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WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1955

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.S.H., M.S.I.A.

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WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1955

Area (in acres)	8,738
Population, 1951 (census)	28,222
Population, 1955	28,780
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census)	5,396
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1955 (census)	9,575
Rateable value, 1955	£178,827
Product of a penny rate	£695

LIVE BIRTHS.	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Rate*
Legitimate	384	202	182	
Illegitimate	18	12	6	
	402	214	188	13.96

STILLBIRTHS	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Rate*
Legitimate	10	5	5	
Illegitimate	1	1	—	
	11	6	5	0.38

	Total	*Male*	*Female*	*Rate*
DEATHS (all causes)	329	174	155	11.43

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—
rate per 1,000.
Total (Live and Still) Births

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—	
Other puerperal causes	1	—	1	2.42

INFANT MORTALITY—rate for 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	4	4	—	
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
	5	4	1	12.43

Deaths from (*a*) Cancer (all ages)	45
„ „ (*b*) Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ (*c*) Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ „ (*d*) Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1

Wellingborough Urban District Council

Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee :

MESSRS. H. C. L. WARWICK, C.A. (*Chairman*), R. ALDERSON (*Vice-Chairman*), C. B. BROWN, A. E. DICKS, H. A. HORDEN, MISS E. A. HORN, MESSRS. A. L. LANGHAM, A. J. MAYES, R. D. PATERSON, J.P., E. A. STEELE, C.A., J.P., AND G. R. VERNON.

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.S.H., M.S.I.A., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

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

Health Department,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

June, 1956.

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 eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1955.

In Section A. the Vital Statistics for the year will be found. They compare favourably with those for other years and the rates for England and Wales. The death rate was 11.43 per 1,000 of population and again shows a fall. The Infant Mortality rate was 12.43 per 1,000 live births, which must be one of the lowest ever recorded. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs. The Birth rate, 13.96 per 1,000 of population, was lower than in the previous year when it was 14.85. There was one death from Maternal Causes compared with none in the previous year. The number of deaths from Cancer, 45, showed a fall on the previous year when 56 deaths occurred. It will be noted from Table 1, page 26, that four of the Cancer deaths were due to Cancer of the Lung or bronchus. In the previous year there were 7.

Once again in Section B. I have given details concerning Health Services in the area. Numerous enquiries are dealt with at my office concerning these services during the year. It would be of assistance if the public were informed that copies of the Annual Report can be seen at the Public Library.

A number of problems concerning Old Persons were dealt with during the year. Excellent work is constantly being carried on by District Nurses, Health Visitors and members of different organisations in caring for Old Persons. It is in the best interests of old folk if they can be left in the environment that they have known for so many years, and this is in their own homes.

Section C. deals with the Sanitary Circumstances of the area and details of the source of the water supply are given. These sources will be discontinued when Pitsford comes into operation, but sources such as these, which have provided the town supply for so many years should not be discarded altogether but kept in case of any future emergencies.

An account is given of action taken throughout the years to abate the nuisance caused by smoke and grit from a local Iron Works. The figures for deposit collection in gauges show an improvement. The fact must not be overlooked that there are other guilty factory chimneys in Wellingborough and new developments require watching.
The recording instruments for Sulphur Dioxide in the atmosphere were resited in residential areas and it has been noted that there has been little change in these figures. They show a seasonal variation, being higher in the winter months when many domestic fires are in use, and falling in the summer. The atmospheric pollution caused by the domestic fire is considerable and a problem that should be faced at some future time.

Last year in Section D., which deals with Housing, an account of action taken with regards to slum clearance was given. This programme was of considerable magnitude. This year an account of the progress in clearing the areas will be seen.

The number of applicants for Council Houses still remains high.

The Council's building programme since the war has been satisfactory and 1,342 Council Houses and 338 Private Houses have been constructed.

Following up on last year's report in Section E. an account is given of the work carried out in connection with Meat Inspection. The figures speak for themselves and considering the amount of meat condemned, it will be appreciated the protection the public receive from this most important service.

From Section F. it will be seen that the most prevalent Infectious Disease during the year was Measles. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia showed a fall, Whooping Cough was one less than the previous year, but the number of cases of Dysentry and Erysipelas showed an increase. Five cases of Poliomyelitis occurred. The number of notifications of Tuberculosis was one more than the previous year and also one more death than in the previous year occurred. An account of an outbreak of a virus infection is also given and attention is drawn to the fact that virus infections would appear to be on the increase in recent years.

It is pleasing to note the increase in the number of vaccinations carried out during the year.

In conclusion I should like to thank the County Medical Officer of Health for figures concerning vaccinations and immunisation and for his co-operation and assistance on many matters throughout the year. Also I should like to thank the other officers of the Council for information supplied for this Report and Mr. Stroud for his ever-ready assistance throughout the year. Finally I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

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. The density of population is 3.2 persons per acre, and the housing factor is 3.04 persons per house.

POPULATION.—The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Urban District for the mid-year 1955 as 28,780. This shows an increase of 210 over the figure for the previous year. There were 73 more births in the year than deaths.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths in the Urban District for 1955 was 329. This is the figure given in the Registrar-General's returns after the necessary adjustment for inward and outward transferable deaths was made. The death rate per 1,000 of population was 11.43 compared with 12.10 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 11.7. A Classification of the Causes of Death is given in Table No. 1, page 26. Table No. 2, page 27, gives further statistics concerning deaths from selected causes. Percentages of the total number of deaths of certain diseases are as follows :

	1955	*1954*
Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System ..	58.66%	57.30%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	6.38%	9.74%
Cancer	13.67%	16.04%
Tuberculosis (all forms)	1.51%	1.14%

From this it will be seen that by far the greatest percentage of deaths was caused by diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System. When deaths occur from these causes in the older age groups, as very many of these deaths were, one accepts the facts as a natural conclusion to a long life, but a disturbing feature is the apparently increasing number of persons in the younger age groups whose death are attributed to Coronary disease. Such persons frequently are found in important positions and are valuable members of the community and so their loss is all the greater. This is a field in which there is much room for investigation as to cause and subsequently preventive action.

The number of deaths from Cancer for the year was 45 compared with 56 for the previous year. Of this number four deaths were due to malignant neoplasm of lung or bronchus (3 males, 1 female). During the last three years the situation was as follows :

	1953	*1954*	*1955*
Cancer Deaths	58	56	45
Neoplasm lung or bronchus ..	11	7 (1 female)	4 (1 female)

BIRTHS.—There were 402 births recorded in the area. This gives a rate of 13.96 per 1,000 of population and shows a fall on the previous year when it was 14.02. The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 15.0. Once again the number of male births outnumbered female by 214 compared with 188.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.—18 Illegitimate births were recorded. The rate for the year was 44.77 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 39.90.

STILLBIRTHS.—There were eleven stillbirths registered during the year. This gives a rate of 0.38 per 1,000 population compared with 0.34 in the previous year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—One death occurred during the year. This gives a rate of 2.42 per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths). No deaths were recorded during the previous year but one death occurred in 1953.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Five Infant deaths occurred during the year. This gives a rate of 12.43 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 23.47. The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 24.9. In the following table the Infant Mortality rate for Wellingborough is shown 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	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*				
35.62	29.05	23.04	17.5	23.47	12.43				

From this table it will be seen that this is the lowest Infant Mortality rate recorded, which gives me great pleasure to report.

NEONATAL MORTALITY.—This is a sub-division of the Infant Mortality rate and includes all infants who die within 28 days of independent existence. One of the five Infant deaths occurred in this sub-division and the rate for the year was 2.48 per 1,000 births compared with 16.43 for the previous year. Further information concerning Infant deaths is given in Table No. 9, page 32.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY SERVICES.—Specimens in association with Public Health work carried out in the area are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton or the laboratory at Kettering General Hospital. The assistance received from these two Laboratories during the year was much appreciated.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.—As prevention is better than cure the Immunisation Campaign has about done away with the necessity for keeping stock of antitoxin. No requests for antitoxin have been received at these offices for years.

