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Wellingborough (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1950

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WELLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1950

with the annual report of

A. J. STROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

SWANSPOL,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

WELLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT



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WELLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT
Year 1900

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Wellingborough Urban District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1950.

Area (in acres)	8,738
Population, 1931 (census)	25,321
" 1950	28,290
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census) ...	5,396
" " " " " " 1950	8,415
Rateable value, 1950	£158,698
Product of a penny rate	£613 6/6

Live Births.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate					404	215	189	
Illegitimate					17	9	8	
					421	224	197	14.88

Stillbirths.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate					11	7	4	
Illegitimate					1	—	1	
					12	7	5	0.42

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)					381	187	194	13.46

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—rate per 1,000

Total (Live and Still) Births								
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis								Nil
Other puerperal causes								Nil

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	14	3	11	34.65
Illegitimate	1	—	1	58.82
Total	15	3	12	35.62

Deaths from (a) Cancer (all ages)				68
" " (b) Measles (all ages)				1
" " (c) Whooping Cough (all ages)				nil.
" " (d) Diarrhoea (under 2 years)				nil.

Wellingborough Urban District Council

Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee :

MESSRS. H. C. L. WARWICK, C.C. (*Chairman*), R. D. PATERSON, J.P.,
(*Vice-Chairman*), C. A. HEARN, E. H. HEARNDEN, C.C., MISS E. A.
HORN, MESSRS. P. S. JAMES, A. L. LANGHAM, J. LEA, J.P., C.A.,
A. J. MAYES, F. MUNDAY, H. S. TEESDALE.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

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

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District Council.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc. :

A. J. STROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Certified Inspector of Meat
and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

D. B. HOPKINS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Certified Inspector of Meat
and other Foods.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wellingborough Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS HORN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Wellingborough for the year 1950.

The Vital Statistics for the year were as follows:—Birth Rate 14.88, which shows a fall on the rate for the previous year which was 16.17. The Rate continues to show a fall since the peak year of 1947 when the Rate was 22.68. Death Rate was 13.46 compared with 12.97 for the previous year and is slightly higher than the Rates recorded since 1946. The Infant Mortality Rate was 35.62 per thousand Live Births, which is higher than the Rate for the previous year, which was 32.89. During the last three years 15 Infant Deaths have occurred each year, but due to the fact that the number of Live Births in 1948 and 1949 outnumbered those in 1950, the 1950 Infant Mortality Rate is higher. A table showing the comparison between the Vital Statistics for Wellingborough and towns of similar size and those for England and Wales will be found in the Report.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the exception of Measles, maintained a satisfactory low level. A small outbreak of Measles occurred during the year, 343 cases being notified. It is pleasing to report that no cases of Food Poisoning occurred during the year. The number of cases of Tuberculosis showed a slight fall and there was one death less from this disease. This is the fourth successive year in which no case of Diphtheria has occurred in the area. Although this is a very satisfactory state of affairs it is sincerely hoped that parents will continue to avail of the opportunity of having their children protected against this disease and not become complacent. Diphtheria still occurs in sporadic form throughout the country and every year young lives are forfeited. The vaccination figures showed some sign of improvement and it is hoped that in the future parents will have their children protected against Smallpox which is a disfiguring and deadly disease.

The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board took over the supply of the town on the 1st October, 1950 from the Wellingborough Urban District Council. In the past, water investigations had always been carried out accompanied by the Surveyor, but now with the change and the fact that the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board is a big concern, liaison is not quite so close. The taking of routine water samples in the area is, in my opinion, of paramount importance. It was not possible to obtain copies of samples taken by the Board and so, it has been found necessary to carry out our own routine sampling, and inform the Board of any unsatisfactory results. So far this has worked out successfully.

An interesting Mosquito Survey of the area was carried out during the year, and a report on the findings made. The data obtained from this Survey may be of interest in the future and this is a line of investigation that might be followed up with benefit in the future. The association between mosquitoes and the spread of diseases is well known in warmer climates, but so far they have not been connected specifically with diseases in this country.

The Wellingborough Clean Food Guild was established during the year and although it may possibly appear to be progressing slowly, it already has accomplished some of its objectives in the spread of propaganda and by the holding of lectures. Such a Guild, at first, is bound to be slow, but it is hoped in the future that more courses will be run and that a larger number of people engaged in the trade will be attracted to the Guild.

In the section dealing with housing the post-war housing progress up to December, 1950, will be seen. Although activities of the Council have been very considerable in the building of new houses for the people, the waiting list for Council houses still remains high. Many visits were made to the homes of applicants during the year and such visits bring to mind the magnitude of this problem which undoubtedly is the biggest social problem of today.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Executive Officers of the Council for their help in the collection of information concerning their departments. The compilation of the necessary data and the statistical tables for the Annual Report requires a considerable amount of clerical work and I am grateful to Miss Pearson for her very able assistance. I should also like to express my appreciation for the help and support that I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee during the year.

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.—The Urban District of Wellingborough covers 8,738 acres. The density of population equals 3.2 persons per acre and the housing factor 3.4 persons per house.

Population—The mid-year population for Wellingborough for 1950 is given in the Registrar Generals report as 28,290 which shows an increase of 90 on the population figures for 1949. The natural increase for the year was 40, births outnumbering deaths by this figure.

Deaths—381 deaths occurred during the year, and is the figure given in the Registrar General returns after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transferable deaths. This gives a death rate for the year of 13.46. Last year the rate was 12.97 when 366 deaths were recorded. The rate for England and Wales for 1950 was 11.6.

Deaths from Cancer accounted for 17.5% of the deaths, Tuberculosis 1.8%, Diseases of the Respiratory System 8.6% and Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System 53.5%.

Table No. 1 page ~~66~~²⁰ gives a list of the *causes of death* and is in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948. Table No. 2 page ~~66~~²¹ gives information concerning Deaths from Selected Causes.

Births—421 births were recorded in the District which gives a rate of 14.88 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for 1949 was 16.17 and the rate for England and Wales for 1950 was 15.8. Thus the rate shows a fall on that for the previous year and is also lower than that for the Country. As will be seen from table No. 4 page ~~66~~²¹ it is the lowest rate recorded since 1946.

Stillbirths—12 stillbirths were recorded during the year only one being illegitimate. The rate for the year was 0.42 per 1,000 of the population. The rate last year was 0.21 (6 stillbirths) and the rate for England and Wales for 1950 was .37.

Illegitimate Births—17 Illegitimate births were registered, 9 males and 8 females. The rate for the year was 58.82 per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1949 was 41.66.

Maternal Mortality—No deaths were recorded under this heading for the second year, and this is very satisfactory.

Infant Mortality—15 Infant deaths occurred during the year which gives a rate of 35.62 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales for the same year was 29.8. In 1949 the rate for Wellingborough was 32.89, fifteen deaths occurred but the number of live births outnumbered the figure for 1950.

The following table shows the rate over a number of years :

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	War years	1946	1947	1948	1949
65	64.3	38.8	22.6	46.6		28.16	35.99	29.64	32.89
1950—35.62.									

Neonatal Mortality—This sub-division of the Infant Mortality rate, concerns Infant deaths that occur within 28 days of independent existence. Ten of the Infant deaths occurred in this period which gives a rate of 23.75 for 1,000 live births. Last year 8 deaths occurred in this sub-division giving a rate of 21.27.

