[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough U.D.C.

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WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1953

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

Together with the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

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

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CONTENTS

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1953.

Area (in acres)	8,738
Population, 1931 (census)	25,321
„ 1953	28,520
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census) ...	5,396
„ „ „ „ 1953	9,241
Rateable value, 1953	£162,771
Product of a penny rate	£632

Live Births.	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Rate*
Legitimate	386	215	171	
Illegitimate	14	10	4	
	400	225	175	14.02

Stillbirths.	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Rate*
Legitimate	5	2	3	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	5	2	3	0.17

	Total	*Male*	*Female*	*Rate*
Deaths (all causes)	388	185	203	13.60

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—rate per 1,000. Total (Live and Still) Births

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1	—	—	2.46
Other puerperal causes ...	—	—	—	

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	7	4	3	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Total	7	4	3	17.5

Deaths from (*a*) Cancer (all ages)	58
„ „ (*b*) Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ (*c*) Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ „ (*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. Alderson (*Vice-Chairman*), H. S. Collier, A. E. Dicks, C. A. Hearn, H. A. Horden, Miss E. A. Horn, Messrs. A. L. Langham, R. D. Paterson, A. J. Mayes, E. A. Steele, J.P., C.A.

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 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.
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.

Health Department,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

July, 1954.

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 sixth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the area for the year 1953.

The Vital Statistics for Wellingborough for the year were as follows : The birth rate 14.02 per 1,000 of the population showed a fall on 1952 when it was 15.36. The death rate 13.60 was higher than it has been for a number of years and was 1.78 higher than the previous year when the rate was 11.82 per 1,000 of population. A slight increase was noted in deaths in the older age groups from diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels. Deaths from Respiratory diseases also showed a slight increase.

The infant mortality rate 17.5 per 1,000 live births is the lowest recorded rate for many years which is very satisfactory. The rate for the previous year was 23.04. Throughout the report will be found a comparison between the Vital Statistics for Wellingborough and England and Wales. Table No. 5 page 29 gives a complete list of statistics for Wellingborough shown against similar statistics for England and Wales, and 160 towns throughout the Country, similar in size to Wellingborough.

Section B gives details of the Health Services for the area, and from this it will be seen that the area is well provided for in these respects. The new Health Centre at Oxford Street was opened during the year and should be a great asset to the town.

The next Section, C, deals with Sanitary Circumstances affecting the area. The sources of water supply for the town remain unchanged but it is interesting to note that water from Pitsford may be available in the next two years. Many water samples were taken during the year, and it is my opinion that this is necessary so that the supply to the town is always kept under observation. Once again the local Iron Works was the chief source of trouble with regard to atmospheric pollution. From the results of readings taken throughout the year it will be seen that 1953 was a bad year, and the deposit of dust and grit showed an increase when measured in tons per square mile. However, at the end of the year one cyclone was attached to one of the furnaces and the remaining two furnaces are to be treated similarly. It is hoped that this will improve the situation as these works are causing a considerable nuisance to persons living in a certain part of the town. Two Lead Peroxide instruments to record the amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere were installed during the year. These readings are of considerable interest and graphs Plotting the sulphur dioxide figures, respiratory and cardiac deaths are to be kept.

In Section D it is pleasant to report that once again the number of houses constructed during the period showed an increase on previous years. A start was also made on Slum Clearance. The Council is to be congratulated on its activities in these fields.

A reference is made to the Clean Food Guild in Section E. It was unfortunate that due to lack of support it was decided by the Committee to discontinue the Guild. It is hoped in the future to run Clean Food Drives.

Section F is concerned with the Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases. During the year there was no serious outbreak and only slight variation occurred in the figures for the different diseases with the exception of measles which showed a considerable fall. The Vaccination figures showed a fall on the numbers for the previous year, although a slight increase was noted in the number of infants vaccinated. The Diphtheria Immunisation figures and the combined inoculation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are satisfactory. An account of the survey made by the Mass Radiography Unit of Wellingborough and Finedon is given. The response by the Public was very satisfactory and from a summary of the results of the surveys, it will be seen the benefit the community derives from such visits.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager for information supplied for this report. I should also like to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year. I appreciate the assistance and ever-ready co-operation that I have received from Mr. Stroud during the period, and finally would like to record the assistance I have 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 Urban District of Wellingborough covers an area of 8,738 acres. Included in this area is the town of Finedon which is 3½ miles North East of Wellingborough. The density of population is 3.2 persons per acre and the housing factor 3.08 persons per house.

Population. The Registrar General in his returns for 1953 gives the population of Wellingborough as 28,520. This shows an increase of 270 over the previous year. Births outnumbered deaths by 12 during the year.

Deaths. 388 deaths occurred during the period. This gives a death rate for the year of 13.60 compared with 11.82 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 11.4 per 1,000 of Population. Table No. 1 page 27 gives a classification 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 28 gives further statistics concerning deaths from selected causes. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory system caused 59% of deaths; Diseases of the Respiratory System 9.7%; Cancer 14.9% and Tuberculosis (all forms) 1.8%. The percentages for the previous year were as follows :

Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	59%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	8%
Cancer	15%
Tuberculosis (all forms)	1%

In 1953, 58 deaths from Cancer were recorded and out of this number 11 cases (all males) were due to Cancer of the Lung or Bronchus. Table No. 1 shows the primary sites affected in other cases and it is interesting to note the total in the two sexes, Males 30, Females 28.

Births. 400 births were recorded which gives a rate of 14.02 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for the previous year was 15.36. The rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 15.5. Male births outnumbered females by 50.

Illegitimate Births. 14 Illegitimate births were recorded. This gives a rate of 35 per thousand live births. The rate for the previous year was 34.56.

Stillbirths. 5 Stillbirths occurred. This gives a rate of 0.17 per 1,000 of the population. This again shows a fall on the rate for the previous years. In the previous year it was 0.21 and in 1951 it was 0.56 and 1950 0.42. The rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 0.35.

Maternal Mortality. One death was recorded. This gives a rate of 2.46 per thousand total (live and still) births. No deaths were recorded under this heading in the previous year.

Infant Mortality. Seven Infant deaths were recorded compared with 10 in the previous year. This gives a rate of 17.5 per 1,000 live births compared with 23.04 for 1952. The rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 26.8. The rate for 1953 was the lowest Infant Mortality Rate for many years as will be seen from the following table :

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	1951	1952	1953
35.62	29.05	23.04	17.5

Neonatal Mortality. This subdivision of the Infant Mortality rate concerns Infant deaths within 28 days of independent existence. Five of the seven deaths occurred in this period. The Neonatal Mortality rate was 12.5 per thousand live births. The rate for the previous year was 20.73. Table No. 10 page 34 gives further data concerning Infant deaths.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Services. Laboratory facilities in connection with infectious diseases, etc., for the area are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton, and the Laboratory at Kettering General Hospital. Samples of water, milk, ice-cream are sent to the Northampton Laboratory. The assistance and co-operation of Dr. Hoyle and Dr. Voss were much appreciated throughout the year.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. No request for antitoxin has been received for a considerable period. The Oxford Regional Hospital Board are responsible for this supply and stocks are kept at the following places :

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

Ambulance Service. The County Council are the responsible authority for this Service. The area is served by arrangement with the S. John's Ambulance Brigade whose H.Q. is at Church Street, Wellingborough. One division with three ambulances serve Wellingborough and a second division with one ambulance serves Finedon. The Wellingborough Rural District is also served from this area. Cases of infectious disease are dealt with by a branch of the S. John's Ambulance Brigade at Northampton which works in conjunction with the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital.

Nursing in the Home and Home Helps. These services are provided by the County Council and details of the work carried out during the year will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health. Persons in the area requiring Home Help who contacted me during the year were referred to the County with a request that every assistance should be given. This Home Help Service, in my opinion, is a very valuable one, as often it helps to get over a crisis in a household when the mother is taken suddenly ill. Difficulty is experienced in finding women willing to do this work in an area where female labour is in such demand. All possible sources, however, should be tapped to try and provide this Good Samaritan service. Why not male Home Helps ? chopping sticks, getting in the coal, preparation of meals, is not beyond the average male now-a-days.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Wellingborough is very fortunate in that a new Health Clinic was opened in Oxford Street during the year. This is a very fine Clinic standing in beautiful surroundings. The following Clinics are held at these premises :

Ante-natal and Post-natal	Every Monday afternoon 1.30 p.m. Every Thursday morning 9.30 a.m.
Child Welfare	Every Tuesday afternoon 2 p.m.
Child Guidance	Alternate Tuesdays 12.30 p.m.

Dental	...	By appointment. Sessions as arranged. General anaesthetics on 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.
Speech Therapy		Every Wednesday and Friday 2 p.m.
Vision ...	...	Every Thursday morning. Every Tuesday afternoon.
Diphtheria Immunisation		2nd Saturday each month 9.30 a.m.
Minor Ailments		Every Wednesday 9.30 a.m.