The Oxford Regional Hospital Board are responsible for this supply and stocks are kept at the following places :

Northampton General Hospital
Kettering General Hospital
Wellingborough Hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.—This service is provided by the County Council. Previously the St. John Ambulance Brigade acted for the County, but due to the ever increasing demands it was necessary for the service to be run by the County. During the year the larger centres were taken over. The area is well covered and the H.Q. remains at Church Street Depôt. Previously infectious disease cases were removed by a section of the Northampton Brigade attached to Harborough Road Isolation Hospital acting for the County, but now cases are removed by Ambulance from Wellingborough H.Q. The necessary disinfection of blankets and ambulance are carried out at Harborough Road after delivery of cases. I have always appreciated the prompt action taken by the Service when I have contacted them concerning the removal of cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME AND HOME HELPS.—The County Council are responsible for these services. I should like to express my appreciation to the County Medical Officer for assistance in providing Home Helps for cases referred and also for the assistance received from Health Visitors concerning cases which I was called on to investigate during the year. It is an established fact that there are more people in the older age groups than ever before and many problems concerning their welfare arose during the year. Each case, of course, has to be dealt with according to circumstances but whenever possible Old Persons should be kept in the environment that they have known for so many years. The District Nurse, Home Helps and visits from members of Old Folks' Societies, go a long way to make this possible.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.—Each year in my Annual Report I give full details of all Clinics held in the area. In my opinion this is useful information and judging by the number of enquiries received at my office during the course of the year this information requires publicity.

Oxford Street Health Centre, Wellingborough.—This Health Centre is run by the County Council. The following Clinics are held :

Ante-natal and Post-natal	Every Monday afternoon 1.30 p.m. Every Thursday morning 9.30 a.m.
Child Welfare	Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Monday, 2.00 p.m.
Child Guidance	Alternate Tuesdays 12.30 p.m.

St. Andrew's Hall, Croyland Estate, Infant Welfare Centre, held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month at 2.00 p.m.

Finedon.—Infant Welfare Centre held on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Co-operative Hall.

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	Orthopædic	Every Wednesday 2 p.m.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the area. Arrangements provided are as follows :

General Hospitals.—Northampton and Kettering.

Wellingborough.—Wellingborough Hospital, Gynæcology and children.

Highfield Hospital.—Acute Medical cases and skins.

Wellingborough Park Hospital.—Chronic sick, the aged and Old Persons in need of care and attention. Further accommodation for such cases is also provided at St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering, and Oundle.

A Maternity block for Midwifery cases from the area is also situated at the Park Hospital.

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

Out Patient facilities are provided at the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden, which is visited by consultants from Northampton and Kettering.

Infectious Diseases.—The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, provides accommodation for cases of Infectious Diseases from the area requiring isolation and hospital treatment.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.—Under Section 47 of the Act the Council is responsible for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. During the year one case was removed. The person concerned was ill and living under very unsatisfactory conditions and refused all efforts made by the General Practitioner to go to hospital. Under the circumstances it was essential that the case should be removed and so the necessary action was taken.

A number of other cases were persuaded in their own interests to go to hospital without any official action being necessary and some further cases were assisted in finding hospital accommodation.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY.—This service is provided by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board who took over from the Urban District Council in September, 1950. Representatives of the Council serve on this Board.

Sources of supply for the area are as follows :

(1) Hardwick. Impounding reservoir at Hardwick which has a capacity of 80,000 gallons. Water is drawn from the blue stone strata. From here water is pumped through a 5-inch rising main to the storage reservoir at Bushfield.

(2) Orlingbury. Source, deep well and collecting trench with nine 12-inch bore-holes. Water from these sources is collected in a reservoir with a capacity of 120,000 gallons. Water at Orlingbury is drawn from an iron stone strata.

(3) Bushfield. Five wells which tap water from the Great Oolite Northampton Beds. These wells are 35-40 feet deep. At Bushfield water from Hardwick, Orlingbury and Bushfield is treated. It is softened, filtered and chlorinated. The Lime Process is used for softening and the Haynes & Potter system is used. Treated water is pumped through a 9-inch rising main to the Baregrass service reservoir at Hardwick Road. This reservoir has a capacity of 670,000 gallons. The plant at Bushfield has given considerable service and requires constant observation now. These works will be discontinued when Pitsford Reservoir comes into operation, which should be in the near future. Complaints concerning the amount of lime that appears from time to time in the water, have been received. The Board, on being notified, relieve the situation by flushing out the mains.

(4) Corby. A supply of treated water is received from Corby through a 12-inch cast iron main to the Service reservoir at Hardwick Road. During the latter part of the year the Wellingborough supply had to be supplemented every ten days or so by a supply from the Merry Tom filters. This supply was from either Ravensthorpe or Hollowell reservoir. These sources are softer than supplies in our own area.

WATER SAMPLES.—During the year 101 samples were taken for Bacteriological examination. The results of these samples was as follows :

	Very Satisfactory	*Satisfactory*	*Suspicious*	*Unsatisfactory*
Wellingborough	53	7	7	—
Finedon	19	6	8	1
Total	72	13	15	1

The standard of the results have improved over those of the past few years. The Board are informed of any suspicious or unsatisfactory results and the necessary action is taken.

The co-operation received from Mr. L. Brown, Engineer and Manager of the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board on any matter concerning water supply in the area is much appreciated.

RAINFALL.—The rainfall for the year taken at Swanspool Gardens was 19.09 inches which is about 10 inches less than in the previous year. An average yearly rainfall over the last 35 years is 24.58 inches. The rainfall over the last 6 years was as follows :

1950	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*
25.0	29.11	25.8	18.77	29.06	19.09

If this year is followed by another dry year the situation in the area could be critical. When the Urban District obtains its whole supply from Pitsford it is my opinion that it would be wise to keep the present sources as a reserve in case of any future shortage.

WATER CONSUMPTION.—These figures are only approximate and based on previous figures given.

Total consumption 1955—365,405,000 (approx.)

Average daily consumption—1,001,109

Average consumption per head per day—34.7.

Some further information concerning water supply in the area is as follows :

The number of houses with a piped supply—9,386

Number of houses dependent upon standpipes—153

Number of houses without town supply—36.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—

Wellingborough.—The public sewers in operation in Wellingborough are largely constructed on the combined system, carrying both rainwater and crude sewage. Some are on the partially separate system carrying mainly sewage with only a small proportion of rainwater while still others are on the completely separate system.

Storm overflows on some of the sewers exist but only come into operation following heavy rainstorms. Little nuisance has been caused by these as the quantity of storm water is usually sufficient to clear brook into which discharged. 2,150 linial yards of 6″ foul sewers were laid during the year in connection with the development of the new Queensway Housing Estate.

The sewage from the town is pumped from two main pumping stations to the sewage farm at Irthlingborough Grange. At the main pumping station Irthlingborough Road, there are storm tanks and the settled storm waters are discharged into land set aside for this purpose where irrigation takes place before waters pass into the River Nene.

Sewage from the town is pumped to tanks situated on the highest part of the farm and then is gravitated from these tanks to whatever part of the farm is being used. Here sewage is run by means of channels over the area, which acts as a huge filter bed, with under-drainage and final effluent is collected by agricultural drains and led to outlet and on to river.

The final effluent is of a satisfactory nature and the most recent sample taken for chemical analysis gave the following results :—

Sample Sewage Effluent, Marked Overschool.—Analysis of this sample of sewage effluent has given the following results :

Suspended matter	Minute traces only
Biological Oxygen Demand (5 days' test)	0.6 parts per 100,000

The standards suggested by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal are not more than :—

Suspended matter	3 parts per 100,000
Biological Oxygen Demand (5 days' test)	2 parts per 100,000

It will be seen that this is a very satisfactory effluent which is well within both the suggested limits.

Although this method of sewage disposal gives an excellent final effluent there are disadvantages with regard to method, the chief being that sewage from a large population is exposed over a large area and there must be certain risks associated with this. Then again, in the locality modern sewage works are experiencing much difficulty in trying to produce a satisfactory final effluent. Trade wastes are a big problem and interfere with the efficient working of filter beds. There is much food for thought with regard to the present methods used for sewage disposal throughout the county and one must remember the present state of pollution of the rivers and brooks.