Table No. 10 page ~~66~~²⁷ gives the causes of Infant deaths under one year.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Services.—Laboratory facilities for the examination of specimens in connection with the Public Health work carried out in the District are afforded by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Northampton. Routine examinations of samples of water taken in the area are also carried out at this Laboratory. The co-operation of Dr. Hoyle throughout the year was much appreciated. Milk samples which previously were sent to the County Council Laboratory for examination are now sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.—A supply of antitoxin was kept available at the Health Department, Swanspool, Wellingborough for the use of Medical Practitioners in the area, but this practice has now been discontinued. The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is now responsible for this supply and stocks are kept at the following places :

Wellingborough Hospital.
Northampton General Hospital.
Rushden House Sanatorium.
Rockingham Road Kettering.

Ambulance Services.—The S. Johns Ambulance Brigade have two divisions, one in Wellingborough and one in Finedon. The Wellingborough division have three Ambulances and Finedon one, which serve the area. Cases of infectious diseases are removed by the Northampton Harborough Road Isolation Hospital's ambulance service.

Nursing in the Home.—Two nurses for general nursing, and three for Mid-wifery, are employed for work in the area, by the Wellingborough Nursing Association which is affiliated to the Northants Nursing Association.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.—The County Council Health Department run the following Clinics and Welfare Centres at Rock Street.

Child Welfare—Tuesday afternoon.

Ante-natal—Morning of first Thursday of each month.

Post-natal—Afternoon of first Thursday of each month.

Sunlight Clinic—Friday afternoons.

Tuberculosis—Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Diphtheria Immunisation—Morning of first Saturday of each month.

The Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital holds an Out-patient Clinic at Rock Street School on each Wednesday afternoon.

A Schools Minor Ailment Clinic is held at Park Street School on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and at Croyland Road School on Wednesday afternoons.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held at Finedon on the fourth Thursday of each month.

An Infant Welfare Centre is also held at S. Andrews Hall on the Croyland Estate to facilitate persons living on the estate.

Hospital Accommodation.—Infectious diseases requiring Hospital treatment are sent to the Isolation Hospital, Harborough Road, Northampton.

Hospitals in the Area—Park Hospital—Accommodation—Beds for the Sick, Maternity and Mental Defectives—246.

For old people in need of care and attention 115.

Further provision for the aged, chronically sick and old persons in need of care and attention for the area is provided at two further hospitals: Oundle—60 beds. St. Mary's Hospital Kettering, 238 beds.

The Wellingborough Hospital—Accommodation—Adults 36 beds, Children 8 beds.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply—The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board took over from Wellingborough U.D.C. the water supply for the District on 1st October, 1950.

The water supply for the area comes from five sources which are as follows:

- (1) Impounding reservoir Hardwick, the water is drawn from the Bluestone strata.
- (2) Orlingbury—deep wells—source Ironstone strata.
- (3) Wellingborough Road—Finedon—deep well in the Middle Lias Clay.
- (4) Bushfield—five wells—tap water from the Great Oolite Northampton beds.
- (5) Corby Supply—From Corby reservoir. Filtered and Chlorinated water supplied from this source.

At Bushfield water from three sources—Hardwick, Orlingbury and Bushfield is softened, filtered and chlorinated. Softening is carried out by means of the lime process—Haynes and Potters system.

Water from the deep well at Finedon Road, is chlorinated at the site.

Full details concerning these five sources were given in last years Annual Report.

Water Samples—During the year 70 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. The results of these samples fell into the following categories:

Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory.	Suspicious.	Unsatisfactory
44	6	5	15

The suspicious and unsatisfactory samples were obtained in the Finedon area. Some of these samples were due to contamination occurring in the Finedon well. This matter was dealt with successfully but further trouble was caused by contamination at the Finedon water tower. The tank here was emptied and cleaned and no further trouble occurred. It is interesting to note that in 1949 when the water supply for the district came under the Wellingborough U.D.C. it was only found necessary to take 38 samples, but when the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board took over in October 1950 it was found necessary to increase the water sampling considerably. This is due to the fact that it has not been found possible by the Board to supply me with copies of samples taken by their representatives in the area and as, in my opinion, it is essential that a weekly

check should be kept on the water for the district, samples are now all taken by my department. From previous experience it has been found to be of paramount importance for frequent checks to be made on a Public Water Supply. In the case of Finedon when first a suspicious count, followed by an unsatisfactory count, was discovered, the source of the trouble was quickly detected, and matters put right.

The average rainfall in inches for the year was 25.09 which is 5.59 above the figure for last year.

At the time of writing this report the total consumption of water for the area, average daily consumption and consumption per head per day, were not available, but it is hoped that in future reports these figures will be supplied.

The number of houses with a piped supply 8,100.

The number of houses dependent upon standpipes 273 (approx).

The number of houses without town's supply 42 (approx).

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage—Wellingborough—Sewage from the Town is pumped up to the sewage farm which is situated between Wellingborough and Irthlingborough. Sewage is screened at the sewage pumping works station off the Irthlingborough Road.

The method adopted at the farm is broad irrigation, sewage being allowed to run over a certain prepared area and sink through the surface. The land has been demineralised and sewage in passing through the earth is filtered and acted upon by bacteria. The effluent is collected by a system of sub soil drains which lead to a stream and back to the river. Chemical analysis of this effluent has shown it to be of a satisfactory nature and undoubtedly this method of treatment is effective. The possible dangers of such a method of treatment especially when dealing with the sewage from a Town of the size of Wellingborough is in the initial stages when the sewage is first deposited upon the surface and is exposed to the elements. Harmful bacteria could possibly be carried away by flies, birds, etc. which frequent the site. With this point in view the situation has been investigated and Pest Control Ltd. contacted concerning a scheme for the destruction of flies and fly breeding in the area. The possibility of using D.D.T. in an oily solution and introducing this by a drip method into the Sewage as it runs onto the land has been considered. The oil would cause the D.D.T. to float on the surface of the sewage and when the sewage percolates through the ground, the D.D.T. would remain on the surface with the oil and interfere with fly breeding. This scheme is to be investigated further and it is hoped that some satisfactory method for dealing with the problem will be devised for the next fly breeding season.

New sewers were laid in connection with the building carried out on the Croyland Estate during the year. Also houses built by Private Enterprise were connected up during 1950.

Finedon—There is no change in the situation since last years report. Broad irrigation is the method adopted here also.

Disinfection—Details concerning the work carried out during the year will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. From this it will be seen that a considerable amount of work was required to be carried out during the year and that in a Town the size of Wellingborough there is a very definite need for a Disinfection Station. In the past a Steam Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital, Finedon Road was used for this purpose, and following the closing of this hospital, arrangements were made with the Kettering and District Hospital Management Committee to continue with the use of this Disinfection Station. Unfortunately now owing to alterations to the premises this apparatus is not available, and so the Council will have to set up a station of its own. This matter has been investigated and the Committee have under consideration a scheme to set up a new centre.

At present concurrent and terminal disinfection associated with infectious diseases is carried out by liquid and gaseous disinfectants, and arrangements, when necessary, are made with the Rushden U.D.C. for articles to be treated by their Steam Disinfector.

