taken to the Kettering Borough disposal works which is in the vicinity.

ORLINGBURY, LT. HARROWDEN AND GT. HARROWDEN.— Work on a sewage disposal scheme for these parishes continued during the year.

GRENDON.—It is pleasing to report that the laying of sewers and work on the sewage disposal works for the village commenced during the period.

WOLLASTON AND SYWELL have modern works which are functioning satisfactorily.

MEARS ASHBY AND ECTON have small disposal plants which are capable of dealing satisfactorily with the sewage from these parishes.

EARLS BARTON.—The method adopted for sewage disposal is land irrigation. It is not satisfactory and the consultant engineers have been requested to prepare a scheme for a new disposal plant. Considerable work has been carried out in the district on sewage disposal, and so each parish has to wait its turn.

IRCHESTER.—Land irrigation is the method adopted here also. These works are not altogther satisfactory and will require alteration in the future.

As will be realised, the task of supervising all these works with the labour force available, is not easy, but all modern works require constant supervision and maintenance.

SWIMMING BATHS.—Two open-air swimming pools are situated in the area. Wilby Lido is used by school children in organised parties. This is arranged by the Education Committee of the County Council. The water is filtered and chlorinated and changed over at three hourly intervals. Samples taken for bacteriological examination during the season were satisfactory.

Water in the pool at Overstone is also filtered and chlorinated. Break point chlorination is the method used. Samples taken from this pool were also satisfactory.

DISINFECTION.—22 rooms were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases. Articles of clothing, bedding, etc., requiring disinfection can be done by arrangement with Rushden U.D.C. where a steam disinfection plant is available.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Two cases were dealt with during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.—41 premises were dealt with during the year.

HYDROGEN CYANIDE (FUMIGATION OF BUILDINGS) REGU-LATIONS, 1951.—Three visits were made to a local Flour Mill prior to fumigation and the necessary certificates supplied in accordance with the above regulations.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The scheme for the collection of refuse from the parishes is as follows:

Parish	arish Day							
Bozeat				Tuesday	. Ircheste			
Doddington, Great				Wednesday	Ircheste			
Earls Barton				Thursday and Friday	. Irchester			
Easton Maudit				Monday	. Irchester			
Ecton				Wadaadaa	. Ircheste			
Grendon				Tuesday	. Ircheste			
Hardwick				Wadaasday	. Ircheste			
Harrowden, Great				Wadnasday	. Ircheste			
Harrowden, Little				Thursday	. Irchester			
Irchester				Manday and Wadnesday	. Irchester			
Isham				Mandan	. Irchester			
Mears Ashby				Manday	. Irchester			
Newton Bromswold				Altamata Wadnasdays	. Irchester			
Orlingbury				Thomaster	. Irchester			
Carloton				The state of the s	. Irchester			
Consult				Olada and an	. Irchester			
MUSIC.				Thursday	Inchasta			
Wallaston			**	The state of the s	Irohasta			
Wollaston	* *			Tucsday	. Ircheste			

Refuse from the Rural area is brought to the Wellingborough Urban Tip by arrangement between the two authorities. Gipsy Lane No. 2 tip was commenced during the period. Controlled tipping is carried out. Routine spraying of tip in the fly season and treatment for destruction of rats is carried out by the Rodent Operator.

In September a fly nuisance at Irchester was reported. On investigation, it was found that fly breeding on a large scale was taking place on No. 2 tip. This was immediately treated and houses involved sprayed. The nuisance was quickly abated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, S. 269.—
There are three licensed sites for caravans in the area, two at Wilby and one at Overstone. At Overstone they are mostly chalets used in summer only. At Wilby the caravans and huts are used as permanent dwellings. Caravans are not, in my opinion, suitable for permanent dwellings, especially for children. It may be necessary to live in a caravan while waiting for a house, but the use as a permanent home should not be encouraged.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

In 1954, eighty-six houses were constructed, which is an increase of fifteen on the previous year. All these houses were of the traditional type. At the end of the year 599 houses had been approved by the Ministry and of these 545 completed and the remaining 54 houses were under construction. Apart from 20 Swedish and 20 Airey houses, all the post war houses are traditional. Forty-eight houses were approved by the Ministry during the year and these were allocated to the different parishes as follows:

Bozeat 20; Irchester 12; Orlingbury 6; Wollaston 6; Earls Barton 4.