Finedon.—The sewage works are situated south-west of the town. The sewers are largely on the combined system and gravitate to the works. Here crude sewage is screened and then passes into two settlement tanks. Sludge from these tanks is passed to four sludge drying beds. Effluent from tanks is run on to land where broad irrigation takes place.

The last Chemical Analysis of Final Effluent from these works which was taken only a few months ago gave the following results :

Sample Final Effluent, Marked Finedon.—Analysis of this sample of sewage effluent has given the following results :

Suspended matter	5.6 parts per 100,000
Biological Oxygen Demand (5 days' test)	3.0 parts per 100,000

It will be seen therefore that this effluent exceeds both the suggested limits.

In view of the fact that the land area available is rather limited and the length of time these works have been in operation, the results must be considered under the circumstances, to be fairly satisfactory, and speaks well of the attention and work put into running the sewage works.

Quantity of sewage pumped by the two stations during the years was as follows :

Sewage pumping station, Irthlingborough Road	198,883,600
Cattle Market	213,180,000
Average Daily Total	1,128,941

DISINFECTION.—Concurrent and terminal disinfection was carried out in connection with cases of Infectious Diseases during the year. 21 premises were disinfected and 209 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., were treated. Liquid and gaseous disinfectants are used for houses, and clothing, etc., are treated by steam disinfection at the Rushden disinfection station by arrangement between the two authorities.

SWIMMING BATHS.—Since the public bathing place on the River Nene was closed in 1949 due to pollution of the River, Wellingborough has no public baths. It is unfortunate that an inland town with the population of Wellingborough should lack such amenities. However, bathing facilities are available at Wilby, Rushden and Overstone. Water in these pools is filtered and chlorinated and routine samples were taken during the year. There is a swimming pool at Wellingborough School and this also is used by the High School. Water is filtered and chlorinated and arrangements have been made for routine samples to be taken for bacteriological examination.

The Paddling Pool at the Zoo Park caused some concern but arrangements were made for chlorine to be added daily.

During the month of August the paddling pool on the Embankment was filled from nearby gravel wells. Chlorine was added and samples taken during the month showed the water to be satisfactory.

The scheme to provide Wellingborough with a Public Baths has been discussed many times, but the cost or restrictions on spending have always stood in the way of any progress. One wonders if anything could be done with the Paddling Pool to convert it into a Swimming Pool for a reasonable sum.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. S. 269.—During the year one licence in respect of two caravans was granted. An application to licence a site for 12 caravans was refused.

There are five sites in the town occupied by the caravans of persons engaged on Show business. These sites are situated as follows :

Jackson's Lane, Broad Green, John Street (2 sites), Westfield Road.

These sites in the past were used for Winter Quarters, but if there is to be any change, and sites used permanently all the year round, it may be in the best interest for the Council to consider one site with all the necessary facilities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Six vehicles and 27 men were employed upon the collection and disposal of refuse during the period.

4,774 loads weighing 8,922 tons of refuse were collected within the Urban District during 1955, and tipped at the Gipsy Lane No. 2 Tip, Irchester, during the Summer months and in the Northampton Road Claypit during the Winter.

Controlled tipping is carried out and the tips sprayed during the Summer to keep down fly breeding. The area is also kept under observation re pests.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.—For many years the Northern and Eastern parts of the town have been affected by the emission of dust and grit from the local Iron Works in the vicinity. This problem was the subject of a number of meetings between representatives of the firm and the Council. Four gauges were set up at the following sites : Hillside Road, Cooling Tower, Old Isolation Hospital and Council Depôt in Cannon Street, to collect deposits of dust and grit from these works. At a later date two lead peroxide instruments for measuring Sulphur Dioxide in the atmosphere were sited at Hillside Road and the Council Depôt. With the assistance and co-operation of the firm concerned records have been kept over the years with regard to the quantity of dust and grit deposited and measured in terms of tons per square mile. In 1953 the firm installed one cyclone to one of the furnaces in an endeavour to abate the dust and grit nuisance. Two further cyclones were installed during 1954 and came into operation on August, 1955. It was estimated that the first cyclone collected an average of 35 tons of dust per week.

The average monthly deposit given in tons per square mile collected at the four stations during the past three years was as follows :

	Hillside Road	*Cooling Tower*	*Isolation Hospital*	*Council Depot*
1955	45.68	32.88	14.29	14.29
1954	56.96	73.13	14.26	11.70
1953	54.29	87.17	14.93	12.66

These figures give the following averages over the three years :

1955	..	26.78
1954	..	39.01
1953	..	42.26

From these figures it would appear that the situation has improved considerably since the cyclones to the furnaces were introduced. The impression gained in some quarters that Wellingborough had a high atmospheric pollution figure is not true. A certain circumscribed area in the vicinity of the Iron Works gives a high figure, but as related here, action has been taken to reduce this, but in other parts of the town or in the vicinity of the School the figure is more or less consistent with those for a Rural area.

When the instruments for recording the Sulphur Dioxide figures were situated at Hillside Road and the Council Depôt they showed a seasonal variation, being at their lowest during the Summer months and reaching a maximum in Winter months. These two gauges were moved on 1st April, 1955, and located at Broad Green and St. Andrew's Crescent. The subsequent readings were very similar to those recorded previously and would indicate that pollution of the atmosphere by Sulphur Dioxide is from the domestic chimneys and factory chimneys..

During the Summer months the readings at Broad Green and St. Andrew's Crescent were as low as 0.37 mg/100sq.cms./day and in December/January as high as 2.02. This is one of the constituents of smog and is injurious to health. One must not forget that there are other offending factory chimneys in Wellingborough and certain new developments require constant observation.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The following information concerning applications for Council houses has been supplied by the Housing Manager to whom I am grateful :

Applicants Present accommodation	*31st December, 1955 awaiting consideration*	*Selected but not housed*
Class 1 or 2 houses ..	176	2
Class 3 houses ..	46	1
Class 4 houses ..	16	2
Houses outside area ..	81	2
Rooms	394	15
Clearance Area	—	2
Totals	713	24

Thus the total figure for Wellingborough on 31st December, 1955, was 737 compared with 681 at the end of the previous year.

The situation at Finedon on 31st December, 1955, was as follows :

Applicants Present accommodation	*31st December, 1955 awaiting consideration*	*Selected but not housed*
Class 1 or 2 houses ..	14	—
Class 3 Houses ..	18	2
Class 4 houses ..	6	4
Houses outside area ..	10	—
Rooms	56	8
Clearance Areas	—	51
Totals	104	65

The total number at Finedon at the end of the year was 169 compared with 160 at the end of the previous year.

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

	Council	*Private*	*Total*
Completed during the year ..	147	60	207
The figures for the previous year were:	160	49	209

The Post-War Housing progress was as follows:

Completed since the War .. (including 95 temporary houses)	1,342	338	1,680
Under construction on 31.12.55	64	137	201

The number of houses built since the War is quite considerable when compared with the number of houses occupied in the area.

SLUM CLEARANCE.—Last year in my Annual Report I gave some details of 22 Official Representations made to the Council concerning 21 areas in Finedon and one in Wellingborough. The situation with regard to these areas is as follows:

Wellingborough.—St. George's Terrace—10 houses—Order Confirmed by the Ministry, houses demolished and area cleared.

Finedon.—Church Street and Box Hedge Place—demolition in progress.

Regent Street—Houses demolished.

Wright's Yard—Order now confirmed by the Ministry.

High Street and Well Street—Order now confirmed by the Ministry with reservations.

Well Street and Wellingborough Road—Houses demolished.

Wellingborough Road—Houses demolished.

Well Street, Finedon (No. 2)—Houses demolished.

Barker's Square, High Street and Well Street—Demolition of houses in progress.

Mashes Entry—Houses demolished.

Action is proceeding with regard to the remaining areas.