A second Infant Welfare Centre is held at S. Andrew's Hall on the Croyland Estate on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

FINEDON. An Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Co-operative Hall on the 1st Thursday of each month.

ROCK STREET CLINIC	Tuberculosis	Every Monday 10 a.m. Every Wednesday 10 a.m.
	U.V.R.	Every Friday 2 p.m.
ROCK STREET CLINIC	Orthopaedic	Every Wednesday 2 p.m.

Hospital Accommodation. Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals serve the area. Wellingborough Hospital and Highfield provide accommodation for certain cases. The Park Hospital provides accommodation for Old Persons in need of care and attention and also for the chronic sick. At the Park Hospital also is a Maternity block. Further beds for old persons and the chronic sick are provided at Oundle and S. Mary's Hospital, Kettering.

The Rushden House Sanatorium provides accommodation for cases of Tuberculosis from the area.

The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, deals with cases of Infectious Diseases.

The Rushden Memorial Hospital (Out-Patient Department) provides facilities for persons from the area to attend the different Out-patient departments. Consultants from Northampton and Kettering attend.

It will be seen that the area is well provided for with regard to Health Services.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Persons in Need of Care and Attention. Under Section 47 of this Act the Council is responsible for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. One case was removed under this Act during the year. Such action is only taken when other means to persuade the person to go voluntarily have failed. The weakness in this Act is that once the person is removed to Part III. accommodation, the Hospital authorities have no power to keep them if they desire to leave. The same applies if they are a bed case, but under such circumstances the Hospital has a better chance of persuading them to stay.

Old folk living alone are becoming an increasing problem and this is bound to increase with the years. When they are taken suddenly ill, it is often difficult to get them an immediate vacancy in a hospital for old persons. Often it may not be desirable to remove them from the surroundings that they have been used to for so many years. The District

Nurses and Health Visitors do what they can for such cases, but it still means that often such cases have to be left alone at night. Relations or good neighbours may breach the gap for a while, but this does not always occur. Some areas have organisations whose members will take on this type of work, but it is not a job that everyone can do. It is a matter that requires further consideration.

The accommodation at the Park Hospital, Wellingborough, is very good and I have always been impressed when I visit, by the atmosphere in which these old persons are passing the eventide of their lives. Organisations who visit persons from their areas in the hospital are to be congraulated. Such visits are of great benefit to the old folk. A Geriatric Unit is being set up at this hospital and suitable cases will be treated. By treatment and rehabilitation, it is hoped that some old people will be able to return and lead their normal life. In my opinion the problem can only be lessened by keeping old folk fit and active as long as possible, with a sustained interest in life. The Wellingborough Old Folks Committees with their Ward System and Darby and Joan Clubs are doing a great service in the town. The members of this Committee are to be congratulated on their work and enthusiasm.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply. There have been no alterations in the sources of supply for the Wellingborough area in the last year. This service is provided by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. Wellingborough receives its water from four sources, the impounding reservoir at Hardwick, collecting trench with boreholes and deep well at Orlingbury, wells at Bushfield and a supply of treated water from Corby. Full details of these sources were given in my last Annual Report.

The construction of the Pitsford works is proceeding rapidly and water from this source may be available in about two years time.

Treatment. Treatment is carried out at Bushfield of water from Hardwick, Orlingbury and Bushfield. It is softened, filtered and chlorinated. The Lime Process is used for softening.

Water Samples. Although the Board samples water throughout its areas, it has been my practice to carry out routine sampling in the Wellingborough area. 122 samples were taken during the year compared with 87 in the previous year. The results of these samples were as follows :

	Very Satisfactory	*Satisfactory*	*Suspicious*	*Unsatisfactory*
Wellingborough	41	13	21	6
Finedon ...	35	2	—	4
Total ...	76	15	21	10

From this it will be seen that 91 samples were Satisfactory, 21 Suspicious and 10 Unsatisfactory. Whenever a Suspicious or Unsatisfactory sample was found the Board was notified and action taken. It usually means a considerable amount of investigation and in this we helped. In Wellingborough the unsatisfactory counts were in connection with a contaminated pipe leading in from the main and with treatment cleared up.

The source of the trouble at Finedon was the storage tower. Only one sample taken at Finedon gave a Faecal Coli count. Birds contaminating the storage tank at the tower were probably the cause. Other unsatisfactory counts were of presumptive B. Coli. These counts always indicate trouble and require further investigation. It has always been my opinion that regular routine water samples should be taken, and I think the above proves this opinion.

The rainfall recorded at Wellingborough for the year was as follows : Wellingborough Swanspool—18.77 ins.

The average rainfall over the last five years was as follows :

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
19.5	25.01	29.11	25.8	18.77

Water Consumption. The total consumpation for 1953 was approximately 365,365,000 gallons.

Average daily consumption 1,001,000 gallons.

Consumption per head per day 34 gallons.

The total number of houses with a piped supply 8,991.

The number of houses dependent on standpipes 210.

The number of houses without town supply 40.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage.

WELLINGBOROUGH. Details of the method adopted for sewage disposal were given in last year's annual report. Land irrigation is the method used and sewage from Wellingborough is pumped up to the Irthlingborough Grange Sewage Farm where this is carried out. The land treatment is effective, and the results of a sample of final effluent taken on the 13th August, 1953, was as follows :

Sample marked Wellingborough Sewage Farm, Spike Island Effluent, effluent outlet pipe.

Analysis of this sample of sewage effluent has given the following results :

Suspended matter	Nil
Biological Oxygen Demand (5 days test)	0.4 parts per 100,000

The Standards suggested by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal recommends the following limits for an effluent :

Suspended matter	3 parts per 100,000
Biological Oxygen Demand	2 „ „ „

From this it will be seen that this is a very satisfactory effluent.

FINEDON. Broad Irrigation is the method of treatment used at these works also. The amount of land available is limited and as these works have been in use a considerable number of years the ground must be sewage sick. At Wellingborough the sewage farm is of such a size that alternative areas can be used for certain periods, then rested for a considerable time before being used again. This is not possible at Finedon. The works are situated some distance from the town of Finedon and give rise to no nuisance. They have been very successful at these works with regard to disposal of sludge. Sludge is burned here and thus disposed of. In other parts of the area sludge is quite a problem.

The result of Chemical Analysis of a sample of final effluent from these works taken on the 8th August, 1953, was as follows :

Suspended matter	1.2 parts per 100,000
Biological Oxygen Demand (5 days test)	3.2 „ „ „

This effluent is satisfactory as regards the suspended matter but exceeds the lowest figure for the Biological Oxygen Demand test.

A series of samples taken over a number of years have shown the final effluent to vary considerably. The results have been both satisfactory and unsatisfactory. This probably depends to some extent on whether the top portion or bottom part of farm is in use. The top portion would appear to give a better effluent.

During the year approximately 1/3rd of a mile of new sewers were laid. These are mostly on the new tower site at Finedon.

Sewage pumped in the year :

Sewage pumping station, Irthlingborough Road	198,662,680 gallons
Cattle Market	193,320,000 „
Average daily total	1,073,925 „

Disinfection. 40 premises were disinfected in connection with cases of Infectious Disease. Liquid and gaseous disinfectants were used. Articles of clothing, bedding, etc., associated with such cases are disinfected by arrangement with Rushden Urban District Council who maintain a Steam Disinfection Station.

Swimming Baths. There is no public Swimming Pool at Wellingborough. Wilby Lido, Overstone or Rushden, are the nearest pools. Samples of water from these three pools were taken during the season and bacteriological examination carried out. Only one sample proved unsatisfactory and this was due to chlorine not being added to the water on that particular day. Water in the three pools is filtered and chlorinated and the pools are maintained in a satisfactory manner. Repairs and renovations were carried out at Wilby to dressing accommodation and sanitary conveniences.

Samples of water from the River Nene were also examined during the Summer months and were found to be very unsatisfactory with evidence of heavy faecal pollution.

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936, S.269. Three licences were granted for specified periods for caravans during the year. There were no serious problems encountered with regard to moveable dwellings.

Public Cleansing. Gipsy Lane, No. 1 (North site) Nr. Irchester. This tip was used during the period. Controlled tipping was carried out. This tip is now full and is being covered over. A new tip on the South side of Gipsy Lane was opened during the year in a worked out ironstone quarry. Refuse is being tipped over the face of the quarry to establish an entrance road to the bottom and to enable controlled tipping in layers to be commenced. The tip is sprayed during the Summer season to keep down fly breeding, and also kept under constant observation by the Rodent Operator.