The acquisition of a site at Bozeat following protracted negotiations meant a start could be made on a new Housing Estate towards the end of 1954. Contracts were placed both for the construction of roads and sewers and the erection of houses. This has enabled a two year lapse of building in the village to be made up.

The provision of a water carriage sewage disposal system at Orlingbury has meant that building on an old site in the village could be carried out.

The release of licences for private building did not produce the increase in the building of private houses expected, but towards the end of the year there were indications that the construction of houses by private enterprise was beginning to gain momentum. During the year 39 private houses were constructed.

There was, however, during the period, a marked increase in the number of enquiries regarding Improvement Grants. Thirteen definite applications were received and of these two were refused. The remaining eleven were approved and during the year works completed on five.

At the end of the year only one family remained at the Newton Bromswold camp and this family had been assured that alternative accommodation would be provided early in 1955. At the time of writing this report, the camp is now clear and huts demolished.

At the end of the year there were 375 applicants for Council houses. This is 47 more than at the end of 1953. Of the 375 applicants, 210 were in houses and 165 in rooms. During the year tenancies of Council houses have been granted to quite a number of families living in sub-standard property. On re-housing, steps have been taken to either close the house by a Closing Order, under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, or by a Demolition Order, under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. These Orders have enabled the Council to make a start on the Slum Clearance programme which the Ministry require to be drawn up and submitted in 1955.

It is of interest that in two cases where Closing Orders had been made, the owners later put forward schemes for general reconditioning and improvement, and the Council gave approval for Improvement Grants for the work.

Three new types of houses were approved for erection by the Council during the year and it is pleasing to note that the prices for these houses dropped slightly compared with figures for 1953. The Council have given consideration to the acquisition of new sites for houses ready for the Slum Clearance Programme, and at the same time have borne in mind the possibility of re-developing sites where property will eventually be demolished.

	Houses	Persons Displaced
Demoltion and Closing Orders Housing Act, 1936.—Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec- tion 11	17	5
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	58	162
Repairs Informal Action	Nu	mber of Houses
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit du the period as a result of informal action by the authority under the Public Health or Housing	local	15
Housing Act, 1936. Number of houses made fit a service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11, and		
(a) by owners		6
(b) by local authority in default of owners		nil

It will be seen from this chapter that the Council have been very active during the year under review and that a start has been made upon the big problem of unfit properites. It must always be remembered the potential danger to health that exists when persons live in unfit premises. It is amazing the amount of chronic ill health that is encountered when carrying out a housing survey, and one wonders how much of this can be attributed directly to bad housing conditions.

under Section 10 of the Local Government (Macchangous Pravisional

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLIES.—The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the control and supervision of Milk production. The County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, is responsible for the issue of licences to pasteurise milk. Sampling of milk from producers is carried out by inspectors of the Ministry and pasteurised milk by officials of the County Council. The Rural District Council is responsible for the supervision of the distribution side and I have expressed the opinion before that samples of milk in the area should be taken for examination. Now that an additional Sanitary Inspector has been appointed, it may be possible to carry out this suggestion.

FOOD PREMISES.—Routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year by the Sanitary Inspector. The following is a list of some of the inspections made:

Visits to	Slaughterhouses	 	 104
Visits to	Butchers' shops	 	 36
Visits to	Bakehouses	 	 12
			152

MEAT INSPECTION.—The following animals slaughtered were inspected since de-rationing:

Pigs	Sheep	Beasts
132	201	84

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:

Meat 2,013 lbs.
Tinned and other foods 302 lbs.

LIVESTOCK (RESTRICTION ON SLAUGHTERING) ORDER, 1940. -Up to the 5th July, 1954, the area was supplied by the Rushden Abattoir where beasts for human consumption were slaughtered. The Slaughterhouse Act received the Royal Assent on the 5th July, and came into operation forthwith. Following the de-control of meat and livestock, it was the duty of local authorities to see that adequate slaughtering facilities were available in their areas. Prior to the coming into force of the de-control of meat a conference was held at which members of the local authority met representatives of the Master Butchers' Association, the N.F.U., and local butchers, to discuss the problem. No scheme was put forward, but the general feeling was to open private slaughterhouses if possible. When the Government announced its decision to de-control meat, it reaffirmed its intentions to bring about a moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities throughout the country. In the interim period, as it was the duty of the local authority to review its slaughtering requirements for the area, a survey of the area was carried out. No statutory standards relating to structure, design or facilities to be provided were laid down by the Minister, but it was stated that local authorities should have regard to the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, when granting a licence to a private slaughterhouse. Also, any bye-laws relating to Sanitary Conditions, and the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, for the prevention of cruelty, should be exposed. The results of the survey showed three premises were fit to be used as Slaughterhouses and during the period three licences were issued.