SINGLE UNFIT HOUSES, SECTION 11 OF HOUSING ACT.—Five houses were dealt with under this Section during the year. Further information concerning action taken with regard to Housing will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Many visits were made during the year to the homes of housing applicants and reports submitted to the Housing Committee. The co-operation received from the Housing Manager and Committee with reference to cases where a Health factor was involved is much appreciated.

SECTION E.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

MILK.—The same situation as reported in last year's Annual Report remains with regard to sampling of Milk in the area. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, being responsible for the control and supervision of Producers, the County Council for the licensing of Pasteurised Milk and this Authority for the supervision of distribution in the area.

78 samples of milk were taken for examination during the year and of this number 55 passed the test for keeping qualities and 21 failed. The majority of samples which failed to pass the prescribed test were from one individual and the necessary follow-up action was taken.

WASHED BOTTLE RINSES.—The rinses from 42 washed bottles were examined and the bacteriological counts estimated. The results were as follows :

Satisfactory	*Fairly Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*
42	Nil	Nil

These results are extremely good and a high standard is maintained in the area. There are three pasteurisation plants in the town and a high proportion of milk consumed in the area is pasteurised milk. A considerable portion of the surrounding areas receive their milk supply from Wellingborough.

ICE CREAM.—The majority of ice cream sold in the area is pre-packed, but two persons manufacture it locally. 18 samples were taken during the season and the results of these samples were as follows :

Provision Grade	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*
	7	8	2	1

Ministry instructions state at least 80% of samples taken should fall into the first two grades, and this has been the case.

Four Ice Lollies were also examined during the Summer months and all gave satisfactory results.

Further information concerning the routine inspection of Food premises will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report. Such visits are of paramount importance and to maintain standards should be as frequent as possible.

MEAT INSPECTION.—The Slaughterhouse Act received the Royal Assent on the 5th July, 1954. Since that date the slaughter of animals for human consumption re-commenced in the area again. Many of the older slaughterhouses were in such a state of disrepair that they could not be used again. There are eight slaughterhouses in use in the area and the majority of these required work to be carried out on them before they could be used again for slaughtering. In fact, when slaughterhouses in the area were first inspected following de-control, only two were in a fit state to be licensed, a further six premises could only be re-licensed if certain repairs and improvements were carried out and the remainder were considered unsatisfactory. The six slaughterhouses had the necessary work carried out and were licensed. During the year one hundred per cent. meat inspection was main-

tained, and when one considers that the total number of animals slaughtered was 14,330 in the eight different slaughterhouses it entailed a considerable amount of work. The total weight of meat and offal condemned was 3 tons, 3 cwts., 1 qr., 20 lbs.

An insight into the amount of work and its importance can be obtained by perusing the figures for the year and the reasons why the quantity of meat and offal was condemned.

344 Steers were inspected and out of this number one whole carcass was condemned by reason of a Tubercular infection and 63 portions of carcases or organs were condemned for such reasons as Tuberculosis, Cystercircus or other diseases. A list of 'other diseases' is given in the table giving the statistics concerning meat inspection. Similarly out of 183 heifers examined some part of carcass or organs of 32 were condemned.

2,672 sheep were inspected and portion of carcass or organs of 33 condemned and of 11,120 pigs it was found necessary to condemn 3 whole carcases and 623 portions of carcases or organs. Details concerning reasons for condemnation is given in the table in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report. These figures speak for themselves and show how important it is in the interests of the community for one hundred per cent. inspections to be carried out. It is satisfactory to note that this is being done in the Urban District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SMALLPOX.—Although no cases have been reported in the area for many years, it is interesting to note that in 1952 a contact of a case of Smallpox was kept under surveillance and all associates vaccinated.

VACCINATION.—The number of vaccinations carried out in the District during the year were as follows :

	Under 1 yr.	*1*	*2-4*	*5-14*	*15 yrs. or over*	*Total*
Primary	191	4	9	15	49	268
Re-vaccination	—	—	4	5	81	90
						358

The figures for 1954 were as follows :—

Primary	150	4	18	13	27	212
Re-vaccination	—	—	1	4	28	33
						245

It is very pleasing to record this increase in the number of persons vaccinated, and it is the greatest number of vaccinations carried out in a single year for many years.

SCARLET FEVER.—Sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. This is a considerable fall on the previous year when 37 cases occurred. One case was removed to Harborough Road Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.—No cases occurred, although during the period I was called to see a number of suspicious throats in children. Unfortunately some of these children had not been immunised. It is four years since a case of Diphtheria occurred in the District but parents should avail of the opportunity of having their children immunised against this dangerous disease.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.—The following table shows the number of children who have completed a full course of innoculations against Diphtheria up to 31st December, 1955.

Age at 31.12.55 *i.e.* born in year	*Under* 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	*5 to 9* 1946-1950	*10 to 14* 1941-1945	*Total Under 15*
Number Immunised	19	238	287	320	287	1,704	1,393	4,248

An Immunisation Clinic is held at the Oxford St. Clinic on the second Saturday of each month. This Clinic is run by the County Health Department.

The number of immunisations carried out during the year were as follows :

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	*Total*	*Booster*
Diphtheria	87	27	23	10	8	27	3	185	307
Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis	144	37	28	8	5	12	—	234	
Whooping Cough only	1	—	3	—	2	—	—	6	

WHOOPING COUGH.—51 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year compared with 52 in the previous year. Two cases were removed to Hospital. One death from this cause occurred. Whooping Cough is a distressing complaint in the School child but can be dangerous in the under 3 years old. Practically all deaths from Whooping Cough occur within the first three years of life. Immunisation against this distressing disease should be commenced early in the first year of life.

MEASLES.—479 cases of Measles were notified during the year. In the previous year there were 9 cases, an increase in the number of cases was first noticed in June with a sharp rise in July and maximum numbers occurring in August. Figures fell from 242 cases in August to 18 in September and remained low for the remainder of the year. 1952 was the last year when there was an epidemic of Measles and in that year there were 539 cases. However, 1955 cases ran on into 1956, when considerably more cases occurred. Three cases were removed to hospital but no deaths occurred from this cause.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—12 cases were notified compared with 16 in the previous year. As will be seen from Table No. 6, six cases occurred throughout the months of the year. All cases were not from Wellingborough as the Park Maternity Hospital serves a considerable area.

PNEUMONIA.—46 cases were notified compared with 62 in the previous year. Six deaths were recorded giving Pneumonia as a contributory factor. There were 12 deaths in the previous year.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.—No cases occurred. There were no cases in the previous year.

ERYSIPELAS.—17 cases were notified compared with four in the previous year. This number is considerably higher than the number of cases recorded for some years.

INFLUENZA.—Six deaths were attributed to this cause compared with one in the previous year.

DYSENTERY.—Eleven cases were notified compared with one in the previous year. Three cases were removed to hospital.

POLIOMYELITIS.—Five cases occurred during the year. There were no cases in the previous year. All cases were removed to hospital. Table No. 5 shows the age incidence and from this it will be seen that one Adult was affected. No deaths occurred.

The virus which causes this disease is present in the intestines of cases or carriers and is passed with the motions in a virulent form. Thus the

infection can be spread by hands infected by a person suffering from the disease, or perhaps more commonly, a person who is a carrier of the organism. The virus also may be in the throat, though in lesser numbers, and it must be assumed that the disease can be transmitted by the respiratory route. Infected hands, and fæces containing the virulent virus are the two chief dangers with regards to spread and herein lies the two principle methods of prevention. Personal hygiene, and washing of hands following attending a case, are of paramount importance. It must be remembered that the majority of cases occur in the young and are nursed at first by their parents. Early diagnosis and removal of serious cases help considerably in prevention of further cases.

It is comforting to remember that Poliomyelitis is not generally a serious disease, and 99 per cent. of the sufferers do not contract anything but a mild illness of an influenza-like nature. It is only the odd 1% who get paralysis. Nevertheless the onset of paralysis is so devastating and causes such lasting disability that every step should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No cases have occurred for two years in the area.