Swimming Baths—There are no Public Swimming Baths in Wellingborough and the nearest swimming pools are at Wilby, Overstone and Rushden.

School children from the area use the Wilby pool and a constant check was kept on this pool during the season. The filtration and chlorination plant worked efficiently and all samples taken for Bacteriological examination proved satisfactory. Free chlorine was present in .4 parts per million in samples examined.

On request the paddling pool at this Lido was connected on to the same source of supply as the Swimming Pool so that it could be filled with filtered and chlorinated water with a frequent turnover. Samples taken from this pool during the season were also satisfactory. The Wellingborough School has a private swimming pool. This is filled with water from the town mains and is provided with an efficient filtering and chlorinating plant. Samples taken during the summer were found to be satisfactory. Girls from the Wellingborough County High School use these baths.

As there is a need for a swimming pool in Wellingborough, it is hoped that the plans for one in the layout of the new Croyland Hall Park Estate, will be proceeded with at a not too far distant date.

River Nene Bathing Place—Unfortunately due to the polluted state of the river this bathing place had to remain closed. Samples of river water taken for examination showed very high bacteriological counts, and were stated to be very unsatisfactory and showed evidence of faecal pollution.

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936, S.269—Leighton's Yard, High Street, continued to be occupied during the year. This site is not satisfactory, drainage of the area is poor, and there are only two W.C.'s and one standpipe available. Some of the dwellings were of a very unsatisfactory nature. Steps to clear the site have been taken recently by the owner, and as it is in the interest of the health of persons occupying the site that they should move, it is hoped that this area will be cleared in the near future. Sites in the area used by Showmen were maintained in a satisfactory manner and gave rise to no trouble during the year.

One licence was granted to use a site at Finedon for one moveable dwelling.

There would appear to be an increasing demand for licences for moveable dwellings, and with the housing shortage, a considerable number of young married couples are contemplating setting up in caravans until housing accommodation becomes available.

Scattered Caravan sites throughout the area are not satisfactory, and it may be advisable for the Council to give consideration to the setting up of one site with the necessary conveniences and sanitary arrangements. Stipulation as to the types of caravans allowed on site would be necessary to guard against persons making use of old buses, tents, etc.

Public Cleansing—The Council maintain five vehicles for the collection of refuse and weekly collections are made. Tipping is carried out in the old ironstone workings Gypsy Lane, Irchester. Controlled tipping is the method used and all refuse is covered with earth. The tip is maintained in a satisfactory manner. The number of loads taken to this tip during the year was approximately 6,000.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement—Last year it was stated that with the exception of the Northern and Eastern parts of the Town where the local Iron works cause an emission of dust and grit, Wellingborough was fairly free from atmospheric pollution. This year the Chief Sanitary Inspector reports that the emission of smoke and grit from Industrial chimneys in the Town gave rise to an increase of nuisances during the year. This situation requires careful observation in the future as the time to act in such matters is in the early stages and not to wait until the situation becomes chronic, when often the damage to health has been done.

Undoubtedly poor quality fuel is the root of a number of these cases and such fuel used in domestic fires add very considerably to the problem.

It must be remembered that 50% of atmospheric pollution is caused by domestic fires. A higher standard of fuel is thus essential in an endeavour to get over this problem of atmospheric pollution.

The dust and grit nuisance caused by the iron works still continues. Steps were taken by the company during the year to try and abate this nuisance and an aerodynamic dust collector was fitted to one blast furnace. Many difficulties were experienced in the use of this apparatus and it must still be considered to be in the experimental stage. It is hoped that those responsible for the iron works will continue to take every possible step to abate this nuisance, as in my opinion, the emissions from these works are definitely detrimental to the health of those persons living in the area. An investigation was carried out last year to demonstrate this point and a full report submitted to the council.

Rivers Pollution—Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination from the river during the year proved to be very unsatisfactory. The result of a following sample taken on 1.5.1950 was typical of those obtained throughout the season.

Probable number of Coliform Bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37c—1800 +/100 cc.

Probable number of faecal Coli MacConkey 2 days 44 c—1800 +/100cc.

Very unsatisfactory water with evidence of heavy faecal pollution.

A sample submitted for Chemical Analysis on 28/4/50 gave the following results :

The Chemical results show gross pollution, and in its present state the water cannot be considered safe for bathing.

Swanspool Brook—A survey of this brook in the Wellingborough area was made during the year along with the Surveyor. A report was furnished to the Health Committee. The brook was also investigated in the Wellingborough Rural area and this authority is co-operating with the Urban District in an endeavour to overcome the pollution that is occurring. Sources of pollution in both districts were found and samples taken along the course of the brook all proved to be unsatisfactory. Contamination by oil was investigated by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the condition would appear to have improved following suggestions made to certain premises in the area.

Further investigations with regard to bacteriological contamination are being carried out.

The importance of this brook cannot be minimised as it runs through playing fields and Parks in the Urban area.

With the development of the Croyland Estate, consideration should be given to treatment of this brook. During the summer months the volume of the brook in this area is not very great and a Filtration and Chlorination plant could possibly be installed at low cost. This would mean that the brook as it runs through that estate and Castle Fields would not be dangerous to children as it is at present. The new scheme for Wilby Sewage will cause a certain amount of diminution in the volume of the brook and will also get rid of a considerable amount of contamination.

A Survey of Mosquitoes in the Wellingborough Area—An interesting survey was carried out during the year to ascertain the species of Mosquitoes in the Nene Valley district and to see if the Anopheline Mosquito was to be found in the area. The Head Master of Wellingborough Grammar School was approached and requested to help in this survey. He readily agreed and with the assistance of Mr. A. W. Leftwich, B.Sc., F.Z.S., Biology Master, a scheme of campaign was drawn up. Maps of the area were made and the boys of the Wellingborough Grammar School were asked to collect specimens. Collecting material was supplied. Although the search has been far from complete, it has at least been successful in showing that Anopheline Mosquitoes are no rarity in this district. The Wellingborough and Rushden Urban District Councils gave two prizes in connection with the collection of specimens to boys of the School. Of the thirty or more British species of Mosquitoes only six varieties were found in the district. A summary of the specimens found is as follows :—

Theobaldia Annulata	...	...	...	14 specimens
Theobaldia Morsitans	...	...	...	18 specimens
Aedes Rusticus	...	...	...	27 specimens
Aedes Cantans	...	...	...	33 specimens
Culex Pipiens	...	...	...	445 specimens
Anopheles	...	...	...	20 specimens

In warmer climates the *Anopheles* species is associated with the spread of Malaria, but only under very favourable conditions here would it be possible for this Mosquito to transmit the Malarial parasite. Small outbreaks have been known in this country, one occurring in Norfolk, which was associated with Soldiers home from abroad who evidently had the Malarial parasite in their blood.

Considering the important part played by Mosquitoes in the spread of different diseases in tropical countries little attention would appear to be paid to them here. It would be interesting to know if they could possibly play a part in the spread of virus infections.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Wrenn, the Headmaster of the Grammar School, Mr. Leftwich, and the boys of the School for their help and co-operation in carrying out this survey. A great deal of the credit for the success of this survey is due to Mr. Leftwich.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

On 31st December 1950 the number of applicants for Council Houses in the Wellingborough Urban District Area was 933. Made up as follows :

Wellingborough	...	809
Finedon	...	124
		<hr/>
Total	...	933
		<hr/>

This figure shows a fall of 13 on the numbers at the end of 1949.