Weekly collections of household refuse is made and the Council maintain 5 vehicles. 4,268 loads of refuse were collected weighing 7,350 tons.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement. Once again the chief source of air pollution in the town was caused by emission of dust and grit from the blast furnaces of the local iron works. Only four further complaints were received concerning four factory chimneys causing a smoke nuisance. Each case was investigated with satisfactory results. In connection with the iron works, four deposit gauges were in use throughout the year. Full details of amounts of deposited matter in tons per square mile per month will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

The four collecting stations where guages have been installed are Hillside Road, Cooling Tower, Old Isolation Hospital and the Council Depot. Due to the heavy nature of the dust and grit, as expected, the readings at the two stations near the works (Cooling Tower and Hillside Road) are much greater than at the Isolation Hospital and Council Depot. These latter two stations, however, give some idea as to the extent the town is affected by these works. Last year in my report, I gave an average of the average monthly deposit recorded at these four stations. The average monthly deposited matter in tons per square mile in 1953 for the four gauges was as follows :

Hillside Road	*Cooling Tower*	*Isolation Hospital*	*Council Depot*
54.29	87.17	14.93	12.66

From these figures it will be seen that the average for the year 1953 was 42.25 tons per square mile. The figures for the last four years were :

1950	...	...	48.31 tons per square mile.
1951	...	...	36.2 " " " "
1952	...	...	28 " " " "
1953	...	...	42.25 " " " "

These figures indicate that 1953 was a bad year and this fact would appear to be borne out by complaints received from persons living in the area. However, the Health Committee have constantly kept the matter under observation and numerous approaches have been made to the Company to take action to abate the nuisance. As a result of this the Company installed a cyclone to one of the three blast furnaces during the year and have given an assurance that the remaining two furnaces will eventually be fitted with similar cyclones. It is stated that the cyclone installed had in its initial period of operation collected an average of 25 tons of dust per week. When the two further cyclones are in use the situation should be considerably improved. Such cyclones must increase the efficiency of the works as well, as a considerable quantity of iron must be lost in this very high deposit of grit and dust that affects so adversely parts of the town. Railway engines in the vicinity of the works must contribute largely to the atmospheric pollution and I often have observed 7 or 8 engines in the region of the works belching out black smoke. If some action could be taken with regard to this source it also would help the situation considerably. Black smoke signifies incomplete combustion and the atmosphere is polluted with harmful gases. Sulphur dioxide is one of these and to estimate atmospheric pollution, two Lead Peroxide instruments were installed, one at Hillside Road and the second at the Council depot, during the year. The results from these instruments is given as the weight of SO^3 collected in mg per 100 sq. c.m. per day. The first readings were obtained in April and subsequent readings for each month will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. At the time of writing complete figures for a year are to hand and in a report to the Council I pointed out certain significant features with regard to the Sulphur dioxide figures. A graph showing the relationship between deaths from certain causes and the concentration of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere has been made. This graph is of interest but no definite conclusions could be drawn from it for a period as short as a year. Further observations are to be made. The sulphur dioxide figures are higher nearer the centre of the town than on the perimeter and this would point to domestic chimneys as being the chief offenders.

Atmospheric pollution is a very big problem and is one in which every authority should take a keen interest. It is only by a sustained effort on the part of all authorities throughout the country that any improvement can be brought about on a large scale. Public opinion, if aroused to the dangers of the pollution of the atmosphere could help considerably. It was thought that the publicity the London " Smog " received might have been the starting point of greater activity in this field.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of December, 1953 was 731. This number was made up as follows :

Wellingborough	608
Finedon	123
	731

The Wellingborough figure shows a fall of 20 on the previous year but the figures for Finedon show an increase of 33. The total number shows an increase of 13 on the numbers of applications received in 1952.

With reference to Finedon, it must be remembered that the Slum Clearance programme includes a large number of houses there and that many persons living in these unfit houses are on the Council's housing list, and will be re-housed when these areas are dealt with.

The number of new houses built in the area during the year was as follows :

	Council	*Private*	*Total*
Completed during the year ...	226	68	294
Completed since the War ... ... (including 95 temporary houses)	1035	229	1264
Under construction on 31.12.53 ...	188	29	217

The number of houses constructed in 1953 once again showed an increase on the number built in the previous year. In 1952, 245 houses were built and in 1951, 101 houses. The Council's building programme is very satisfactory and preliminary surveys and preparation for construction of roads and sewers for approximately 340 houses on the new housing site off Northampton Road, have been made. Roads and sewers for 90 houses at the Tower site, Finedon, have been completed. 640 houses constructed in three years is very satisfactory progress towards solving the town's housing problem and the Council is to be congratulated on its very fine effort. The Council's housing estates are well sited and maintained and should help considerably towards the Health of the community.

Slum Clearance. Two years ago in my Annual Report I suggested that the time was approaching when the Council should consider commencing again Slum Clearance. I am pleased to report that during the early part of the year five Clearance Areas in Wellingborough were dealt with. The Ministry confirmed four of these Clearance Orders and the fifth was held up for a period until the property was de-requisitioned, and following a further Inquiry, this Order was also confirmed. Last year I reported that the Chief Sanitary Inspector and I had carried out surveys of Wellingborough and Finedon with reference to unfit property and the drawing up of a future programme to deal with the situation. As a result of this the Health Committee, in consultation with the Housing Committee, decided to proceed with the Finedon Clearance Scheme and 21 Clearance areas comprising 161 houses, are to be dealt with. There is much bad property in Finedon with derelict areas. This action should bring about a considerable improvement.

A great problem facing owners of property let at a low rent, is the high cost of repairs. Such property could possibly have many more years of life if dealt with now, but if neglected much longer will deteriorate into slum property. In suitable cases it may be advisable for the Council to consider purchasing such premises with a view to prolonging their lives and by the addition of certain amenities, making them into comfortable houses.

Such property is often of considerable assistance when re-housing persons from slum clearance areas. It often can be let at a rent much lower than that of a new Council house.

During the year visits were made to inspect living conditions of applicants for Council houses. Reports were furnished to the Housing Committee for their consideration. I should like to express my appreciation of the co-operation I received from the Housing Manager and Committee with regard to cases with a health factor.

SECTION E.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk Samples. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the supervision and sampling of Producers of Milk. The Ministry Inspectors sample milk from these sources in the area. The County Council is the Licensing Authority for Pasteurisation Plants and their Inspector samples milk which has been pasteurised. Information with regard to results of samples is received from the County Council Inspector but not from the Ministry. The Wellingborough Council is the authority responsible for the distributive side and as such continues to take samples in its area. This, in my opinion, is most advisable, as the situation can only be kept under constant observation by such means. Monthly reports are submitted to the Health Committee by the Chief Sanitary Inspector. From his report which deals with this section it will be seen that 114 milk samples were taken during the year. 53% of samples were found to be unsatisfactory as regards keeping quality. Most of the unsatisfactory samples were of raw milk and it must also be remembered that a considerable number of unsatisfactory samples were in connection with investigations of sources where trouble was found.

The bulk of the milk consumed in the Wellingborough area is pasteurised and there are three pasteurisation plants in the town.

Rinsings from washed bottles. 109 bottles were examined compared with 78 in the previous year. The results were as follows :

Satisfactory	*Fairly Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*
84	3	22

Unsatisfactory counts were followed up and persons concerned advised. It will be appreciated how important this work is as contamination of milk may take place if bottles are not dealt with in a hygienic manner. The public should be taught to respect milk bottles and not to use them for any other purpose.

Ice-cream. The majority of ice-cream sold in the area is pre-packed and only a small amount manufactured locally. Twenty-six samples were taken for examination during the year and the results were as follows :

	Provisional Grade.		
I.	II.	III.	IV.
15	6	4	1

From this it will be seen that over 80% were in the first two grades and this complies with Ministry instructions which state over 80% should fall within these two grades.

Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940. The area continued to be supplied by the Rushden Abattoir where beasts for human consumption were slaughtered. All meat was inspected before being passed for human consumption. Meat inspection is a very important service and one requiring skill and experience on the part of the inspector. In the course of a year a very considerable quantity of meat is condemned and in perusing the causes, it is interesting to note the wide variety of

reasons. It is a silent service that works daily in the interest of the community. When de-rationing of meat occurs and private slaughterhouses are in operation again, it is important that all meat must still be thoroughly inspected before being passed fit for human consumption.

Clean Food Guild. In 1950 a Wellingborough Clean Food Guild was formed under the guidance of the Health Committee. The Guild, like so many others throughout the country, commenced with a flourish, but after a while, due to lack of interest and support by the traders of the town, its activities diminished. As usual the better type premises joined the Guild and the trader for whom such guilds were formed, refrained. The Committee decided to discontinue the Guild, due to insufficient support. This may or may not have been a good decision. With such Guilds probably too much time is spent on good premises, time that possibly should be spent in the inspection of the premises of those traders who refrained from joining the Guild. However, I think a considerable amount of good was done by the Guild in its initial stages. The publicity associated with the launching of the Guild should have helped with the raising of standards in connection with the hygienic preparation and handling of food. It is interesting to note some of the improvements reported in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. The series of lecture demonstrations given to food handlers should have done some good and I propose in the future to run Clean Food Drives, when a further series of lectures and films will be given for those in the Food Trade.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox. No cases occurred in the area.