FOOD POISONING.—No cases have been notified for the past two years when seven cases occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS.—17 new cases were notified during the period compared with 16 in the previous year. Of this number 14 cases were Respiratory Tuberculosis (9 males, 5 females) and three cases (2 males, 1 female) non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.

16 cases were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium and 18 discharged during the year. Five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year compared with four in the previous year.

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

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Pulmonary	85	57	142
Non-Pulmonary	20	16	36
			178

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the last nine years were :

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
22	11	19	17	23	11	24	16	17

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

Year	*Tuberculosis—All forms*			*Rate per 1,000 population*	
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Wellingboro'*	*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	.18
1954	2	2	4	.13	.12
1955	2	3	5	.17	—

The Wellingborough After-Care Committee was active throughout the year and continues to carry on its excellent work.

VIRUS INFECTIONS.—In recent years outbreaks of virus infections would appear to be coming more common. These are not only confined to the Summer season when during dry periods such outbreaks are more liable to occur. Whether the wide use of anti-biotic drugs in the treatment of certain bacterial diseases makes the human body more liable to attack by the different viruses is difficult to say, but undoubtedly virus infections would appear to be on the increase.

Some years ago we had an outbreak of Bornholms disease, and infections due to the Coxachi virus in recent years would appear more prevalent. Virus pneumonia would also appear to be more common now than previously.

The School Medical Officer of a residential school in the area asked me to see some cases, with him last year a considerable number of pupils in the 13-14 years group were affected. They complained of feeling very tired, had headaches, sore throats and commenced with a temperature of about 103°. The fever ran a three to four day course and was spiky in nature. Most of the cases had conjunctivitis but did not complain of eye symptoms A few complained of abdominal pain and some had mild diarrhoea. Others were the reverse and were constipated. On examination, throats were seen to be inflamed, conjunctiva inflamed, some had enlarged tonsillar glands and two cases had enlarged spleens. Some only had sore throats and conjunctivitis. Nothing abnormal was found on examination of the central nervous system. The Public Health Laboratories at Northampton and Colindale were contacted and the School was visited by a Doctor from Colindale. Specimens of blood, throat swabs and results of gargles were taken from some of the cases and were examined.

The course of the illness ran three or four days and within a week all cases had more or less recovered. From subsequent information with regards to further cases, it would appear that the incubation period was approximately 10—12 days.

All cases made good recovery with no after effects. The cases were due to a virus infection and from subsequent information most probably were cases of Adeno-Pharyngo Conjunctival Fever. Some cases of Poliomyelitis were present in the area at the time and it was necessary to exclude any possibility of the presence of this disease.

I appreciate very much the co-operation of the School Doctor and should like to thank him for his clinical notes and charts which were available with regards to cases.

So it would appear, once again a new virus showed itself in the area.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Table No. 10, page 33, gives information concerning factories in the area. From this it will be seen that there are 206 factories in the area and that 44 inspections were carried out. Results of these inspections and action taken are shown in this table. Matters referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories were attended to. The numbers of outworkers were 415 compared with 624 in the previous year.

With regard to factories in which mechanical power is not used, no complaints re numbers, cleanliness, temperature, ventilation or drainage of places were received.

Further details concerning this chapter will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1955

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	3	5
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitics disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	—	1
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	4	1	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	19	33
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	4	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	21	29	50
18. Coronary disease, angina	45	18	63
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	2	5
20. Other heart diseases	30	39	69
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	4	6
22. Influenza	4	2	6
23. Pneumonia	4	2	6
24. Bronchitis	9	4	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, entritis and diarrhœa ..	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and neprosis	—	4	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	1	1
31. Congenial malformations	3	—	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	13	24
33. Motor vehicle accidents	7	—	7
34. All other accidents	3	3	6
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	174	155	329

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
1954	—	—	4	.13	56	1.95	200	6.97	34	1.18
1955	—	—	5	.17	45	1.56	193	6.70	21	.72

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	12.98	65.72	1,022
1948	.46	13.63	49.40	1,000
1949	.21	22.93	41.66	1,111
1950	.42	12.34	40.38	1,136
1951	.56	25.04	60.53	1,096
1952	.21	22.93	34.56	1,333
1953	.17	37.29	35.00	1,285
1954	.34	27.71	39.90	1,206
1955	.38	26.63	44.77	1,138

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 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
1954	28,670	426	14.85	10	23.47	349	12.10
1955	28,780	402	13.96	5	12.43	329	11.43

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1955

TABLE NO. 5

Disease	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	*All Ages*	*Removed to Hospital*	*Deaths*
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	2	5	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	16	1	—
Pneumonia ..	2	1	3	1	5	15	1	—	2	3	7	6	46	—	6
Measles	17	34	43	57	63	255	6	2	2	—	—	—	479	3	—
Whooping Cough	8	5	6	9	9	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	2	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	6	3	17	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	—	—	—	12	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	2	3	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	11	3	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	27	40	55	71	85	296	10	3	20	8	13	9	637	14	7

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1955.

TABLE NO. 6

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	—	1	3	1	2	2	—	—	—	1	2	4	16
Pneumonia	13	14	3	2	3	1	2	—	1	3	2	2	46
Measles	—	2	1	5	3	21	164	242	18	5	8	10	479
Whooping Cough	8	16	21	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	51
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	5	17
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	1	—	—	2	1	1	2	1	1	—	1	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	34	29	16	16	28	170	247	26	12	14	22	637

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE

TABLE No. 7

Age Periods	*Measles*		*Whooping Cough*	
	Males	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*
—6 months	2	—	—	2
—12 months	10	5	5	1
—18 months	16	7	—	1
—2 years	7	4	2	2
—2½ years	13	15	2	1
—3 years	8	7	2	1
—4 years	30	27	4	5
—5 years	35	28	4	5
—10 years	143	112	6	7
—15 years	5	1	—	1
15 years+	1	3	—	—
ALL AGES	270	209	25	26
TOTALS	479		51	

TABLE NO. 8

NEW CASES OF, AND DEATHS FROM, TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

Age Periods	*New Cases*				*Deaths*			
	Respiratory		*Non-respiratory*		*Respiratory*		*Non-respiratory*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—25	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
—35	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
—45	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
—55	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	5	2	1	2	2	—	—

One extra death (female) assigned by Registrar General in his returns.

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

TABLE No. 9

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

TABLE No. 10

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 for the year 1955.

PART I. OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for the 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	21	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	178	29	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	7	10	—	—
TOTAL	206	44	4	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	*No. of cases in which defects were found*				*No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted*
	Found	*Remedied*	*Referred*		
			To H.M. Inspector	*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	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	6	5	—	7	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	6	—	8	—

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*
Making, etc.	362	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel—						
Cleaning & Washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains & Furniture hangings	1	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & Upholstery	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc.	25	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	26	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	415	—	—	—	—	—

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1955

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

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department

STAFF, 1955

Chief Sanitary Inspector :
A. J. STROUD, M.R.S.H.,M.S.I.A.*
Also Authorised Officer under the Shops, Petroleum, Theatres and Cinematograph Acts.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :
D. B. HOPKINS, M.S.I.A.*

Clerk and Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary :
MISS E. M. BROTHERTON† (Resigned 25.6.55)
MRS. H. M. FELL (Appointed 15.8.55)

Pest Control—Operative :
C. LAWRENCE

General Assistant (Manual) :
VACANT.

* 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 1955.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS HORN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present by Ninth Annual Report for the year 1955.

The report, as previously, is set out to comply with the Ministry of Health's requirements, and gives statistical data and general information with regard to the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District and of the Department's work during the year under review.

Special attention has been devoted to the work of meat inspection, this being the first full year since de-control in 1954. It has now become one of the principal functions of the Department and occupies a considerable amount of time. Much of this work has to be undertaken outside normal office hours in order to secure the inspection of all animals.

Particular reference is made under 'Atmospheric Pollution' to the general improvement in the position as regards dust pollution in the Finedon Road area of the town, and it is hoped the record for the current year will show still further improvement.

Staff changes during the year included the resignation of Miss E. M. Brotherton, my clerk and shorthand-typist, upon her being married, and the appointment of Mrs. H. M. Fell to fill the vacancy.