The total number of houses built in the area during the year was 112. 88 Council houses and 24 by private enterprise. The Council houses were built on the Croyland Estate and 52 were traditional 3 bedroom houses and 36 traditional 2 bedroom houses.

On the 31st December, 1950, 77 houses were under construction. 76 Council houses and one private house. The Post War housing progress to 31st December, 1950, is as follows :—

Grand total for Council developemnt	495 houses.
Private Enterprise	129 houses.
Giving a total of 624 houses built.	

During the year, on request, many visits were made to inspect the living conditions of applicants for Council houses, and following these inspections, reports were submitted to the Housing Manager to bring to the notice of the Housing Committee for their consideration. I should like to express my appreciation for the sympathetic hearing given by this Committee to cases presented for consideration on health grounds. Further details concerning houses will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION E.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

In the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report full details concerning this section will be found.

Milk Samples—A satisfactory standard was maintained throughout the year and it will be seen that of 89 samples taken 78.8% satisfied the prescribed standards. Six samples of milk were taken for testing for the presence of Tubercle bacilli and all were negative. The examination of rinses from washed milk bottles was instituted during the year. Although the results at first were not very satisfactory, subsequently an improvement was noted. This line of investigation should help considerably to maintain a high standard with regard to milk, as clean milk with dirty bottles just defeats its own ends. A very high percentage of the milk sold in the Wellingborough area is pasteurized. Ice cream sampling showed an improvement on the results for the previous year and on the whole was satisfactory.

Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order 1940. The Government controlled Abattoir at Bedford Road Rushden serves the area and slaughtering and meat inspection is carried out there. All carcasses are subjected to a 100% inspection before being distributed to the area. The abattoir is maintained and run in a satisfactory manner.

Meat Distribution—The standards for distribution of meat in the area have been criticised from time to time. This has improved somewhat since the provision of a new modern insulated van.

Wellingborough Clean Food Guild was formed during the year. The first phase in this campaign was the running of a course of lectures for food handlers and those engaged in the trade. Four lectures were given and the attendance was quite good. Following this a large number of associate members were enrolled and later on 46 applications for trade membership were received. The formation of such a Guild is no easy task and even if the progress of the Guild is at first slow, with time it should develop along the right lines. A re-newed propaganda campaign followed by further lectures should be the next phase, and members of the committee should do all in their power to encourage members of the Trade to join.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Smallpox—No cases were notified.

Vaccination—The vaccination figures for the year were as follows :

			Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Primary	...	...	49	27	14	35	125
Re-vaccination	...	...	—	2	6	59	67
			49	29	20	94	192

This shows some improvement on previous years and it is to be hoped that Parents mindful of the recent outbreak that occurred in this country will take the necessary precautions and have their children vaccinated. Infancy is the best time for primary vaccination.

Scarlet Fever—9 cases were notified during the year. Ten cases occurred in the previous year. The majority of cases occurred in the last quarter of the year. No cases required removal to Hospital.

Diphtheria—For the fourth year in succession no cases of Diphtheria were notified in the District.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis—On 31st December 1950 the situation with regard to immunisation was as shown in the following table :—

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.								
Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1950.								
Age at 31.12.50 i.e. Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i>					5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
	1	1	2	3	4			
	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1941-1945	1934-1940	under 15
Number Immunised	11	258	334	257	267	1,341	1,477	3,945
Estimated mid-year population 1950	2,347					3,749		

During the year the following immunisations were carried out :
 Under 5 years 5—14 years. Booster doses
 323 2 119

The above table does not include children immunised by private arrangements.

Four years have now passed since a case of Diphtheria occurred in the District, but cases still occur in the country. Parents should be reminded of this fact less they grow careless and neglect to have their children immunised. Diphtheria is insidious in onset and often before a case is seen it is far advanced. It still remains a killer, and so every effort should be made to keep the immunisation figures as high as possible.

Measles—343 cases occurred during the year. In 1949 there were 120 cases. The majority of cases occurred at the end of the first quarter of the year, and in the first month of the second quarter. One death was recorded, broncho-pneumonia supervening, and being the primary cause of death.

Whooping Cough—54 cases were notified compared with 99 cases in the previous year. Table No. 8 page 25 gives the sex incidence and age of cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia—Three cases were notified during the year. Six cases occurred in 1949.

Pneumonia—45 cases of pneumonia were notified compared with 32 in the previous year. Thirteen deaths were attributed to pneumonia as the primary cause. Four cases were removed to hospital.

Cerebro Spinal Fever—No cases were notified.

Erysipelas—12 cases were notified, the same number as in the previous year.

Influenza—Three deaths were attributed to this cause. In 1949 there were 2 deaths from Influenza.

Dysentery—No cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis—One case occurred in a child in August 1950. The case was removed to hospital. In 1949 one case also was notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—One case was notified. In 1949 also one case occurred.

Food Poisoning—No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. In the previous year some cases of food poisoning caused by Salmonella Typhimurium occurred and there were two deaths. Special observation was kept with regard to this matter but it is satisfactory to report that no further cases have occurred in the area.

Tuberculosis—17 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, eleven in males and six in females. Of these seventeen cases, fifteen were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (9 males 6 females) and two (males) of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. In 1949, 19 new cases were notified.

Sixteen cases from Wellingborough were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium and nineteen cases discharged during the year. Seven deaths from Tuberculosis were recorded, all were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and all cases were in males. One death occurred in the Sanatorium.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 161 made up as follows :

Pulmonary	—Males	67	Females	51	Total	118
Non-Pulmonary	—Males	28	Females	15	Total	43
						161

The numbers of new cases (all forms) notified during the past five years were as follows :

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
35	22	11	19	17

The mortality figures and those for the County during the corresponding period was :

Year	Tuberculosis—All forms			Rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	Wellingborough	County
1946	1	7	8	.28	.45
1947	4	4	8	.27	.36
1948	4	6	10	.35	.42
1949	5	3	8	.28	.43
1950	7	—	7	.24	*

* Not available.

The Wellingborough After Care Committee continued to do excellent work in the area during the year.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Details concerning this section will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Sanitary conveniences in all factories in the area are on the whole satisfactorily maintained. Factories in which mechanical power is not used, no serious complaint was received concerning cleanliness, numbers employed, temperature, ventilation or drainage of floors.

No action was necessary in respect of outworkers.

Form 572 (Revised) is given as Table No. 11 page 28.

SECTION H.
STATISTICAL TABLES, 1950.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	—	7
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	7	7
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	6	13
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	18	18	36
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	30	54
18. Coronary disease, angina	30	18	48
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	4	9
20. Other heart disease	32	50	82
21. Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
22. Influenza	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia	9	4	13
24. Bronchitis	11	9	20
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	4	2	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	4	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	20	36
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
34. All other accidents	2	4	6
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	187	194	381

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES.

TABLE NO. 2.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	·07	6	·21	66	2·38	149	5·37	25	·90
1947	1	·03	7	·24	53	1·88	173	6·14	24	·85
1948	1	·03	9	·31	50	1·77	166	5·87	35	1·23
1949	1	·03	7	·24	61	2·16	183	6·48	32	1·13
1950	—	—	7	·24	68	2·40	204	7·21	33	1·16

COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.