Table No. 12, page 30, gives a summary of inspections and visits made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SMALLPOX.-No cases occurred.

VACCINATION.—The Vaccination figures for 1954 were as follows:

U	nder 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 years or over	Total
Primary	48	1	3	4	1	57
Re-vaccination	_	-	-	-	2	2
						59

For comparison purposes the figures for 1953 were:

Un	Under 1		2-4	5-14	15 years	Total
					or over	
Primary	50	1	10	8	7	76
Re-vaccination	_	-	3	2	11	16
						92

The vaccination figures for the year were most unsatisfactory and showed a considerable fall on the previous year. The figures in the previous years had showed some improvement and so it is even more disappointing to record this decline in 1954. Every effort should be made to encourage parents to have their babies vaccinated as primary vaccination should if possible, be carried out at about the third month.

SCARLET FEVER.—8 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with 9 in the previous year. Three cases were removed to hospital. Further information concerning ages, monthly incidence and parishes where cases occurred will be found in Tables Nos. 6, 7, and 8.

DIPHTHERIA.—It is now 8 years since a case of Diphtheria was notified in the area.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—The following table shows the number of children in the different age groups who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1954. :

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. born in year	1	1				5 to 9 1945-1949	10 to 14 1940-1944	Total under 15
Number Immunised	16	123	130	129	135	757	671	1,961

The following number of immunisations were carried out at the different centres during the year:

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total	Booster
51	31	16	6	7	25	5	141	183

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.—A combined inoculation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is now widely used and the following table gives the number of combined inoculations and inoculations against Whooping Cough only carried out during the year:

Unde	r 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Combined								
Diphtheria/Pertussis	68	33	24	4	3	9	_	141
Whooping Cough only	16	4	2	-	1	2	_	25

The combined inoculation is useful in affording protection against these two diseases. Whooping Cough is more familiar to young mothers who have never come across a case of Diphtheria and thus the Whooping Cough protection assists in the campaign against Diphtheria.

WHOOPING COUGH.—75 cases of Whooping Cough were notified compared with 5 in the previous year. Whooping Cough besides being a distressing disease, can be quite serious, especially in infants. From Table No. 9 it will be seen that a number of cases did occur in infants. Parents would be well advised to seek inoculation against this disease also.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—No cases were reported. There were no cases in the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS.—The area has now been free from this disease for three years.

INFLUENZA.—One death was recorded from this cause compared with three in the previous year.

PNEUMONIA.—Nine cases were notified compared with six in the previous year. Seven deaths were recorded giving pneumonia as one of the causes. There were eight in the previous year.

ERYSIPELAS.—Two cases were notified. There was one in the previous year.

MEASLES.—No cases were notified during the period. There were 223 in the previous year.

DYSENTERY.—Three cases occurred. There were also three cases in the previous year.

FOOD POISONING.—No case occurred. There was one case in the previous year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No cases were notified.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID.—It is three years since a case occurred in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Seven new cases of Tuberculosis were notified compared with thirteen in the previous year. All seven cases were in males and were pulmonary tuberculosis. For the second year in succession there were no deaths from this disease. Table No. 5 gives information concerning new cases and Table No. 2 gives records of deaths from selected causes dating back to 1946.

Twelve persons from the area were admitted to the Rushden Sanatorium and eleven discharged during the year.

At the end of the year there were 85 persons on the Tuberculosis register:

Pulmonary Non-Pulmonary	 	 Males 45 3	Females 28 9	73 12
		48	37	85

After-Care Committees in the area carry out excellent work in connection with persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

SECTION G.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Form 572 (Revised) has been abridged and will be found as Table No. 14 on page 32. From this it will be seen that there are 53 factories on the register which is three more than last year. Twenty-seven inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year and six written notices served. There were 96 outworkers in the area which is 45 more than last year.