Vaccination. The vaccination figures for 1953 were as follows :

	Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 *yrs. or over*	*Total*
Primary	118	22	13	26	179
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	23	23
					202

For comparison purposes the figures for 1952 were :

	Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 *yrs. or over*	*Total*
Primary	102	21	14	58	195
Re-vaccination	—	1	4	91	96
					291

In comparing the two years it will be seen that the total number of vaccinations carried out in 1953 showed a fall on the figures for 1952, but the number of primary vaccinations performed on infants in 1953 showed an increase on the previous year. The third month of life is the best time for primary vaccination and every effort should be made to have as many infants vaccinated as possible.

Scarlet Fever. 32 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. This is five more than the previous year. Nine cases were removed to hospital. The cases were spread throughout the months of the year and the majority of instances were in children between the ages of 5 and 10 years.

Diphtheria. No cases occurred. The area has been free of the disease for two years when one case was notified. Previous to this, it was four years since a case occurred.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. The following table shows the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1953 :

Age at 31.12.53 *i.e.* born in yr	*Under* 1 1953	1 1952	2 1951	3 1950	4 1949	5 *to* 9 1944-1948	10 *to* 14 1939-1943	*Total under* 15
Number Immunised	20	281	266	297	333	1,564	1,374	4,135

The following number of children were immunised at the Wellingborough Welfare Centres during the year :

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 *to* 9	10 *to* 14	*Total*	*Booster*
185	79	23	10	12	44	6	359	376

The above does not include children immunised by private arrangements.

It is necessary to keep up propaganda with reference to parents having their children immunised against Diphtheria, because the younger generation of parents have little knowledge of this disease. A combined inoculation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is now used, and this, in my opinion, will help the campaign against Diphtheria. Most young parents have come in contact with Whooping Cough in their life and knowing what a distressing disease it is, especially in the very young, seek protection for their children. The number of combined inoculations carried out during the year was as follows :

	Under 1	1—4	5—14	*Total*
Combined Diphtheria-Pertussis	47	72	3	122
Whooping Cough only ...	16	61	—	77

The combined Diphtheria-Pertussis figures are included in the figure for Diphtheria Immunisation.

Whooping Cough. 79 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year compared with 61 in the previous year. In 1951 there were 124 cases. Table No. 7 shows the monthly incidence and from this it will be seen that the majority of cases occurred in the last three months of the year. Table No. 8 gives the age incidence and from this it will be seen that most of the cases were in children of school age. One death occurred in an infant. In early infancy Whooping Cough is a dangerous disease and it is advisable to commence inoculations at an early date. There are a number of complications associated with Whooping Cough and parents should seek protection for their children. Many cases of Bronchiectasis are due to this complaint and severe spasms of whooping in the young may cause small haemorrhages in the cerebral cortex with resultant impairment of the intelligence of the child. One wonders how many children examined subsequently at school and ascertained as Educationally Sub-normal could trace the origin of their state of intellect back to a severe attack of Whooping Cough. One case of Whooping Cough was removed to hospital.

Measles. 95 cases of measles were notified compared with 539 cases in the previous year. One case was removed to hospital. No deaths occurred. The majority of cases occurred in January and were part of a measles epidemic which occurred in the last two months of 1952.

Puerperal Pyrexia. 12 cases were notified compared with 21 in the previous year. The majority of notifications were of cases in the Park Maternity Home. This hospital serves a large area and few of the cases were from Wellingborough.

Pneumonia. 34 cases of pneumonia were notified. In the previous year there were 27 cases. 11 deaths from this cause were recorded compared with 7 in the previous year.

Cerebro Spinal Fever. No cases occurred. There also were no cases in the previous year.

Erysipelas. Eight cases were notified. In the previous year there were two cases.

Influenza. Eight deaths were recorded from this cause. In the previous year there was one death from Influenza.

Dysentery. For the second year no cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis. Three cases were notified, two in August and one in September. All cases were removed to hospital. In the previous year there were no cases.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. One case was notified. No case occurred in the previous year.

Food Poisoning. Ten cases occurred compared with 7 in the previous year. The majority of cases occurred in one household and were associated with contamination of food by a staphylococcus. One case of Salmonella Typhimurim was investigated. This case was of interest because there was a history of chronic enteritis over a number of years. This organism in not associated with a chronic condition and yet it appeared to be the cause in this instance. A number of cases of diarrhoea of unknown origin were investigated. No specific organisms were isolated. These cases have always been of particular interest because often they herald an outbreak of some particular cause. It has been my experience that cases of Poliomyelitis often follow in the wake of such cases. Sonne Dysentery sometimes commences in this way also. Knowledge of such cases is always welcomed by the Health Department as early investigation may be of considerable assistance in taking preventive measures.

Tuberculosis. 24 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with 11 in the previous year. Twenty-two cases were of Respiratory Tuberculosis, 17 males and 5 females and two cases (2 males) of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis. This figure shows a considerable rise on the previous year and this is due to the fact that the Mass Radiography Unit visited the town during the period, November, 1952 to January, 1953. In last year's annual report I gave a preliminary report on the findings of this Survey. A summary of newly discovered cases of significant Tuberculosis found at this Third Survey of Wellingborough was as follows :

Group	*No. examined*	*Active*	*Rate per* 1,000	*Inactive*	*Rate per* 1,000
Firms	5,168	10	1.93	16	3.1
General Public ...	1,944	—	—	11	5.66
Schools	1,207	—	—	1	.83
National Servicemen	189	—	—	—	—
Boot and Shoe ...	1,244	5	4.02	5	4.02
(Figures included above)					
Total	8,508	10	1.18	28	3.29

As will be seen from above 10 Active cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered and 28 inactive cases. 112 persons were recalled for clinical examination. A list of other chest complaints was given in my last report. These figures show the value of such a survey to the community and not only are cases of Tuberculosis discovered but other chest complaints requiring medical attention. 8,508 persons presented themselves for X-ray compared with 6,426 in 1949. This response is very satisfactory.

The third survey of Finedon took place at the Town Hall on the 2nd to 4th February, 1953.

Summary of Work	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
No. of miniature films taken ...	507	540	1,047
No. of large films taken	16	35	51
No. recalled for clinical examination ...	7	9	16
No. reported to dispensary	2	7	9

Summary of newly discovered cases of significant Tuberculosis found in the Finedon Third Survey.

Group	*No. examined*	*Active*	*Rate per 1,000*	*Inactive*	*Rate per 1,000*
Firms	661	1	1.5	4	6.0
General Public ...	293	1	3.4	1	3.4
National Servicemen	33	—	—	—	—
Boot and Shoe ... (Figures included above)	512	—	—	3	5.8
Total	1,047	2	1.91	5	4.78

The one active case discovered from the General Public was a school child.

Other Chest conditions diagnosed at this Survey :

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
Pleural thickening	5	1	6
Pulmonary Fibrosis	—	1	1
Abnormality of bony Thorax and Lungs	1	—	1
Rib abnormalities	4	2	6
Scoliosis	2	3	5

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. G. Gerrard, the Director of the Mass Radiography Unit, for information concerning the results of these two surveys and express appreciation of the work carried out in the area by his Unit.

During the year 17 cases from Wellingborough were admitted to the Rushden Sanatorium and 15 discharged. Six deaths were recorded from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year. In the previous year there were six deaths from Tuberculosis, all being Pulmonary infections. The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year was as follows :

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Pulmonary	83	55	138
Non-Pulmonary	29	16	45
			183

The number of new cases (all forms) notified during the last seven years was as follows :

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
22	11	19	17	23	11	24

The mortality figures for Wellingborough and the County for the same period were as follows :

Year	*Tuberculosis—All forms*			*Rate per* 1,000 *population*	
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Wellingborough*	*County*
1948	4	6	10	.35	.42
1949	5	3	8	.28	.43
1950	7	—	7	.24	.30
1951	7	4	11	.38	.26
1952	3	3	6	.21	.25
1953	5	2	7	.24	

The After-Care Committee continues to carry out its good work in the town.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Form 572 (Revised) is given as Table No. 11 page 35. From this it will be seen that there are 221 factories on the register. This is one more than in the previous year. Eighty inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and 15 written notices served. Nine cases where defects were found were referred by the Factory Inspector. Action was taken as necessary.

The standard with regard to Sanitary Conveniences in factories in the area is fairly satisfactory. With regard to the 22 premises without mechanical power, no complaints concerning numbers employed, cleanliness, temperatures, ventilation or drainage of floors were received.

An investigation of one factory, where a case of Cerebro Spinal Fever had occurred in a man who lived out of the area, was made. The ventilation of the room in which he worked was not considered satisfactory and the owners were advised accordingly.