TABLE NO. 3.

Year	Stillbirths per 1,000		Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
	Population of all ages	Total births (live and still)		
1946	·54	29·29	62·37	1,004
1947	·53	22·93	65·72	1,022
1948	·46	25·04	49·40	1,000
1949	·21	12·98	41·66	1,111
1950	·42	27·71	40·38	1,136

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

TABLE NO. 4.

Year	Estimated Population mid-year	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1946	27,740	497	17·91	14	28·16	345	12·43
1947	28,170	639	22·68	23	35·99	346	12·28
1948	28,240	506	17·91	15	29·64	335	11·86
1949	28,200	456	16·20	15	32·89	366	12·97
1950	28,290	421	14·88	15	35·62	381	13·46

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT AND 148 SMALLER TOWNS AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950.

TABLE NO. 5.

	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000-50,000 1931 Census	Wellingborough
Live Births	15.8	16.7	14.88
Stillbirths	0.37	0.38	0.42
Deaths			
All causes	11.6	11.6	13.46
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.01	.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.33	.24
Influenza	0.10	0.10	.10
Smallpox	—	—	.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.02	0.02	.00
Pneumonia	0.46	0.45	.45
Deaths under one year	29.8 2.89	29.4	35.62
Notifications.			
Typhoid	0.00	0.00	.00
Paratyphoid	0.01	0.01	.00
Meningococcal Infection... ..	0.03	0.02	.00
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.61	.31
Whooping Cough ...	3.60	3.15	1.90
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	.00
Erysipelas	0.17	0.16	.42
Smallpox	0.00	—	.00
Measles	8.39	8.36	12.12
Pneumonia	0.70	0.61	1.59
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)			
Paralytic... ..	0.13	0.11	.03
Non-Paralytic	0.05	0.06	.00
Food Poisoning ...	0.17	0.14	.00

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1950.

Table No. 6.

Disease ..	..	..	..	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	3	..	1	1	2	6	1	1	6	8	12	4	45	4	13
Measles	..	..	..	7	36	49	67	74	107	2	..	1	..	..	..	343	..	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1	3	4	13	14	18	1	..	..	..	..	..	54	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	5	3	12	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio-myelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
TOTAL ..	..	..	..	12	39	54	81	93	136	6	2	13	8	17	7	468	5	14

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1950.

Table No. 7.

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever		1					1			3	4		9
Pneumonia	4	8	11	4		9	1	2	2		3	1	45
Measles		28	191	97	14	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	343
Whooping Cough	6	2					3		2	7	17	17	54
Erysipelas		2	2	2	2	2	1	1					12
Puerperal Pyrexia		1					1			1			3
Diphtheria													
Dysentery													
Food Poisoning													
Cerebro-spinal fever													
Poliomyelitis								1					1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										1			1
TOTAL	10	42	204	103	16	16	10	5	5	13	25	19	468

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

Table No. 8.

Age Periods	Measles		Whooping Cough.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
—6 months	1	1		1
—12 months	3	2		
—18 months	14	12		1
—2 years	6	4	1	1
—2½ years	17	19		2
—3 years	8	5		2
—4 years	35	32	7	6
—5 years	36	38	7	7
—10 years	55	52	6	12
—15 years	1	1	1	
15 years +	1			
ALL AGES	177	166	22	32
TOTALS ..	343		54	

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1950.

Table No. 9.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male
—1								
—5	1							
—15			2					
—25	1	2						
—35	3	2			2			
—45		2						
—55	4				1			
—65					2			
65+					2			
TOTALS	9	6	2		7			

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

TABLE NO. 10.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Age in Weeks</i>					
	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	Total
1. Congenital malformations ..					3	3
2. Diseases of Early Infancy Congenital debility and icterus	1					1
Premature Birth ...	4					4
Injury at Birth ..						
Atelectasis	4					4
Others						
3. Diseases of Respiratory System		1			1	2
4. Diseases of Digestive System						
5. Diseases of Nervous System						
6. Tuberculosis diseases ..						
7. Infectious Diseases ..					1	1
8. Syphilis						
9. Overlaying						
10. Other Violence						
11. All Other Causes						
TOTALS	9	1			5	15

TABLE No. 11.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.
For the Year 1950.

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	9	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	216	47	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	247	56	10	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	2		1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	4	3		2	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	6		3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)					—
TOTAL ...	21	12		6	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel						
Making, etc. ...	351					
Cleaning and washing ...						
Furniture & Upholstery	10					
Brass and brass articles ...	9					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ...	12					
Brush making ...	5					
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc.	22					
TOTAL ...	409					

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Wellingborough.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances and administration of the Urban District for the year 1950.

The Report is compiled on the lines required by the Ministry of Health and gives a comprehensive survey of sanitary circumstances and the work accomplished by the Department during the year.

The pressure of routine work in investigating and dealing with complaints, etc., the inspection of works in progress and other administrative matters has increased considerably and has rendered it impossible to give a great deal of attention to certain specific sections, e.g. the routine visitation of factories, shops under the Shops Act, and food premises.

One of the main problems is still that of housing accommodation. An analysis of complaints made to the Department during the year shows that nearly 40% were in respect of housing conditions. With the limited number of new houses in relation to re-housing requirements as shown by the Council's list of applicants, it is fairly clear that full scale action under the Housing Acts in respect of unfit areas and property is very much a matter for the future.

Improvements in the general standard of sanitation and amenities have been carried out to a considerable number of properties, both voluntarily and as the result of action by the Department. In particular special attention has been given to the provision of internal water supplies and domestic sinks to houses without these necessary amenities, and steps are continuing in this direction.

The Shops Act of 1950 came into operation during the year. It, however, made no change in the existing law relating to shops but merely consolidated into one enactment the provisions previously contained in numerous Acts and Regulations.

Particular reference is made in the report to the hygiene of food, this being an important subject at the present time in view of the nation-wide effort being made to raise the hygienic standards of its manufacture, sale and distribution. It is a branch of the sanitary officer's work which for full achievement demands a great amount of time and concentrated effort, in the systematic visitation of food establishments and by personal contact, in gaining the active co-operation of the individual trader, upon which so much depends. Following the formation of the Clean Food Guild referred to further in the report, a series of lectures was given to trade employees by the Medical Officer of Health and myself, with an average attendance of 60. The interest shown at these lectures was very encouraging.

Staff changes during the year included the resignation of my Clerk and Secretary, Mrs. L. Payne and the appointment in August of Miss E. M. Brotherton to fill the vacancy.

In conclusion I take the opportunity of recording my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Council for their consideration and support, to my staff for their valued assistance during the year and to the other chief officers and their staffs for helpful co-operation at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. STROUD,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,
Wellingborough.
September, 1951.

STAFF.

(CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT, 1950)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

A. J. STROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods.

Authorised Officer under the Petroleum, Shops, Theatres and Cinematograph Acts.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

D. B. HOPKINS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods.

Clerk and Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary :

MRS. L. PAYNE (Resigned 15.7.50).

MISS E. M. BROTHERTON (Appointed 8.8.50).

Rodent Control :—Operator :

G. HOWELL.

SANITARY INSPECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA.