No action was necessary in respect of Homework carried out by outworkers in the Rural Area (Sections 110 and 111). With regard to factories where mechanical power is not used, no serious complaints were received concerning cleanliness, numbers employed, temperature, ventilation, or drainage of floors.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1954.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	_	10 2011	_
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	_	-
3.	Syphilitics disease		-	_
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	_
5.	Whooping Cough		-	
6	Meningococcal infections	_		
7.	Acute poliomyelitis		_	_
8.	Measles	_	_	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	_		
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	1	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	5	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus		_	_
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic			
	neoplasms	13	4	17
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	_		_
6.	Diabetes	2		2
7.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	11	19
18.	Coronary disease, angina	8	14	22
19.	Hypertension with heart disease		1	1
20.	Other heart diseases	11	13	24
21.	Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
22.	Influenza	1	_	1
23.	Pneumonia	3	4	7
24.	Bronchitis	3	1	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	_	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3		3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	_	2	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1		1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		_	_
31.	Congenial malformations		1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	5	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	_	1
34	All other accidents	1	2	3
35.	Suicide	1		1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	_	_	_
-0.	Trometor and operations of war			
	ALL CAUSES	76	68	144

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES

TABLE No. 2.

Year	No Pulmo Tubero	nary	Pulmo Tubero	Control of the Contro	Car	ncer	Disea Hear Blood V	t and	Pneu and Respi	nchitis monia l other iratory iseases
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	.15	5	.39	22	1.75	61	4.86	20	1.59
1947	2	.16	3	.23	25	1.96	93	7.31	17	1.33
1948	-	_	5	.39	19	1.48	87	6.81	13	1.01
1949	_	_	3	.23	16	1.23	89	6.86	22	1.69
1950	2	.15	4	.30	29	2.18	89	6.71	18	1.35
1951	_	_	3	.23	22	1.69	75	5.76	29	2.23
1952	3	.23	3	.23	24	1.69	101	7.76	9	0.69
1953	_	_	_	_	15	1.04	75	5.21	9	0.62
1954	-	_	_	_	35	2.45	68	4.76	12	0.84

COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH

TABLE No. 3.

	Stillbirths	per 1,000		
Year	Population of all ages	Total Births live and still.	Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
1946	.39	22.32	105.02	1027
1947	.39	22.02	58.55	1055
1948	.54	30.56	72.07	947
1949	.38	23.80	51.28	1029
1950	.15	10.81	32.78	1033
1951	.69	48.38	39.54	1082
1952	.15	10.36	47.12	1122
1953	.34	25.51	36.64	989
1954	.14	10.86	65.93	1246

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954 AND PREVIOUS YEARS TABLE No. 4.

				Deaths								
	Estimated.		Births	U	nder 1 year	All ages						
Year	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000					
1946	12,530	219	17.47	15	68.49	152	12.13					
1947	12,720	222	17.45	7	31.49	189	14.85					
1948	12,760	222	. 17.39	13	58.55	153	11.99					
1949	12,960	205	15.81	8	39.02	172	13.27					
1950	13,250	183	13.81	7	38.25	170	12.83					
1951	13,000	177	13.61	7	39.54	186	14.30					
1952	13,000	191	14.69	3	15.18	174	13.38					
1953	14,370	191	13.29	6	31.45	128	8.90					
1954	14,270	182	12.76	2	10.98	144	10.09					

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1954.

TABLE No. 5.

	1	New C	Cases			De	aths				
Age	Respi	ratory	Non-res	spiratory	Resp	iratory	Non-respirator				
Periods	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male			
-1	_	_	-			_	_	_			
— 5	_	-	_	_	_	-	-	-			
—15	_		-	_	_	_	_	-1-			
-25	3	-	_	_	_	-	_	-			
—35	2	_	-	_	_	_	_	(91-			
-45	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	-			
—55	2	_	_	10 44		_	_				
-65	_	-	-	100 TO	-	-	_	-			
65+	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_			
TOTALS	7		_	_	-	_	_	-			

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1954.

TABLE No. 6.

Disease	21-	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever		 -	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	8
Pneumonia		 -	-	3	2	-	-	-	_	-	1	-	3	9
Measles		 -	-	-	_	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	-	
Whooping Cough		 1	-	4	3	1	1	9	8	5	1	25	15	73
Erysipelas		 -	_	-	-	_	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia		 -	-	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diptheria		 -	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	-	
Dysentery		 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	2	3
Food Poisoning		 	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_	
Typhoid		 -	_	_	-	-	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	_
Poliomyelitis		 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonator	um	 -	-	_	-	-	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	=
TOTAL		 1	1	7	6	2	1	10	10	7	2	26	22	95

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1954.

TABLE No. 7.