The number of outworkers on the list for 1953 was 518 compared with 389 in the previous year.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1953.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	2	6
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	—	1
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	6	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	11	—	11
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	12	29
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	3	3
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	24	49	73
18. Coronary disease, angina	25	11	36
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
20. Other heart disease	39	67	106
21. Other circulatory disease	4	6	10
22. Influenza	4	4	8
23. Pneumonia	7	4	11
24. Bronchitis	12	6	18
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	14	14	28
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
34. All other accidents	2	3	5
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	185	203	388

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
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
1951	1	.03	10	.35	54	1.90	133	4.69	35	1.23
1952	—	—	6	.21	53	1.87	199	7.04	28	.99
1953	1	.03	6	.21	58	2.03	229	8.02	30	1.05

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)		
1947	.53	22.93	65.72	1022
1948	.46	25.04	49.40	1000
1949	.21	12.98	41.66	1111
1950	.42	27.71	40.38	1136
1951	.56	37.29	60.53	1096
1952	.21	13.63	34.56	1333
1953	.17	12.34	35	1285

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1953 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

TABLE NO. 4.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
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
1951	28,380	413	14.55	12	29.05	361	12.72
1952	28,250	434	15.36	10	23.04	334	11.82
1953	28,520	400	14.02	7	17.5	388	13.60

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT AND 160 SMALLER TOWNS AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1953.

TABLE NO. 5.

Rates per 1,000 *Home Population*	*England and Wales Population*	160 *Smaller Towns (Resident Population* 25,000—50,000 1951 *Census)*	*Wellingborough*
Live Births	15.5	15.7	14.02
Stillbirths	0.35	0.34	0.17
	22.4 (a)	21.4(a)	
Deaths—			
All causes	11.4	11.3	13.60
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	—	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.00	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.20	0.19	0.24
Influenza	0.16	0.17	0.28
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.55	0.52	0.38
Notifications—			
Typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.44	1.12
Whooping Cough ...	3.58	3.38	2.77
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.13	0.28
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	12.36	12.32	3.33
Pneumonia	0.84	0.76	1.19
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)			
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.10
Non-Paralytic ...	0.04	0.04	0.00
Food Poisoning ...	0.24	0.24	0.35
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	18.23(a)	12.46(a)	0.42
Rates per 1,000 *Live Births*			
Deaths—			
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8(b)	24.3	17.5
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	0.9	0.00

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1953.

TABLE No. 6.

Disease	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	4	10	15	1	1	—	—	—	—	32	9	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	1	1	5	1	—	4	5	13	3	34	—	11
Measles	11	15	13	10	12	24	7	2	1	—	—	—	95	1	—
Whooping Cough	6	8	4	12	15	31	2	—	—	—	—	1	79	1	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	8	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	—	—	—	12	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	2	1	—	10	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL ...	19	23	20	27	40	78	13	5	17	8	17	7	274	14	12

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1953.

TABLE No. 7.

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	3	—	2	2	7	2	2	—	—	—	4	10	32
Pneumonia	7	10	3	6	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	34
Measles	60	2	7	4	14	2	—	1	—	—	3	2	95
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	4	6	6	15	26	18	79
Erysipelas	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	3	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	10
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	74	16	24	13	27	5	9	10	7	18	35	36	274

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

TABLE No. 8.

	Measles		Whooping Cough	
Age Periods	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*
—6 months	3	2	2	1
—12 months	3	3	3	—
—18 months	2	2	2	3
—2 years	6	5	2	1
—2½ years	8	3	1	1
—3 years	—	2	—	2
—4 years	6	4	6	6
—5 years	7	5	10	5
—10 years	13	11	12	19
—15 years	—	7	1	1
15 years +	2	1	1	—
ALL AGES	50	45	40	39
TOTALS	95		79	

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1953.

TABLE No. 9.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		*Non-respiratory*		*Respiratory*		*Non-respiratory*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
—15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—35	2	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
—45	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
—55	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—65	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	17	5	2	—	4	2	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

TABLE No. 10.

Causes of Death	*Ages in Weeks*					
	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	*Total*
1. Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Diseases of Early Infancy— Congenital debility and icterus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	4	—	—	—	—	4
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	6	—	—	1	—	7

TABLE No. 11.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 for the year 1953.

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	22	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	192	77	14	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	7	—	1	—
TOTAL	221	80	15	—

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*	*Referred By H.M. Inspector*	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(*a*) insufficient	4	3	—	3	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	11	8	—	6	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	11	—	9	—

TABLE No. 11—*continued.*

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.	269	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	1	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and Furniture hangings	1	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & Upholstery	39	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc. ...	206	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	518	—	—	—	—	—

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

★

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

Year 1953

★

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

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department.

STAFF, 1953.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

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

Also Authorised Officer under the Shops, Petroleum, Theatres and Cinematographs Acts.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

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

Clerk and Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary :

MISS E. M. BROTHERTON†.

Pest Control Operative :

G. HOWELL (Resigned 17.11.53).

General Assistant (Manual) ;

C. LAWRENCE (Appointed 3.3.53).

* Certified Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.I.

† Certificate in Commercial Education, London Chamber of Commerce.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS HORN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Seventh Annual Report for the year 1953.

The report, which is compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, gives statistical and other information with regard to the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District, and of the administration of my department during the year, in the field of environmental hygiene.

Particular reference is made in the report to the subject of air pollution and to the action taken during the year to deal with the dust nuisance from the local iron works. It is hoped that the measures now being adopted will at last provide a satisfactory solution to this long-standing problem. The routine investigation of various forms of pollution, with the use of standard measuring apparatus is extremely useful. It provides data which is valuable, not only locally, but is also included in the national records maintained by the Atmospheric Pollution Section of the D.S.I.R. There are now nearly 200 local authorities participating in this work.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Bill which gives effect to the proposals contained in the White Paper " Houses—The Next Step " foreshadows greater activity with regard to the repair, reconditioning and improvement of existing houses, and the progressive clearance and replacement of unfit properties. There is a great deal to be done in the urban district in this field in the years immediately ahead, and in anticipation of the new provisions preparatory work is already being done in the department.

The announcement in November of the intention to decontrol the marketing of meat in 1954 caused a certain amount of concern. It was foreseen that in the absence of adequate public slaughtering facilities, this would inevitably require the re-opening of some of the sixteen private slaughterhouses which were in use before the war, but which were, in the main, considered to be unsuitable. Although the Council have for some years indicated their desire for a public abattoir to be sited in Wellingborough, it will not be possible to make any progress in this matter until the national siting plan to be prepared in accordance with the Government's declared policy of moderate concentration is known. In the meantime, with the return of slaughtering to the urban district it will be necessary to undertake full responsibility for meat inspection at private slaughterhouses.

On the public relations side, I am pleased to have had the opportunity on a number of occasions during the year of addressing local organisations on various aspects of public health work.

The duties and responsibilities of the department are wide and varied, and there is no doubt that with the introduction of the impending new legislation, particularly that relating to housing and food, increased demands will be made upon it. Progress and improvement in the many sections of its work are to a large extent proportional to the amount of practical inspection and supervision exercised, especially so in the vital field of food hygiene, but it will be appreciated that with a limited establishment it is only possible to achieve partial results.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health and General Purposes Committee for the help and encouragement I have received, and to Dr. Bermingham and the other Chief Officers of the Council for their friendly advice and co-operation. I also record my appreciation of the valued assistance rendered by my staff throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Miss Horn and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEC J. STROUD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.
July, 1954.

SANITARY INSPECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA.

TABLE A.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Total Inspections and Visits	3,848
Complaints received	226
Preliminary Notices served	108
Secondary Notices served	24
Statutory Notices served	26
Letters, etc., received	1,173
Letters, etc., dispatched	1,289
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	226

TABLE B.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

(a) General Sanitary Work—	
Water Supply	48
Drainage and Sewerage	444
Closet Accommodation	26
Refuse—storage, collection and disposal	15
Moveable Dwellings	5
Houses, let in Lodgings	—
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	17
Rivers Pollution	10
Offensive Trades	4
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement	45
Infectious Disease, Disinfection, etc.	101
Keeping of Animals	5
Pet Shops	2
Offensive Accumulations	6
Schools	4
Rodent Infestation Control including visits by rodent operative	1,288
Vermin and Insect Pests—Investigations	48
(b) Housing—	
Inspection of Dwelling Houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	606
(c) Shops Act, 1950—	
Sanitary Conditions	79
(d) Factories—	
Inspection of Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers' Premises	84
(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938—	
Meat and Food Inspection	149
General Food Shops	94
Market Stalls and Street Food Vendors	17
Food Manufacturing Premises	49
Catering Establishments and Licensed Premises	26
Ice Cream Premises	27
Dairies, Milk Shops and Milk Distribution	58
Sampling—Milk, Ice Cream and Other Foods	71
(f) Miscellaneous Visits	385

TABLE C.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED FOLLOWING SERVICE OF NOTICE.