TABLE A.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Total Inspections and Visits	...	...	...	...	...	4,596
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	347
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	145
Secondary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	29
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	113
Letters etc. received	...	...	...	...	...	1,107
Letters etc. dispatched	...	...	...	...	...	1,855
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	624

TABLE B.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

(a) General Sanitary Work—

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	303
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	407
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	44
Refuse—storage, collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	...	60
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses, let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	2
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	20
Rivers Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	4
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	25
Infectious Disease, Disinfection, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	6
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	13
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rodent Infestation Control including visits by rodent operator	...	...	...	...	...	1,704
Vermín and Insect Pests—Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	44

(b) Housing—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	642
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(c) Shops Acts—

Sanitary Conditions	106
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(d) Factories—

Inspection of Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers' Premises	77
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(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938—

Meat and Food Inspection	143
General Food Shops	100
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	18
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	47
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	26
Ice Cream Premises	132
Dairies and Milk shops	118

(f) Miscellaneous Visits—

...	535
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TABLE C.

**SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED
FOLLOWING SERVICE OF NOTICE.**

General—

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	61
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	20
Walls (External) repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	7
Walls (External) repointed, rendered, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	17
E.G.'s & R.W.P's cleansed, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	56
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	50
Houses cleansed, limewashed or decorated	...	...	...	...	...	28
Walls (Internal) repaired	...	...	...	...	...	178
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	73
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	26
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Handrails fixed to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	5
Doors etc. repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Windows etc. repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	61
Firegrates and stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	39
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Washing boilers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hot water systems repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soft water tanks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Boundary walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	5
Derelict buildings demolished	...	...	...	...	...	2

Drainage—

Drains constructed or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	45
Drains repaired or cleared	...	...	...	...	...	16
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Soil and Vent. pipes provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gullies provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	42
Old drains abolished	...	...	...	...	...	6
Waste pipes provided, renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	51
Drains disconnected from sewer	...	...	...	...	...	1

Water Closets—

New W.C's provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
W.C's repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	15
W.C's cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Light and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pedestal washdown W.C. basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Flushing Apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1

Water Supplies—

Internal water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	62
Mains supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Wells abolished	...	...	...	...	...	—

Miscellaneous—

Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Animals—Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rats and Mice—Premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	215

SERVICE OF NOTICES—

Informal—

Preliminary Notices to execute work or abate nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	145
Secondary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	29

Statutory—

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 39.—						
Drainage of Existing Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	39
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93.—						
Statutory Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	10
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 138.—						
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	63
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9.—						
Repair of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1
						287

WATER SUPPLY—

Main—

During the year 62 houses formerly dependent on external stand-posts were provided with an internal supply as the result of action by the department. In all, notices affecting 113 properties were served, including 49 brought forward from the previous year, 51 of these were outstanding at the end of the year.

The number of houses in the Urban District still served by stand-posts is as follows :—

Wellingborough Wards	43
Finedon Ward	190 (approximately)

Many of these houses are of a very low category, being either condemned or suitable for demolition.

Steps are being taken in cases where the provision is considered reasonable and necessary.

Wells—

There has been no change in the number of houses with well supplies. Most are in outlying districts and outside the area of mains distribution.

HOUSING—

Activity in this field has again been limited largely to the maintenance and repair of dwelling-houses, there being little opportunity at the present time for formal action under the Housing Acts in respect of unfit property, in view of the pre-eminent need for preserving wherever possible every unit of housing accommodation.

The following is a brief summary of action taken during the year.

i. Houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	345
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	642
ii. Remedy of Defects—				
Informal Action—Houses in respect of which defects were remedied	...	...	...	92

iii	Proceedings under Public Health Act 1936—						
	(a)	Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied					29
	(b)	Houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices					14
iv.	Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936—						
	(a)	<i>Section 9—</i>					
	(i)	Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs					1
	(ii)	Houses rendered fit after service of formal notices					—
	(b)	<i>Sections 11—13—</i>					
		Demolition Orders made					—
		Houses demolished					—
		Undertakings accepted					—
		Number of houses rendered fit					1
		Closing Orders made					1

Clearance Areas—

The number of houses subject to clearance orders at the end of the year was 87, viz :—

Wellingborough	...	—	Occupied	2	Vacant	...	18
Finedon	...	—	"	36	"	...	31
Total	...	...	"	38	"	...	49

Defence (General) Regulation 68a—

Number of houses licensed for re-occupation	14
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MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—

The existing caravan site in Leighton Yard continued to be very unsatisfactory. This is a site of long standing and apart from its condition from a public health point of view, it is also regarded as detrimental to the amenities of the town. In the absence of an alternative site, however, it had at the end of the year not been possible to secure its discontinuance. The owner has, however, since taken steps in the matter and it is hoped that the site will be cleared in a reasonably short time.

There are in the district a number of small sites used periodically by showmen. These have been inspected and found to be fairly satisfactorily maintained.

A licence was granted during the year for the use of land in Thrapston Road, Finedon, as a moveable dwellings site. The licence restricted the use of the land to one caravan and imposed certain conditions regarding sanitary arrangements.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—

There has been no change in the number or class of offensive trades in the Urban District. One complaint in respect of a gut-scraper's premises was satisfactorily dealt with by informal action.

RIVERS POLLUTION—

The intermittent discharge of waste oil from the outfall of a surface water sewer into the Swanspool Brook continued to cause concern and gave rise to further complaints. Although immediate investigations were made from time to time and on complaint, no proof of the actual source of pollution could be found.

SWIMMING POOLS—

The only public bathing facilities in the Urban District are at the Embankment of the River Nene. In view of the polluted condition of the river water it was found necessary to continue the closure of the bathing place during the year.

Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination from the private swimming pool of the Wellingborough School were satisfactory. This pool is provided with efficient filtering and chlorinating plant.

Samples of water taken from the children's paddling pool at the Zoo Park were found to be unsatisfactory. On investigation it was found that while the water from the spring supplying the pool was satisfactory, owing to its passage through a polluted storage pool the water in the children's pool was found to be polluted with organic and faecal matter. Immediate representations were made to the proprietor of the Zoo to rectify the unsatisfactory state of affairs.

DISINFECTION—

36 houses were disinfected during the year, 22 following infectious disease. 5 articles of bedding and clothing were disinfected and 112 destroyed.

As the Council does not possess its own disinfection station, arrangements were made with the Kettering and District Hospital Management Committee for the use of the steam disinfector at the former isolation hospital, but owing to alterations to the premises this apparatus is unfortunately not now available. In a town the size of Wellingborough adequate arrangements for disinfection are considered a necessity, and steps are now being taken with a view to the provision of a suitable centre.

VERMINOUS DISINFESTATION—

35 complaints of verminous infestation were received and effectively dealt with. These included Ants 3, Beetles 1, Bugs 18, Cockroaches 6, Earwigs 1, Wasps 6.

8 infestations by bugs occurred in Council houses.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION—

407 inspections were made during the year in supervising reconstruction work, improvements and additions to drainage systems of dwelling houses and other buildings. 85 hydraulic and other tests were carried out. At 25 premises the drains were found to be defective and require reconstruction. 14 obstructed drains were cleared.