I again take the opportunity of recording my thanks to Councillor Warwick and Members of the Health and General Purposes Committee for their consideration and support during the year, and to Dr. Bermingham and the other Chief Officers for their advice and helpful co-operation.

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

Your obedient Servant,

ALEC J. STROUD, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

July, 1956.

SANITARY INSPECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA

TABLE A.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Total Inspections and Visits	3,934
Complaints received	226
Preliminary Notices served	48
Secondary Notices served	12
Statutory Notices served	42
Letters, etc., received	1,188
Letters, etc., dispatched	1,549

TABLE B.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(a) *General Sanitary Work* :	
Water Supply	25
Drainage and Sewerage	422
Closet Accommodation	8
Refuse—Storage, collection and disposal	7
Moveable Dwellings	12
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	18
Rivers Pollution	16
Offensive Trades	2
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement	44
Infectious Disease, Disinfection, etc.	46
Keeping of Animals	4
Pet Shops	1
Offensive Accumulations	17
Rodent Infestation Control, including visits by rodent operative	949
Vermin and Insect Pests—Investigations	19
(b) *Housing* :	
Inspection of Dwelling Houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	640
(c) *Shops Act, 1950* :	
Sanitary Conditions	29
(d) *Factories* :	
Inspection of Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers' Premises	48
(e) *Food and Drugs Act, 1938* :	
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses	1,160
Other Food Inspection	64
General Food Shops	49
Slaughterhouses	14
Market Stalls and Street Food Vendors	33
Food Manufacturing Premises	26
Catering Establishments and Licensed Premises	12
Ice Cream Premises	6
Dairies, Milk Shops and Milk Distribution	36
Sampling—Milk, Ice Cream and Other Foods	75
(f) *Miscellaneous Visits*	167
(g) *Interviews*	193

TABLE C.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED FOLLOWING SERVICE OF NOTICE

General :

Roofs repaired or renewed	12
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	3
Walls (External) repaired or rebuilt	5
Walls (External) repointed, rendered, etc.	19
E.G.'s and R.W.P.'s cleansed, repaired or renewed	12
Yards paved or repaired	2
Houses cleansed, limewished or decorated	6
Walls (Internal) repaired	29
Ceilings repaired or renewed	15
Floors repaired or renewed	7
Stairs repaired	2
Windows, etc., repaired or renewed	13
Firegrates and stoves repaired or renewed	4
Sinks provided or renewed	10
Dampness remedied	5
Washing boilers repaired or renewed	1
Boundary walls repaired or re-built	1
Derelict Buildings demolished	2

Drainage :

Drains constructed or reconstructed	3
Drains repaired	7
Obstructed drains cleared	3
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	4
Soil and Vent. pipes provided or renewed	1
Gullies provided or renewed	1
Old drains abolished	2
Waste pipes provided, renewed or repaired	1

Sanitary Conveniences :

New conveniences provided	3
Conveniences repaired, reconstructed or improved	29
Defective conveniences abolished	10
Light and ventilation improved	5

Miscellaneous :

Animals—Nuisances abated	1
Rats and Mice—Premises treated	115
Smoke nuisances abated	2

SERVICE OF NOTICES

Number outstanding 31st December, 1954		70
Informal Notices to execute work or abate nuisances		48
Statutory Notices—		
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 24—Maintenance of Certain Lengths of Public Sewer	29	
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 39—Drainage of Existing Buildings	2	
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93—Statutory Nuisances	6	
Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 138—Provision of Domestic Water Supply	1	
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9—Repair of Dwelling Houses	3	
Factories Act, 1937, Sec. 7—Sanitary Conveniences in Factories	1	
		42
		160
Number complied with		93
Number outstanding 31st December, 1955		67

Legal Proceedings—

Proceedings were instituted in one case of non-compliance with an Abatement Notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The summons was subsequently withdrawn—upon the nuisance being abated.

HOUSING

Proposals for dealing with unfit houses were prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. These were based on a comprehensive survey of dwelling houses in the Urban District carried out over a period of several years, and show a total of 418 houses suitable for demolition action, and which it is proposed to deal with during the next fifteen years.

The first five years' programme of 156 houses for inclusion in clearance areas will be dealt with in five phases of about 30 houses a year, which will permit the provision of the necessary re-housing accommodation to proceed at the same time.

It should, however, be pointed out that these figures are based on a modest interpretation of the legal standard of fitness, and that there are very many more houses in areas which are far from satisfactory and which could be classed as being almost in the same category.

Since the publication of these proposals, the department has dealt with numerous enquiries from building societies, and individual prospective purchasers, with regard to the future life of property. Such enquiries, when relating to houses not included in the scheduled proposals, invariably place your officers in a difficult position, and in such instances it is necessary to be guarded against the expression of any opinion which might adversely affect the free sale of such property.

Extensive demolition works were carried out at Finedon following the confirmation of the twenty-one Clearance Orders, and were still in progress at the end of the year. The clearance of so many unfit houses within such a small area has, for the time being, had a rather devastating effect. Proposals for the redevelopment of a number of the larger sites are, however, well advanced.

No further applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts were received during the year, and the two granted during 1954 remained in force. There is little doubt that the provision which permits increase in controlled rents in respect of well-maintained houses has had virtually no financial attraction for landlords, and that before long it will be necessary for alternative measures to be introduced to stem the neglect which so many privately owned houses have suffered since 1939.

A feature of the housing position to-day has been the increasing tendency for owners of the smaller tenanted property to dispose of their houses to sitting tenants. Buying them at a moderate price, the new owners have been able to bring them up to a standard of good repair, and many have in addition taken advantage of the grants available under the Housing Act, 1949, to carry out improvements.

During the year 80 applications for improvement grants were approved by the Housing Committee, making a total of 150 since the inception of the scheme. Most of these related to the provision of bathroom facilities and domestic hot water systems.

Housing Statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses

(i)	Houses inspected for housing defects	325
	Number of inspections made	522
(ii)	*Clearance Areas* :	
	Number of houses demolished	59
	Number of persons displaced	124
(iii)	*Remedy of Defects* :	
	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action under the Housing or Public Health Acts	21
(iv)	*Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936* :	
	(a) Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
	(b) Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
	(i) by owners	6
	(ii) by local authority in default of owners ..	—
(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 notices	
	(a) by owners	1
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	—

(b) *Sections 11-13* :

Houses in respects of which Demolition Orders were made	2
Houses Demolished	4
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking under Section 11	4
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	—
Number of persons displaced	27

AIR POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

The general position arising from the emission of dust from the blast furnaces of the Iron Works showed a further marked improvement since the installation of the cyclones on all the furnaces was completed in September, 1954. This plant now extracts practically all the heavier dust and grit from the blast furnace gases, and a considerable proportion of the finer material also—an average of 480 tons a month. This improvement is further shown by the reduced amount of solid matter collected in the deposit gauges during the year, particularly at the Finedon Road and Hillside Road sites. The combined monthly mean deposit for these two gauges was 39 tons per square mile, compared with 65 tons for 1954 and 70 tons for 1953.

Variations in the figures throughout the year, as shown in Table D., and by the accompanying graph, were due to abnormal factors, including occasional "slips" which cannot altogether be controlled, and to the direction and force of the wind.

A further factor, which contributes in some considerable measure to the "black" condition of this area of the town, is the amount of dark smoke and grit from steam locomotives operating in the works area and in the adjacent marshalling yard. So far, however, it has not been possible to deal with this aspect of the problem.

The two lead peroxide instruments for estimating the concentration of atmospheric sulphur were transferred to new sites at St. Andrew's Crescent on the Croyland Housing Estate, and Broad Green, respectively. The figures shown in Table F. may be regarded as satisfactory, being similar to those for comparable towns with light industries. The greater concentration during the winter period is usual, and results from the increased use of domestic fires burning raw bituminous coal.

Copies of the analytical reports of the gauges and instruments were forwarded each month to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific Industrial Research for inclusion in the national records.