Disease	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	1	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	_	8	3	_
Pneumonia	F	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	9	-	7
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	2	1	5	10	43	1	-	1	1	-	1	73	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	_	_	_	_		-	_	_	_	_	_		_	
Typhoid	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	_	_
Para-typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-
Poliomyelitis	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
TOTAL	8	3	2	8	11	47	3	-	5	3	4	1	95	3	7

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis)

IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES, 1954

TABLE No. 8.

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Food	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Para-typhoid	Malaria	TOTAL
Bozeat	. 2	1	-	5	1	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	9
Doddington, Great .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	=
Earls Barton	. 2	-	-	9	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	11
Easton Maudit	. 1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ecton	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grendon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	1
Hardwick	. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Harrowden, Great .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		_	_	=
Harrowden, Little .	. 1	-	-	16	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Irchester	-	1	-	6	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Irchester, Little	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	_	-	_	_	_	_	_
Isham	. -	2	-		1	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	3
Mears Ashby		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
Newton Bromswold .	. -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	717	1	-	-	-	1
Orlingbury	. -	-	-	3	-	_	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Strixton	. -	7.7	-	2	-	-	-	_	-	_	-	_	_	2
Sywell	. -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	=	-	_	_	_
Wilby		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A TOO	-	-	-	-	_
Wollaston	. 1	4	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	35
TOTALS	. 8	9	-	73	2	-	-	_	_	3	_	_	-	95

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

TABLE No. 9.

	Mea	sles	Whoopin	g Cough
Age Periods	Males	Females	Males	Females
—6 months		1-	2	1
—12 months	_	-	4	1
—18 months	_	-	-	-
—2 years	_	_	_	2
—2½ years	_	-	-	_
—3 years		-	1	-
—4 years		_	3	2
—5 years		-	5	5
—10 years		_	24	19
—15 years		_	_	1
15 years+	_			3
ALL AGES	_	_	39	34
Totals	Ni	1	73	

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

TABLE No. 10.

	Age in weeks							
Cause of Death	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	Total		
Whooping Cough	_	_	_	_	_	-		
Tuberculous diseases	_	_	_	-	_	_		
Measles	_		-	_	_	_		
Convulsions	_	_	_	_	_	_		
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1	_	-	_	-	1		
Enteritis and Diarrhoea	_	-	_	-	-	-		
Congenial Malformations	-	_	-	_	-	-		
Premature Birth	1	_	_	_		1		
Injury at Birth	_	_	_	_	_	_		
Asphyxia and Atelectasis	-	_	_	_	_	100		
Congenital Debility	_	_	_	_	_	-		
Haemolytic Disease	_	-	-	_	_			
Other Causes	_	_	_	_	_	_		
TOTALS	2	_		_	_	2		

HOUSING PROGRAMME UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1954

PWS.						
A	DI	17	N	0	-1	1
TA	DL	E.	14	v.	- 4	A.

1.	Nun	nber of houses p Ministry of Hea		ere	ected :	as appr	oved	by the	599
2.	(a)	Number of sites plans have been				-			36
	(b)	Number of hous	es contained in	a su	ch ap	proved	lay-ou	its	599
3.	Supe	paragraph 4 of the Joint Comm	the Standards						
	(a)	Non-parlour	2 bedrooms	I	type	square	feet		800
		types.	3 bedrooms		99	,,	25		868
			3 bedrooms		**	,,	,,		872
			3 bedrooms		,,	,,	"		952
			3 bedrooms 3 bedrooms		"	"	**	10	965 972
			3 bedrooms		22	"	"	liki yu	946
		Terr transcellar 14.5	3 bedrooms		"	"	"		937
		19		G	"	"	,,		914
				F	,,	- ,,	,,		912
				D	,,	"	"		850
	(b)	Parlour type		В	"	,,,	**		900
			Duplex	E	"	"	"		903
4.	(a) (b)	Number of hous Number of hous							62
	(0)	obtained	·· ··			d prices		· ·	537
5.	Nun	nber of houses th	e erection of v	whic	h hav	e begur		9 2.2	599
Ter	npor	ary Accommodati	on.						
1.	(a)	Have your Auth fabricated house					-	y pre-	No
	(b)	Number of sites	secured.		1				
2.	Loca	al Authority's site	preparation:	_	1				
	(a)	Tenders invited	?						
	(b)	Tenders accepte	d ?						
		Works begun?			1	Not	appl	icable.	
		Sites completed	?				-FF		
3.		nber of houses in		h .					
	(a)	Assembly has be							
		Assembly has be			1				
	(b)	Assembly has be	en completed.		17.77				