In conjunction with the installation of internal water supplies notices were served for the provision of domestic sinks and waste water drainage to 59 houses. By the end of the year 40 houses had been provided with these amenities.

Cesspools—

The cesspools of 14 premises were emptied during the year under arrangements with the Rushden Urban District Council on a total of 42 occasions. Most of the premises involved were in the Nest Lane area where there is no public sewer.

Sanitary Accommodation—

With the exception of a few outlying farms and cottages which have pail closets, all houses in the Urban District are on the water carriage system.

The formidable problem of the "hand-flushed closet" still, however, exists. There are approximately 1,500 houses—representing nearly 25% of privately-owned dwellings with closets which, while connected to the main drainage system, are not provided with proper flushing apparatus, and which require to be flushed by means of a pail. This arrangement must be regarded as very unsatisfactory in these days of sanitary progress.

It was at first felt that the problem could be tackled by straightforward action under the Public Health Act in respect of buildings having insufficient closet accommodation. Information was obtained from a large nearby authority having the same problem, following which legal opinion was obtained on the matter. This expressed the view that the only procedure for dealing with the problem was by action under Section 47 of the Act—by the local authority meeting half of the cost of the provision of flushing apparatus. At an estimated average cost of £10 per house, this would involve an expenditure of £15,000 of which the local authority would have to contribute 50% or £7,500. The matter is at present held in abeyance, but I recognise the fact that this is a problem which will shortly have to be faced and on which vigorous action will need to be taken.

FACTORIES ACT 1937—

There are 247 factories on the register, a decrease of 10 during the year.

With the large number of factories in the Urban District and owing to pressure of work in other essential directions, it has not been found possible to give such attention to routine inspections as is considered necessary. 56 inspections only were made during the year. 6 notifications of infringements were received from H.M. Inspector, and 10 written notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

Remedy of Defects—

Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inadequate Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	6

Homework—

Half yearly lists received from 37 employers and 8 outside authorities show that there were 571 outworkers residing in the Urban District, an increase of 150 over the previous year.

It was not found necessary to take any action in respect of unwholesome premises.

RODENT INFESTATION CONTROL—

The work of this section proceeded satisfactorily during the year and is summarised as follows :—

Surface Infestations—

Notifications received :—

Rats	...	...	...	121	} 168
Mice	...	...	...	47	
Total number of visits by Rodent Operator...	...	...	...	...	1676
Number of infestations found :—					
Major	...	...	...	58	} 315
Minor	...	...	...	257	

Treatment of Infestations—

Private Dwellings	...	...	...	...	129	} 215
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	67	
Local Authority Property	...	...	...	...	19	
Total quantity of bait laid	...	...	...	...	...	15½ cwt.

In a town of this character with so much mixed residential, industrial and business property, the degree of infestation has, on the whole been kept at a fairly low level.

Agreements—

At the end of the year the number of business and industrial premises being serviced by the Council under annual agreement was 13. The value of this method of control has been clearly shown, as it enables re-infestations to be dealt with before they become serious.

Sewer Maintenance—

The whole of the sewerage systems received two maintenance treatments at intervals of six months, this being a specified requirement of the Ministry for the purpose of grant. The final results were as follows:

Number of manholes baited	...	...	226
Number showing evidence of infestation	...	...	62

The results showed that while there were scattered infestations in certain areas, the degree of infestation was on the whole less than during the previous year.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT—

The emission of smoke and grit from industrial chimneys gave rise to an increase of nuisances during the year. Six 'timed' observations were made and recorded. On investigation it was found that in most cases the nuisances were due to the poor quality of fuel supplied rather than to inefficient methods of stoking and plant management. Informal action became necessary in four instances resulting in a general improvement.

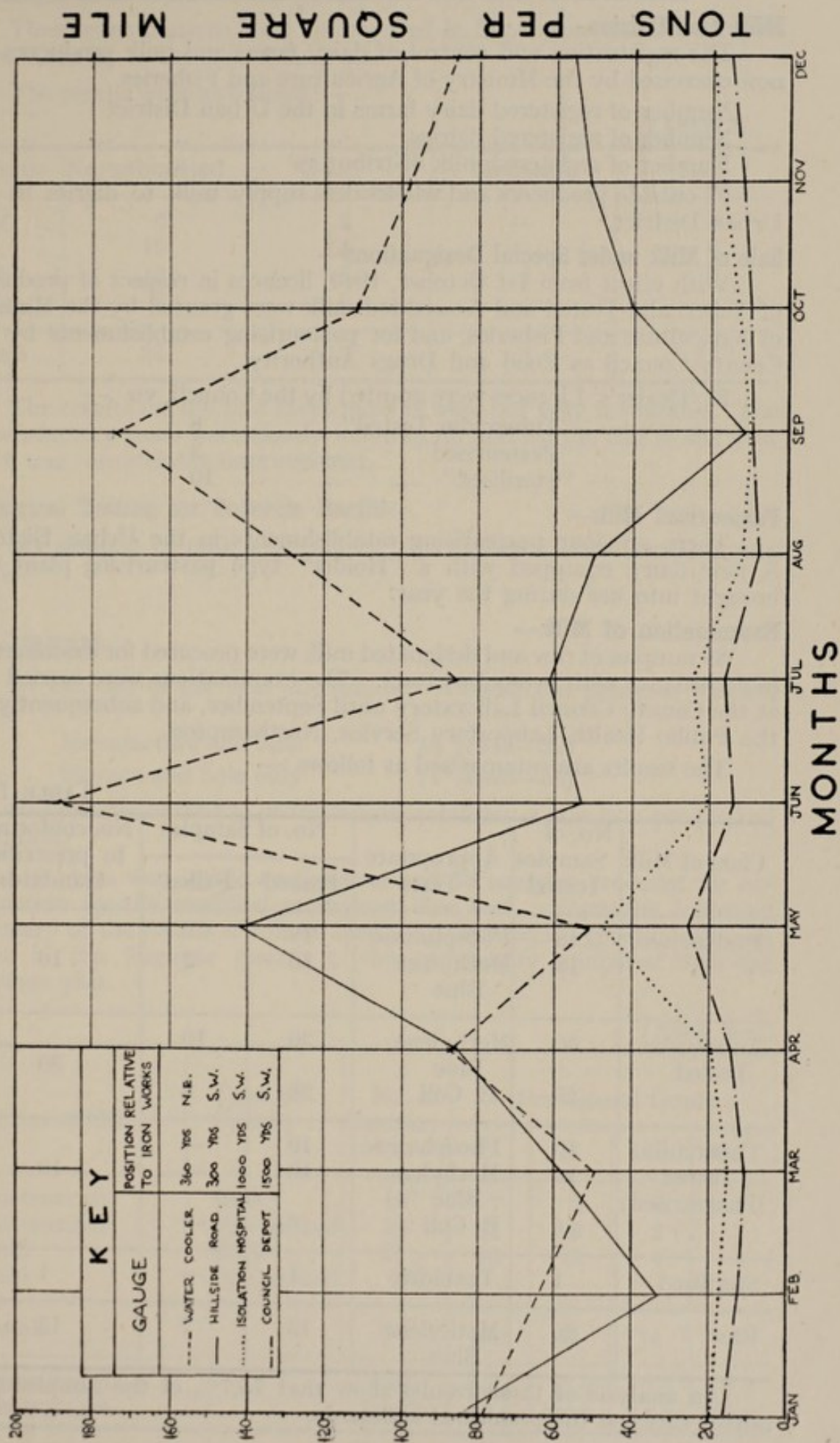
In the case of one industrial boiler emitting grit, the advice and co-operation of the Regional Fuel Engineer of the Ministry of Fuel and Power was obtained and the continuing nuisance was satisfactorily abated.