General—	
Roofs repaired or renewed	31
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	20
Walls (External) repaired or rebuilt	11
Walls (External) repointed, rendered, etc.	21
E.G.'s and R.W.P.'s cleansed, repaired or renewed	20

TABLE C continued

Yards paved or repaired	16
Houses cleansed, limewashed or decorated	4
Walls (Internal) repaired	131
Ceilings repaired or renewed	29
Floors repaired or renewed	15
Stairs repaired	8
Handrails fixed to staircases	1
Doors, etc., repaired or renewed	5
Windows, etc., repaired or renewed	32
Firegrates and stoves repaired or renewed	8
Sinks provided or renewed	13
Dampness remedied	15
Ventilation improved	—
Washing boilers repaired or renewed	—
Drainage—	
Drains constructed or reconstructed	15
Drains repaired	8
Obstructed drains cleared	75
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	7
Soil and Vent. pipes provided or renewed	1
Gullies provided or renewed	14
Old drains abolished	4
Waste pipes provided, renewed or repaired	9
Drains disconnected from sewer	—
Sanitary Conveniences—	
New conveniences provided	1
Conveniences repaired, reconstructed or improved	10
Conveniences cleansed or limewashed	4
Defective conveniences abolished	—
Light and ventilation improved	2
Pedestal washdown W.C. basins fixed	9
Flushing apparatus provided	—
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	2
Water Supplies—	
Internal water supply provided	—
Mains supply provided	—
Wells abolished	1
Water services repaired	1
Miscellaneous—	
Dustbins provided	1
Offensive accumulations removed	2
Animals—Nuisances abated	—
Rats and Mice—Premises treated	123
Smoke nuisances abated	2

SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Number outstanding 31st December, 1952		58
Informal Notices to execute work or abate nuisances		108
Secondary Notices		24
Statutory Notices—		
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 24—Maintenance of Certain Lengths of Public Sewer	11	
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 39—Drainage of Existing Buildings	3	
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93—Statutory Nuisances	9	
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9—Repair of Dwelling Houses	2	
Factories Act, 1937, Sec. 7—Sanitary Conveniences in Factories	1	
	—	26
		192
Number complied with		114
Number outstanding 31st December, 1953		78

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings or to execute any works in default in connection with the non-compliance of notices.

WATER SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 210 houses in the Urban District still supplied by external standposts, many of which are used in common by two or more houses. Most of these houses are, however, of a very low category and likely to be condemned within a few years, and in consequence it has not been considered reasonable to require internal supplies to be provided in these cases.

Private Wells.

40 houses, with a population of approximately 100 persons are served by shallow wells and springs. Many of these are in districts where the main supply is not available. Periodical samples from these sources are taken for bacteriological examination, and in most cases have been found to be unsatisfactory. During the year 17 samples were taken with the following results :

Satisfactory—3 Unsatisfactory—14.

Pending measures being taken to deal with these unsatisfactory supplies, all occupiers were advised as a precautionary measure to boil the water before consumption.

DRAINAGE, ETC.

The amount of work carried out in connection with the supervision of drainage works was still considerable. Several cases of defective drainage were detected as the result of rat infestation. During the year the department applied 120 hydraulic, smoke and other tests to new and existing drainage, and cleansed 75 obstructed drains.

Cesspools.

The emptying of cesspools was carried out on 62 occasions under standing arrangements with the Rushden U.D.C. Most of the properties serviced were in the Nest Lane area where some 50 houses have this type of drainage.

Closet Accommodation.

Most houses in the Urban District are on the water carriage system. There are, however, still a few outlying farms and cottages which have pail closets.

I would again refer to the problem of hand-flushed closets. As stated in my 1950 report there are some 1,500 houses with this type of convenience, which although connected to the main sewerage system, requires to be hand flushed with the use of a pail of water.

With the easing of building restrictions, and now that the local authority will be turning their attention more to the repair and improvement of existing dwelling houses, there is no doubt that this is a matter to which the Council should give early attention.

By implementing the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, property owners may be required to convert this type of convenience to the proper water closet type with flushing apparatus. Such action will, however, involve considerable expenditure on the part of the Council, in contributing one-half of the cost of such conversions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

40 premises were visited in connection with the investigation of cases of notifiable infectiousdisease.

No. of houses or parts of houses disinfected :

(a) Following infectious disease	58
(b) On special request (other causes)	6
No. of articles disinfected	333
No. of articles destroyed	62

Cases requiring steam disinfection are dealt with by the Rushden U.D.C., a fixed charge being made for the service.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Three licences were issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of caravans for temporary housing accommodation for limited periods. These were subject to specified conditions regarding water supply, sanitary arrangements, etc.

The numerous small sites occupied periodically by showmen were satisfactorily maintained.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no manufacturers of Rag Flock in the Urban District. One firm is licensed in respect of storage only.

There are no premises which come within the provisions of the Act as regards registration. These apply only to premises where filling materials are used in manufacturing bedding and other articles of upholstery. It is to be regretted that the remaking or reconditioning of such articles are specially exempted from the standards prescribed in the Act, as unclean or contaminated material may be re-used in such articles.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licences were granted in respect of two premises where pet animals are kept for the purpose of sale.

These were subject to routine visits during the year. The conditions of licence have been complied with.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The number of registered factories in the Urban District at 31st December was 221, i.e., with mechanical power, 192 ; without mechanical power, 22 ; other premises, 7 ; an increase of 1 during the twelve months.

80 inspections were made and 15 written notices served requiring defects to be remedied. These were :

Sanitary Conveniences	Insufficient	Found	4	Remedied	3
	Unsuitable or Defective	,,	11	,,	8

Nine notifications of infringements were received from H.M. Inspector. These primarily concerned the lighting or cleansing of sanitary conveniences.

Outwork.

Half-yearly lists were received from 40 employers and 4 outside authorities notifying the employment of 518 outworkers in the Urban District. (August List). Most of these were employed in connection

with the making, etc., of boots and shoes, clothing, and in the carding of buttons.

Particulars relating to 230 outworkers were also notified to other authorities during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

1. Rodent Infestation Control.

Satisfactory progress was maintained in the work of this section during the year, which is summarised below. The service is well established, and there is indication that the public are ready to notify cases of infestation however small. This is particularly so in the case of private dwellings which are treated free of charge.

Very effective treatments have been carried out with the use of Warfarin, the blood anti-coagulant. This material has been so successful that I am now almost exclusively using it except for sewer treatments.

Following an enquiry by the Ministry's Divisional Officer, the Council decided to assist the Urban Councils of Raunds and Irthlingborough in their rodent control work. Arrangements were accordingly made for the services of my operative to be made available to these authorities for a period of approximately one week in four. These arrangements have worked satisfactorily.

Surface Infestation.

(a)	Notifications of rat and mice infestations received		87
(b)	Premises inspected :		
	(i) As result of notification	94	
	(ii) Routine Visit or Survey	444	
		——	538
(c)	Number of Properties found to be infested :		
	Rats—Major	17	
	Rats—Minor	141	
	Mice only	55	
		——	213
(d)	Number of Infested Properties treated by local authority :		
	Private Dwellings	69	
	Business and Industrial Premises (including those under Servicing Agreements) ...	43	
	Agricultural Properties	—	
	Local Authority Properties	11	
		—	123
(e)	Total Visits made by Rodent Operative		1228

Annual Servicing Agreements.

Number in force 31.12.53	15
Total Value	£207

Sewer Maintenance.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, as requested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with favourable results. In addition certain sections of the sewerage system were test-baited. The following is a summary of the results.

Total number of sewer manholes in the Urban District ... 567

Treatment	*Wellingborough*	*Finedon*
First—(March, 1953)—		
Number of manholes baited	149	48
Number showing infestation (bait take) ...	73 (49%)	12 (25%)
Number of manholes test-baited in conjunction with treatment (13% of remainder)	46	—
Number of tested manholes showing infestation	—	—
Test-Baiting (August, 1953)—		
Number of manholes baited	76	37
Number showing infestation	33	9
Second—(Sept./Oct., 1953)—		
Number of manholes baited	83	44
Number showing infestation	51 (61%)	10 (23%)

Poisons used, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide.

2. Verminous Disinfestation.

27 cases of verminous infestation were reported during the year; these included :

Ants	6	Earwigs ...	3
Beetles ...	4	Fleas	5
Bugs	5	Flies ...	1
Cockroaches ...	2	Wasps ...	1

The continued use of vermicides containing D.D.T. or B.H.C. proved effective.

HOUSING.

On January 13th the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held an Inquiry in respect of five Clearance Areas comprising thirty houses, the first of the Council's post-war Slum Clearance Schemes, viz. :

Buckwell End (No. 3) Clearance Area	3 houses
Broad Green ,, ,, ...	2 ,,
Doddington Road ,, ,, ...	7 ,,
Old Farm Yard ,, ,, ...	8 ,,
St. George's Terrace ,, ,, ...	10 ,,

With the exception of St. George's Terrace, the Orders relating to these were subsequently confirmed.