During the year the Council were represented on the Standing Conference of local authorities and other bodies, co-operating in the investigation and measurement of atmospheric pollution, by the Chairman of the Health Committee and myself.

A few complaints were received regarding smoke nuisances from certain factory chimneys. As a result, eight timed observations were made and recorded, and informal action taken against the firms in question.

Deposited Matter (tons per square mile per month)

January—December, 1955

TABLE D.

Month	*Hillside Road*	*Finedon Road (Cooling Tower)*	*Isolation Hospital*	*Council Depot*
January	78.18	36.46	15.43	14.90
February	26.50	17.86	8.44	13.63
March	71.99	15.60	17.03	19.74
April	47.46	34.06	18.03	14.14
May	55.39	53.98	19.60	16.74
June	29.20	23.23	11.19	11.45
July	52.54	41.31	17.88	18.35
August	85.40	24.80	19.49	15.82
September	13.37	47.05	7.66	9.00
October	24.51	43.81	11.12	11.35
November	35.67	22.32	11.69	12.57
December	27.98	34.12	13.96	13.82
Average per month	45.68	32.88	14.29	14.29

Meteorological Data

Table showing monthly rainfall and wind directions

TABLE E.

Month	*Rainfall (Isolation Hospital) Ins.*	*Recorded wind directions shown in percentages*							
		N.	*N.E.*	*E.*	*S.E.*	*S.*	*S.W.*	*W.*	*N.W.*
Jan.	1.33	9.6	11.5	13.5	7.7	25.0	21.1	5.8	5.8
Feb.	1.16	14.8	9.2	13.0	13.0	7.4	13.0	18.5	11.1
March	1.84	31.0	20.8	6.9	1.7	8.6	6.9	10.3	13.8
April	0.66	12.3	17.5	5.3	—	12.3	29.8	14.0	8.7
May	3.53	8.8	12.3	12.3	5.2	5.2	19.3	22.8	14.1
June	2.24	16.2	21.4	12.5	9.0	5.3	17.8	12.5	5.3
July	0.16	27.2	45.7	11.8	—	3.4	5.1	—	6.8
Aug.	0.60	23.6	34.5	7.3	—	7.3	20.0	1.8	5.5
Sept.	1.53	17.2	—	—	1.7	17.2	19.0	31.1	13.8
Oct.	1.98	16.7	11.6	3.3	3.3	10.0	26.7	15.0	13.4
Nov.	1.20	34.0	8.5	3.4	3.4	25.2	13.6	8.5	3.4
Dec.	2.06	9.9	6.6	8.3	5.0	15.1	36.7	15.1	3.3

Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method

January—December, 1955

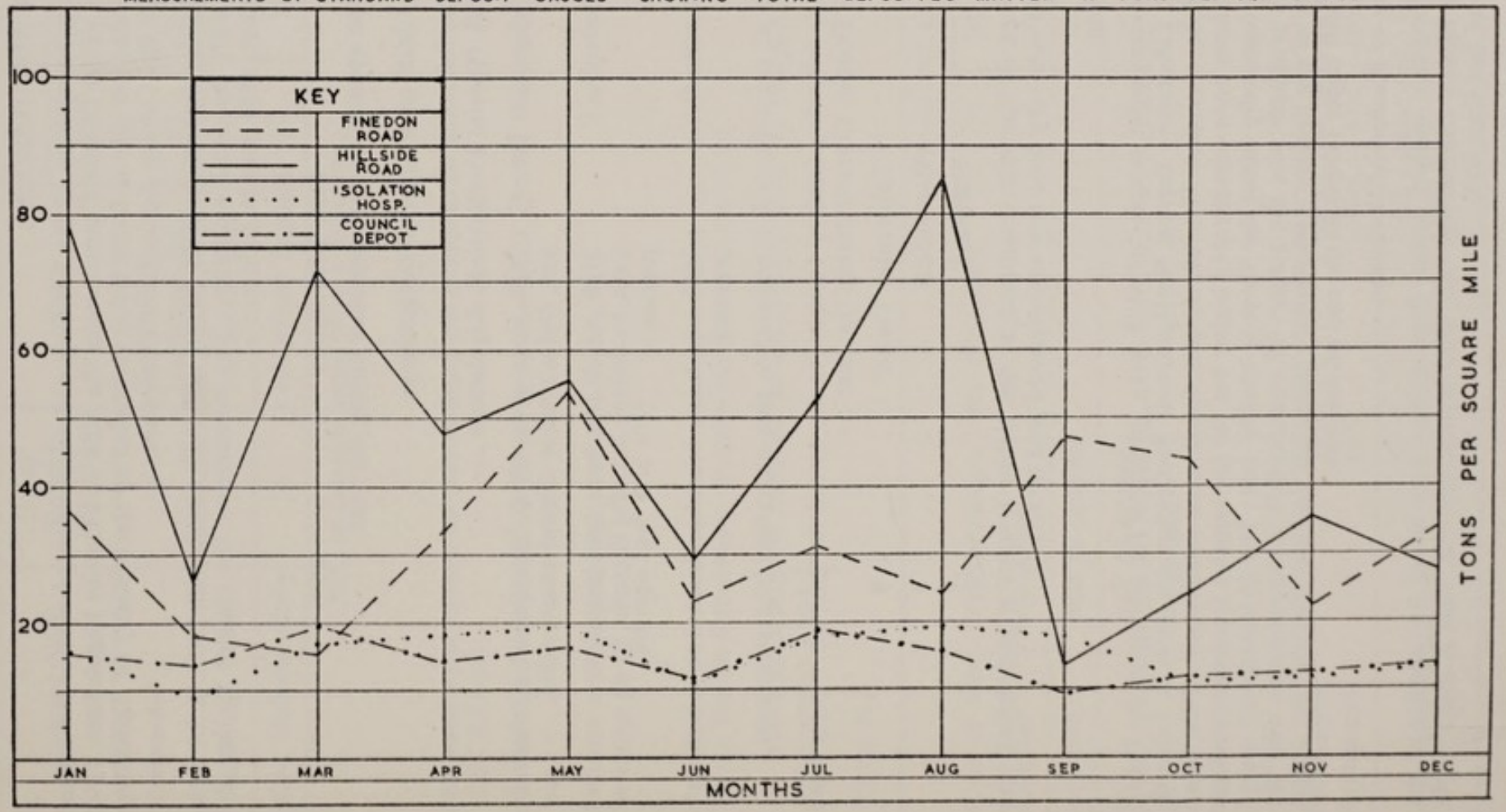
TABLE F.

Month	*Weight of SO_3 collected mg/100 sq. cm/day*			
	Council Depot	*Hillside Road*	*Broad Green*	*St. Andrew's Crescent*
January	3.05	1.85	—	—
February	2.77	1.50	—	—
March	2.19	1.42	—	—
April	—	—	0.70	0.66
May	—	—	0.75	0.48
June	—	—	0.44	0.45
July	—	—	0.39	0.30
August	—	—	0.37	0.31
September	—	—	0.59	0.44
October	—	—	1.01	0.62
November	—	—	1.60	1.42
December	—	—	1.49	1.49

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

AIR POLLUTION 1955

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



MILK AND DAIRIES :

The supervision of the handling and distribution of milk is the responsibility of the District Council under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the production side at farms being controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture through the County Agricultural Committee.

Dairies (except those at farms) and milk distributors have to be registered with the local authority. The number on the register at the 31st December, 1955, was as follows :—

Dairies	5
Milk Distributors	25

One application was approved during the year.

Sale of Milk under Special Designations.

The following three special designations may be used in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations :—

'Tuberculin Tested'	Milk from cows which have passed a tuberculin test, and a routine clinical examination.
'Pasteurised'	Milk which has been heat-treated to a specified limit, to destroy harmful bacteria, by an approved process.
'Sterilised'	Milk which has been heat-treated to a high temperature.

In all cases the milk is required to pass prescribed laboratory tests.

The following Dealers' Licences to use special designations were granted by the District Council during the year :—

'Tuberculin Tested'	9
'Pasteurised'	7
'Sterilised'	12

Most of the milk consumed in the Urban District is pasteurised, and there is now very little raw undesignated sold by retail.