During the year, as the result of action initiated by the Department in 1949, smoke eliminating apparatus was installed to the boilers of two industrial undertakings.

The emission of dust and grit from the blast furnaces of the local iron works was again the cause of serious nuisance over a considerable residential area. Measurements were continued by the four Deposit Gauges and the degree of pollution throughout the year is shown by the accompanying graph of total deposited matter. An analysis of the results show that the average monthly deposit over the area covered by the gauges was 48.31 tons per square mile.

As the result of repeated representations by the Council for the adoption of practical measures to effectively reduce the extent of emission, an aerodynamic dust collector was fitted to one blast furnace, but by the end of the year it had not been in use sufficiently long for its efficiency to be properly assessed.

TOTAL DEPOSITS IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk and Dairies—

The registration and control of dairy farms and milk producers are now exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Number of registered dairy farms in the Urban District	...	24
Number of registered dairies	... ..	9
Number of registered milk distributors	... ..	24

97 outside producers and wholesalers supply milk to dairies in the Urban District.

Sale of Milk under Special Designations—

With effect from 1st October, 1949, licences in respect of producers of Tuberculin-Tested and Accredited milk were granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and for pasteurising establishments by the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority.

21 'Dealer's' Licences were granted by the Council, viz :—

"Tuberculin Tested"	...	8
"Pasteurised"	... ..	3
"Sterilised"	... ..	10

Pasteurised Milk—

There are four pasteurising establishments in the Urban District. A new dairy equipped with a "Holder" type pasteurising plant was brought into use during the year.

Examination of Milk—

89 samples of raw and designated milk were procured for examination in accordance with prescribed tests. The examinations were carried out at the County Council Laboratory until September, and subsequently by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Northampton.

The results are summarised as follows :—

TABLE D.

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		No. conforming to prescribed standards
			Passed	Failed	
Pasteurised	18	Phosphatase	18	—	16
	18	Methylene Blue	16	2	
Tuberculin Tested	40	Methylene Blue	30	10	30
	28	B. Coli	20	8	
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	10	Phosphatase	10	—	10
	10	Methylene Blue	10	—	
	6	B. Coli	6	—	
Sterilised	1	Turbidity	1	—	1
Raw	20	Methylene Blue	13	7	13

An analysis of these results show that 78.7% of the samples submitted satisfied the prescribed standards.

Examination of Washed Milk Bottles—

These examinations were commenced in September and 34 samples were taken up to the end of the year.

The results were as follows :—

TABLE E.

Month	No. submitted	Good	Moderate	Bad
Sept. ...	6	2	—	4
Oct. ...	10	4	—	6
Nov. ...	12	3	1	8
Dec. ...	6	6	—	—
Totals ...	34	15	1	18

The results for the first three months were not very favourable. The unsatisfactory cases were closely followed up and by the end of the year there was considerable improvement.

Biological Testing for Tubercle Bacilli—

Six samples of milk were taken. No evidence of tuberculosis was found.

ICE CREAM—

At the end of the year the number of registered premises was 89, viz :—

Manufacture and Sale	18 (1949—22)
Storage and Sale only	71 (1949—55)

69 premises or 77.5% of the whole, retail ice cream in a pre-packed condition.

119 visits were made to premises and 78 samples procured for examination by the modified methylene blue test. From the following summary of the results it will be seen that there was a general improvement in the hygienic quality of this commodity compared with the previous year.

TABLE F.

Class of Mix.	Type of Sample	No. of Samples	Provisional Grade			
			I	II	III	IV
Pasteurised	Bulk	18	7	2	8	1
Pasteurised	Pre-packed	35	21	9	2	3
Cold	Bulk	25	16	3	4	2
Cold	Pre-packed	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		78	44	14	14	6
Percentages		1950	56.4	17.9	17.9	7.8
Percentages		1949	42.9	32.9	14.3	10.0

PARTICULARS OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS EXAMINED AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

TABLE G.

Commodity	Weight lbs.	Commodity	Weight lbs.
TINNED GOODS		GENERAL ITEMS	
Apple Juice	2	Bacon	424
Bacon	1	Butter	5
Fish	110	Cheese	64
Fruit	218	Chocolate Cup	94
Ham	6	Coffee	3
Meat	259	Dessert Powder	20
Milk (Evaporated)	153	Dried Fruit	28
Soup	6	Fish paste	1
Vegetables	133	Jams and Preserves	37
		Meat paste	1
		Pickles	31
		Pigs Maws	112
FLOUR & CEREAL		Potted Meat	1
		Pudding Mixtures	219
Baking Powder	1	Rabbits	82
Biscuits	1	Salad Cream	361
Bread	5	Salted pork	180
Cake	13	Sandwich spread	1
Cake Mixture	6	Sauces	29
Confectionery	3	Sausages	146
Flour	40	Sugar	112
		Tomato Juice	19
		Wet Fish	56

Total weight—1 ton 6 cwts. 2 qrs. 15 lbs.

Self Suppliers Pigs Scheme—

99 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of inspecting pigs slaughtered under this scheme.

Number inspected	279
Number of which some part or organ was condemned	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis 5.7%	

LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSES—

Fifteen renewal licences were issued during the year. The premises are used only in cases of emergency and for the occasional slaughter of self-suppliers pigs.

Slaughtering for the local area is still carried out at the Rushden Abattoir under Ministry of Food Control. Slaughtered animals are subject to inspection by qualified meat and food inspectors before distribution.

LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN—

Three licences were granted during the year under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

THE HYGIENE OF FOOD :—

The amount of time which it has been possible to devote to this important branch has been rather limited owing to the volume of routine work in the Department during the year. A total of 266 visits to food premises were made including visits in connection with sampling, the number of separate food premises in the Urban District being over 400.

Although considerable improvements were effected during the year in a small number of instances it is realised that so far only the fringe of this problem has been touched and that there is a vast amount of work ahead before the general standard of hygiene throughout the district can be considered entirely satisfactory.

Under arrangements with the Food Executive Officer applications for catering licences are referred to the Department, no licence being granted until a satisfactory report upon the premises has been given. Observations are also submitted on applications for building licences affecting alterations and improvements to food premises.

A modern mobile fried fish vehicle brought into use by one firm during the year, was modelled and equipped on hygienic lines recommended by the Department.

The Council adopted the model byelaws of the Ministry of Food on the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air. These provide further measures for safeguarding the public against the contamination of food during its storage, sale and distribution.

The Wellingborough and District Clean Food Guild was formed during the year as the result of initial steps taken by the Health Committee. The object of the Guild is to enlist the voluntary co-operation of the trade in raising the general standard of hygiene in food manufacture and distribution. At the end of the year, applications for trade membership had been received in respect of 46 premises.

The provision during the early part of the year of a new modern insulated van has greatly improved the transport of meat in the area. Although one or two minor complaints were received, the standard of transport can, on the whole, be considered satisfactory.

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