In December, the Health Committee, in consultation with the Housing Committee gave further consideration to existing housing conditions at Finedon, in the light of my 1952 report. Although it had previously

been decided to deal with the totally unfit properties by phases over a period of five years, it was finally decided to deal with 161 houses by one comprehensive scheme of 21 Clearance Areas without further delay. Considerable preparatory work was carried out in connection with this scheme, which necessitated the detailed survey of the areas and the preparation of the necessary plans.

The decision of the Council is in keeping with the Government's request that local authorities should now press ahead with such work as fast as their resources and building programmes permit.

The investigation of housing conditions and subsequent action under the Public Health and Housing Acts form a major part of the department's activities. During the year 25% of complaints received related to housing conditions.

There is no doubt that the relaxation of building controls has reflected itself to some extent in more voluntary repairs and improvements being carried out to houses of a reasonable standard, particularly so in the case of owner-occupied property. The high cost of repair works, which according to the Girwood Committee's report is more than 300% above 1939 costs, is, however, a great deterrent to the owners of the poorer class of property, let at very low controlled rents, to carry out even urgent and necessary repairs.

Housing Statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

(i)	Houses inspected for housing defects	185
	Number of inspections made	406
(ii)	**Clearance Areas :**	
	Number of houses demolished	17
	Number of persons displaced	9
(iii)	**Remedy of Defects :**	
	Unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts	30
(iv)	**Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936 :**	
	(a) Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	12
	(b) Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(i) by owners	4
	(ii) by local authority in default of owners	1
(v)	**Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936 :**	
	(a) **Section 9 :**	
	(i) Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
	(ii) Houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners	6
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	—
	(b) **Sections 11—13 :**	
	Demolition Orders made	—
	Houses demolished	1
	Undertakings accepted	—
	Number of houses rendered fit	—
	Closing orders made (parts of buildings)	—

AIR POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The main source of air pollution arises from the emission of dust and grit from the blast furnaces of the local iron works. This has been the cause of serious nuisance to the residential parts of the north and east wards for a number of years. Although in 1949 the Company undertook certain measures to reduce the nuisance there has been no real improvement in the position. Rather, however, there is indication that the amount of dust disseminated from this source during 1953 was considerably more than in 1952 and the matter was the subject of a petition to the Council by 200 residents of the affected area.

The whole position has been under constant review by the Health Committee and further pressure was exerted on the Company to carry out effective measures to abate the nuisance. Before the end of the year the Company installed a cyclone to one of the three blast furnaces, and during its initial period of operation, an average of 25 tons of dust per week was collected. An assurance was given that the two remaining furnaces would be fitted with similar cyclones. This type of cyclone is an accepted and approved method for de-dusting blast furnace gases, and is estimated to have an efficiency of 80%.

The four Deposit Gauges were in use throughout the year. From the quantities of deposited matter collected, the equivalent amounts in tons per square mile are calculated, and are shown by the figures in Table D. It should be noted that the figure of 177.51 in relation to the Cooling Tower site is the second highest recorded figure since observations were started in 1948. The average monthly figures for the Hillside Road and Cooling Tower sites are also high compared with those for similar sites in other industrial areas associated with the iron and steel industry. The general situation is shown by the accompanying graph.

Measurement of atmospheric sulphur dioxide by means of two Lead Peroxide Instruments was commenced in April. These were sited at Hillside Road and the Council Depot respectively. The results, as shown in Table F and which are determined by chemical analysis, give an indication of the average concentration of sulphur dioxide in the air during each month. This method, while not providing absolute values, does, however, give data which can be used for comparative purposes either with different parts of the same, or with other areas. Available records show that figures varying from 2.0 to 4.0 mg/100 sq. cm/day are usual in the larger concentrated industrial areas, while in cleaner towns and rural areas, figures are invariably as low as 0.5.

Analyses are carried out by the following :

Deposit Gauges—Messrs. Stewarts & Lloyds, Corby.

Lead Peroxide Instruments—Messrs. John Evans (A. H. Allen & Partners), Analytical Chemists, Sheffield.

Few complaints were received during the year regarding other smoke nuisances. Twelve " timed " observations were made of four factory chimneys, and informal action was taken in respect of two firms. In one case where the type of fuel supplied was not entirely suitable for the boiler, successful representation was made to the E.M. Division of the National Coal Board on the matter.

TABLE D.

Deposited Matter (tons per sq. mile per month).

January—December, 1953.

	Hillside Road	*Finedon Road (Cooling Tower)*	*Isolation Hospital*	*Council Depot*
January ...	33.77	81.78	16.35	12.92
February	55.92	84.41	15.31	14.85
March ...	50.99	39.38	16.40	13.95
April ...	59.78	39.28	15.29	14.65
May ...	80.84	31.09	18.18	15.77
June ...	94.54	46.64	30.84	14.97
July ...	44.01	160.13	13.17	16.74
August ...	21.18	177.51	8.26	9.36
September	43.80	86.04	8.60	9.74
October ...	100.61	74.43	17.87	10.87
November	23.22	159.29	7.74	8.58
December	42.80	66.08	11.18	9.56
Average per month	54.29	87.17	14.93	12.66

TABLE E.

Meteorological Data.

Table showing monthly rainfall and wind directions.

Month	*Rainfall (Isolation Hosp.) Ins.*	*Recorded wind directions shown in percentages*							
		N.	*N.E.*	*E.*	*S.E.*	*S.*	*S.W.*	*W.*	*N.W.*
Jan.	0.90	8.7	—	—	—	17.4	39.1	23.9	10.9
Feb.	1.31	25.6	9.3	4.6	2.3	30.2	16.3	4.7	7.0
Mar.	0.97	9.5	21.4	2.5	2.5	9.5	21.4	16.6	16.6
Apr.	1.65	13.5	18.9	—	5.4	16.3	10.8	10.8	24.3
May	1.37	8.5	19.2	—	8.5	23.4	10.6	21.3	8.5
June	1.74	21.3	27.6	2.1	—	2.1	27.7	2.1	17.0
July	2.78	7.7	13.5	—	—	19.2	25.0	28.8	5.8
Aug.	2.68	7.1	—	1.8	3.6	17.0	21.4	26.8	21.4
Sept.	1.11	4.4	4.4	—	8.9	31.2	17.8	20.0	13.3
Oct.	1.32	11.9	4.8	—	9.6	26.1	11.9	16.6	19.1
Nov.	1.70	—	2.3	—	7.0	27.9	41.9	18.6	2.3
Dec.	0.58	4.4	11.1	—	11.1	48.9	11.1	6.7	6.7

TABLE F.

Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method.

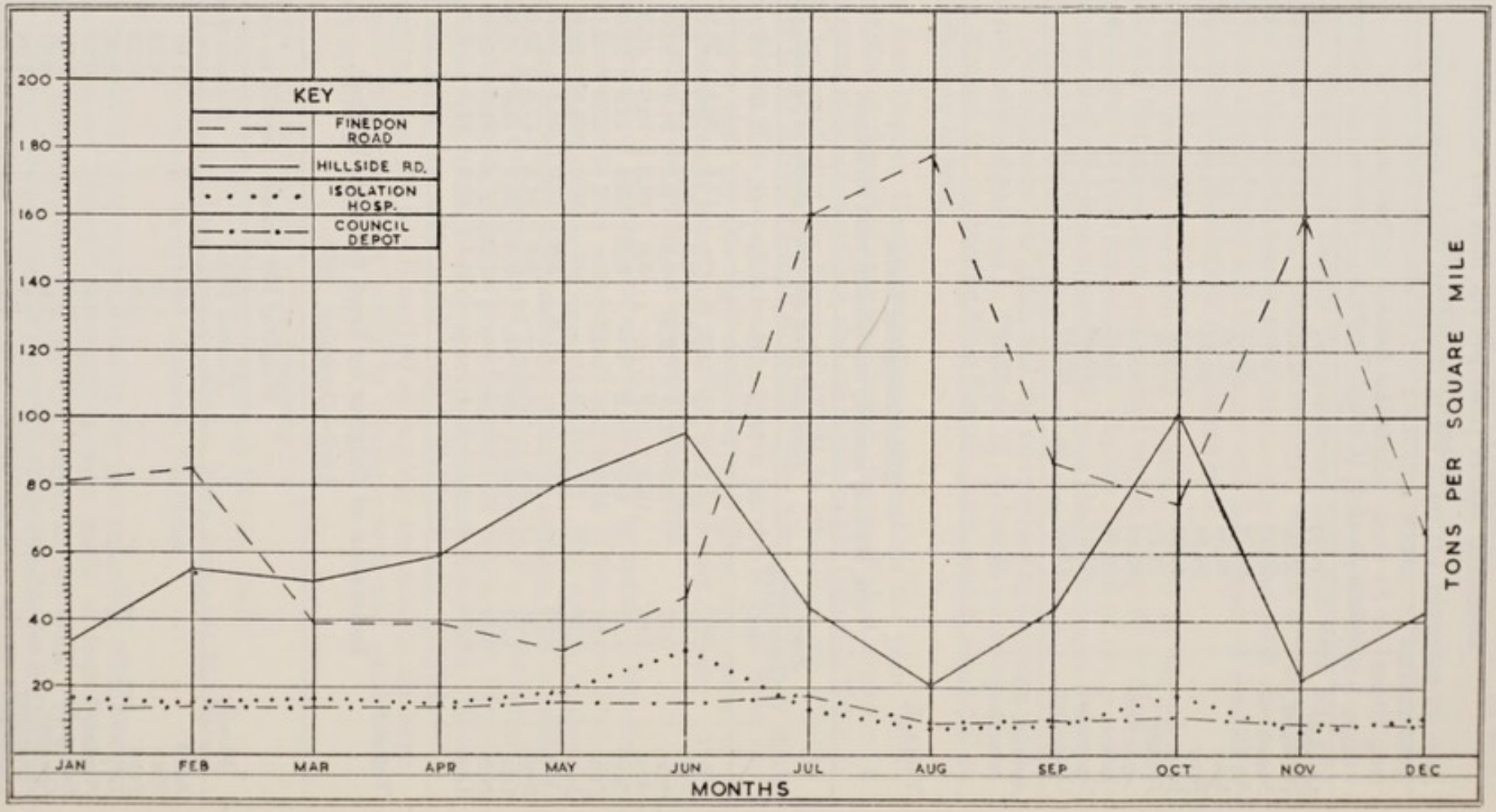
April—December, 1953.