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Number of visits and inspections				1,438
Slaughterhouses on Register				3
Number of Slaughtermen Licensed				15
Visits to Slaughterhouses				104
Visits to Butchers' Shops				36
Number of Bakehouses				12
Visits to Bakehouses				12
Food condemned as unfit for human cons	umption		2	2,315 lbs.
Premises Licensed to sell Ice Cream				43
Licences issued under Milk (Special Desig	nation) Ord	ers, 1949		9
Blocked Sewers and Drains				26
Insanitary drainage				10
Defective ventilating shafts				. 2
Insanitary ditches				3
Cesspools cleansed				42
Insanitary Closet accommodation				5
Insanitary Ashbins				2
Offensive Accumulations				1
Smoke and dust nuisance				6
Rat infested premises				41
Premises infested with bugs, etc				2
Animals kept as to be a nuisance				1
Nuisanas from defeats in houses .				
Nuisances from defects in houses :-				
Defective roofs				-
Defeative navina				1
D				3
Defeative deers and windows				7
Diagtor to remain				3
Damp and defective floors				6
Damp and defective walls				1
Defective eaves guttering				3
Defective sinks and wastes				2
Dangerous chimneys				1
Manhole covers				1
· ·	To the same of			141
Notifications of Infectious Diseases				22
Number of rooms fumigated				22
Number of rooms fumigated Samples of water taken				8
List of Outworkers				4
Licences for sites for moveable dwellings				2

SUMMARY OF RESULT OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

TABLE No. 13.

Parish				RESULT	r	
		No. of Samples	Very Satis-	Satis-	Sus-	Unsatis-
w Sa submitted		taken	factory	factory	picious	factory
Bozeat		7	6	_	1	-
Doddington, Great		5	5	-	_	
Earls Barton		14	13	1	-	_
Easton Maudit		_	-	_		-
Ecton		8	7	-	-	1
Grendon		8	8	_	-	
Hardwick		1	1	_	_	
Harrowden, Great		1	1	_	_	-
Harrowden Little		2	2	-	-	_
Irchester and Little Irche	ester	12	12	_	-	_
Isham		2	2	_	_	_
Mears Ashby		6	6	_		
Newton Bromswold		2	2	_ 10	-	1019_01
Orlingbury		1	1	_		_
Strixton		1	1	_	_	_
Sywell		1	1	_		-
Wilby		3	3		-	_
Wollaston		9	9	_		
Wilby Swimming Pool		4	4	_	_	_
Sywell Swimming Pool		4	4	_	1	_
From Sources :			0.00			
Sywell		16	15	_	_	1R
Wollaston		24	22	1	_	1
Grendon Pumping Sta		4	4			
Earls Barton		14	13	1	_	_
Zaris Barton		**	10	•		
TOTALS		149	142	3	1	3

R = Reservoir.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 for the year 1954.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

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

			Num	ber of	
Premises		Number on Register	Inspections		Occupiers prosecutea
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	2	1	
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local		Mary Salai	naban)	
(iii)	Aurthority	48	25	5	-
	enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers' premises)	1	_	-	_
	Total	53	27	6	1107

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

18	No. of c	ases in whic	h defects w	ere found	No. of
Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M.	erred By H.M. Inspector	cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	N = N 1	-		-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	_	-	_	_	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	_	_	-	_	
Inadequate ventilation S.4.)	_	-	-		-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	_	_	-	_	-
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	_	3	_
(c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	_	. –	_	_	_
Тотац	6	6	_	.3	

TABLE No. 14—continued.

PART VIII. OF THE ACT—OUTWORK.

		Section 1	10	5	Section 111			
Nature of Work	No. of out- workers in August list re- quired by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council	No. of to prosecu- tions for failure supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions		
Wearing apparel—								
Making, etc	45	_	_	_	_	-		
Cleaning & washing	_	_	_	_	_	_		
Box Making	1	_	_	_	_	_		
Curtains & Furniture		**						
hangings	1	_	-	-	_	_		
Furniture & Upholstery	7	_	-	-	_	-		
Carding, etc., of								
Buttons, etc	42	_	-	-	_	-		
TOTAL	96	_	_	_	_	_		

Considerable femiliaries and a