Months	*Weight of* 503 *collected mg/100 sq. cm/day*	
	Council Depot	*Hillside Road*
April	1.41	1.01
May	1.00	0.73
June	0.81	0.75
July	0.47	0.30
August	0.44	0.23
September	0.60	1.00
October	1.89	0.98
November	2.37	1.34
December	2.78	1.40

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

AIR POLLUTION 1953

MEASUREMENTS BY STANDARD DEPOSIT GAUGES SHOWING TOTAL DEPOSITED MATTER IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

MILK SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

The control of milk production is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through its County Agricultural Officers. while local authorities are responsible for the distributive side.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

The following registrations were in force at the end of the year :

Dairies	7
Milk Distributors	23

One new application was approved during the year.

Special Designations.

The following " Dealers " licences were issued by the Council during the year :

" Tuberculin Tested "	6
" Pasteurised "	5
" Sterilised "	11

The bulk of the milk consumed in the Urban District is pasteurised at three dairies, one being equipped with a " High Temperature Short Time " plant, and two with " Holder " plants.

The County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, is responsible for the issue of licences to pasteurise milk.

Sterilised milk is processed outside the district and is distributed principally through small retail shops.

Milk Sampling, etc.

Routine sampling of milk and clean milk bottles was carried out during the year. Samples are examined in accordance with prescribed tests at the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton, free of charge.

Milk.

114 samples of milk were tested, with the following results :

TABLE G.

Class of Milk	*No. of Samples Tested*	*Tests*	*No. of Samples*		*No.conforming to prescribed standards*
			Passed	*Failed*	
Pasteurised	11	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	11 4	— 7	4
Tuberculin Tested	32	Methylene Blue	19	13	19
Raw ... Undesignated	71	Methylene Blue	31	40	31

47% of samples satisfied the prescribed standards.

It will be seen that 53% of samples were found to be unsatisfactory as regards keeping quality. Most of these were in respect of raw milk taken from milk supplies at dairies in the course of delivery from the farms. Following continued unsatisfactory results in respect of milk from seven producers, these were referred to the County Agricultural Officer for investigation into the conditions of production.

Milk Bottles.

Washed bottles are regularly tested for sterility at the Public Health Laboratory in accordance with the following standard.

Mean Bottle Count, reckoned as per pint bottle :

Not more than 600	Satisfactory
Over 600 but less than 2,000 ...	Fairly Satisfactory
Over 2,000	Unsatisfactory

109 bottles were examined. The results were :

Satisfactory	84
Fairly Satisfactory	3
Unsatisfactory	22

Most of the unsatisfactory results occurred during the first half of the year and were mainly associated with one dairy, following the installation of a new mechanical washer. Results, however, improved during the year.

Considerable importance is attached to this section of milk control as it will be readily appreciated that all the efforts put into the production of clean milk are wasted if dirty bottles are used.

ICE-CREAM.

Most of the ice-cream sold in the Urban District is now of the pre-packed type supplied by large manufacturing firms. A small amount is, however, still manufactured locally—mainly of the cold mix type.

The number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream at the end of the year was 105, six new registrations being approved during the year.

26 samples were taken for examination at the Public Health Laboratory. The results were on the whole satisfactory and within the standards prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

TABLE H.

Class of Mix	*Type of Sample*	*No. of Samples*	*Provisional Grade*			
			I.	*II.*	*III.*	*IV.*
Pasteurised ...	Bulk	3	2	1	—	—
Pasteurised ...	Pre-packed	12	8	2	1	1
Cold	Bulk	7	4	1	2	—
Cold	Pre-packed	4	1	2	1	—
TOTALS ...		26	15	6	4	1
Percentages		1953	57.7	23.1	15.3	3.9
Percentages		1952	50.0	36.4	6.8	6.8

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat.

Most of the home-killed meat for the area was supplied from the Ministry of Food Abattoir at Rushden where a full system of meat inspection is employed.

Regular visits were made during the year to the slaughterhouse of the local pork pie factory for the inspection of pigs. In addition, pigs slaughtered for home consumption at a few private slaughterhouses were inspected as often as necessary.

During the year 65 visits were made for meat inspection purposes.

Number of animals inspected	395
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	29
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.1%

Tinned and other foods.

84 visits were made to shops and other premises in connection with the inspection of foodstuffs and 201 condemnation certificates were issued. Details are given in Table I.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Licences in respect of sixteen slaughterhouses have been maintained during the period of control since 1940 although the premises have not been in general use. In many instances they are badly situated and have deteriorated or become dilapidated and are not considered to be suitable for use as such. With the decontrol on slaughtering in 1954 it will be necessary to review the licensing of these premises in the light of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31.12.53	34
Number of new or renewal licences granted during the year	2

SALE OF UNSOUND FOOD.

The following cases were investigated during the year :

(a)	Two Sausage Rolls	Unsound at time of sale
(b)	Fancy Cakes	Contaminated by mice
(c)	Pork Pie	Unsound at time of sale

In each case the food was dealt with by formal condemnation under Section 10 of the Food and Drugs Act. In view of the fact that these were first offences, no legal proceedings were taken. The vendors appeared before a sub-committee and written warnings were issued.

FOOD HYGIENE.

The hygiene of food in its preparation, storage and distribution is controlled by the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Byelaws adopted by the Council in 1950.

Activity in this field was confined mainly to the routine inspection and supervision of food premises. During the year 147 inspections were made of shops, restaurant kitchens and food manufacturing premises, and 23 written notifications were issued in respect of contraventions found. Food traders and others have, on the whole, readily co-operated in carrying out the requirments of the department and in implementing suggestions aimed at an improved standard.

During the year, considerable voluntary alterations and improvements were carried out by owners and occupiers in bringing their premises up to a modern standard both as regards the premises themselves, the equipment and fittings. The mechanical wrapping of bread has now become an established practice in at least three bakeries. At one large factory canteen extensive improvements were carried out following representations by the department.

Unfortunately, owing to insufficient support, it was found necessary to discontinue the operation of the Clean Food Guild, which was formed under the guidance of the Health Committee in 1950.

During the year a lecture was given to young employees as part of an instructional course arranged by one organisation.

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

TABLE I

Commodity	*Weight lbs.*	*Commodity*	*Weight lbs.*
Tinned Goods—		Bacon	36
		Beef	34
Fish	28	Brawn	3
Fish Paste	2	Cheese...	43
Fruit	1000	Coffee (Bottled)	4
Ham	186	Eggs (Frozen liquid) ...	40
Jams and Preserves ...	4	Fruit (Bottled)	9
Meat	768	Fruit Cordials	2
Milk	66	Fruit (Dried)	30
Sauces	24	Fruit Puddings	14
Sausages	10	Jams and Preserves ...	17
Soups	42	Marzipan	7
Vegetables	96	Pickles...	1
		Sauces	1
Flour and Cereals—		Sausages	132
		Suet (Packets)	6
Cereals	27	Sugar Confectionery ...	3
Farinoca	28	Wet Fish	259

Total Weight—1 ton, 6 cwts., 10 lbs.

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