Sampling.

Seventy-eight samples of Milk were submitted for testing to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Northampton. Particulars are given in Table G. It will be seen that 73% of samples tested were satisfactory. This figure would have been considerably higher but for the samples from one producer which repeatedly failed the 'keeping quality' test. The unsatisfactory record of this producer was the subject of considerable correspondence with the officers of the County Agricultural Committee and the Ministry, the matter being still under review at the end of the year.

Testing of Washed Milk Bottles.

Forty-two washed bottles from dairies were tested for sterility at the Public Health Laboratory. All were satisfactory—i.e. with a mean bottle count of less than 600.

TABLE G.

Class of Milk	*No. of Samples Tested*	*Tests*	*No. of Samples*	
			Passed	*Failed*
Pasteurised	15	Phosphatase	15	—
		Methylene Blue	15	—
Tuberculin Tested	27	Methylene Blue	23	4
Raw Undesignated	36	Methylene Blue	19	17

73% of samples tested were satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM.

The number of ice-cream premises registered at 31st December, 1955, was :—

Manufacture, storage and sale	3
Storage and sale only	110

Twenty-two samples of Ice-cream and Water Ices were tested by the Public Health Laboratory. Results are shown in Table H.

The results may be regarded as satisfactory—83% of samples falling within grades 1 and 2.

TABLE H.

Class of Mix	*Type of Sample*	*No. of Samples*	*Provisional Grade*			
			I.	II.	III.	IV.
Pasteurised	Pre-packed	7	3	3	1	—
Pasteurised	Bulk or opened	2	1	—	—	1
Cold	Bulk or opened	4	1	3	—	—
Cold	Pre-packed	4	1	2	1	—
Ice Lollie Cream			1	—	—	—
TOTALS		18	7	8	2	1
Percentages 1954			38.9%	44.5%	11.1%	5.5%
Percentages 1955			80%	10%	10%	—
Ice Lollies (Water Ices)		4	All satisfactory. B. Coli absent in 1/10 ml. 1 ml and 10 ml.			

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Eight annual licences were renewed by the District Council during the year, seven for small private slaughterhouses attached or belonging to retail butchers' shops, and one for the slaughterhouse of a meat pie factory, at which pigs exclusively are slaughtered.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The routine post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered for human food in the Urban District has been carried out. During the year 14,330 animals were examined for which purpose 1,160 visits were made to slaughterhouses.

The times when meat inspection has to be carried out are governed by the hours of slaughter, and as far as the small private slaughterhouses are concerned, in practice depend largely on the time of the day when animals are received from the markets and also the time available to the butchers, which is usually after shop hours, being late afternoons and evenings. Consequently about 70% of meat inspection work has to be undertaken outside normal office hours, either in the evening or early the following morning and at week-ends.

Tables I., J. and K. give particulars of the amount of work carried out and the quantities of meat condemned.

The services of the Pathological Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital were sought on two occasions for the indentification of unusual specimens.

All meat and offal condemned is stained under supervision before being removed for disposal by contractors. This ensures some degree of control.

The incidence of bovine tuberculosis in adult cattle was 7.3%. This figure is not high, most of the cattle slaughtered being from fairly young stock of under four years, and the whole condemnation of carcase and organs was necessary on only one occasion. In districts, however, where a larger proportion of cows are slaughtered, the incidence of the disease is usually much higher.

Much has been done throughout the country by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture in increasing the number of tuberculin-tested herds, and in securing a great improvement in the health of cattle.

OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

Details of tinned and other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption are given in Table L. 64 visits were made to shops and other food premises for the purpose, and 184 certificates of condemnation were issued. In most cases wholesale firms require separate certificates for different commodities, and in the case of imported canned meats, details of the manufacturers' embossments on the tins are required to be shown.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-1954.

Number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31.12.55 ..	33
Number of new and renewal licences granted during the year	27

TABLE I.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows			*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Total*
	Bulls	*Steers*	*Heifers*					
Number killed ..	—	344	183	5	6	2,672	11,120	14,330
Number Inspected	—	344	183	5	6	2,672	11,120	14,330
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci								
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	36	19	1	—	33	335	424
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	10.5	10.3	20.0	—	1.2	3.0	3.0
Tuberculosis only								
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	26	12	—	—	—	285	323
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	7.8	6.6	—	—	—	2.6	2.3
Cysticercosis								
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE J.

CARCASES CONDEMNED AS TOTALLY UNFIT

Diseases	*Cows*	*Steers*	*Heifers*	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Pigs*
Immaturity ..	—	—	—	—	—	1
Moribund ..	—	—	—	—	—	1
Septecæmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis—						
Generalised ..	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	1	—	—	—	3

TABLE K.

TOTAL WEIGHTS OF MEAT AND ORGANS CONDEMNED

	Tuberculosis				*Other Diseases*			
	Tons	*cwts.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Tons*	*cwts.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Carcase Meat ..	1	2	3	14	—	15	3	26
Organs & Viscera	—	7	1	8	—	17	1	—
TOTAL	1	10	—	22	1	13	—	26

Total Weight Condemned—3 Tons, 3 cwts., 1 qr., 20 lbs.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Number of Animals Infested	2
External Masseter Muscles	1
Internal Masseter Muscles	—
Heart Musculature	1
Other Sites	—

TABLE L.

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

Commodity	*Weight lbs.*	*Commodity*	*Weight lbs.*
Tinned Goods :		*General Items*—(cont.)	
Fish	20	Coffee (Bottled)	2
Fruit	376	Confectionery	12
Fruit Juices	9	Confectionery (Sweet)	18
Ham	286	Corned Beef	8
Jams & Preserves	18	Crumpets	4
Meat (Various)	2,752	Eggs	67
Milk (Evaporated)	10	Fish Cakes	2
Nuts	111	Fish (Wet)	49
Puddings	10	Fruit (Packets)	1
Sausages	2	Ham	3
Soups	5	Jams & Preserves	6
Vegetables	55	Margarine	7
		Oatmeal	2
General Items :		Pickles	11
Bacon	34	Sandwich Pastes	75
Beetroot (Bottled)	2	Sauces	3
Biscuits	16	Sausages	59
Cereals	3	Shell Fish	14
Cheese	117	Sugar	1

Total Weight—1 Ton, 17 cwts., 0 qrs., 26 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—1955 :

Inspection of food premises was carried out as far as other duties permitted, no detailed survey being undertaken as it was anticipated new regulations would be in force by the end of the year. Improvements were, however, carried out to a number of premises including structural alterations, internal arrangement and equipment and fittings.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, were published in December, and are operative as from 1st January, 1956. They extend considerably the local authority's powers, now bringing under control all places where food is handled in the course of a food business whether or not actual sale is involved. While there has been evidence of a steadily improving standard, especially in some of the larger firms, much work is still to be done in this important field to secure a satisfactory standard throughout the district.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Rechargeable works relating to the repair and maintenance of sewers serving more than one property were carried out by the Council in 5 cases, 36 properties being affected.

Cesspools were emptied on request on 65 occasions under arrangements with Rushden U.D.C. As regards properties in the Nest Lane area where there is no public sewer, a fixed charge is made for the work.

72 cases of obstructed drains and sewers were also dealt with.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

One application by a firm of contractors for a licence to station and occupy two caravans on various sites were granted during the year. Another, for permission to use land as a permanent site for twelve caravans, was refused.

A site in the town area which was being used as winter accommodation by a number of travelling showmen was the subject of a special report following complaints from neighbouring residents. The site was considered to be unsuitable for the purpose, and its use was subsequently discontinued.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

29 visits were made to premises in connection with the investigation of cases of infectious diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

No. of houses or parts of houses disinfected :	
(a) Following Infectious Disease	21
(b) On special request (other causes)	1
No. of articles disinfected	209
No. of articles destroyed	59

Articles of bedding and clothing requiring steam disinfection continued to be dealt with by Rushden U.D.C. under standing arrangements.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Premises registered for the use of filling materials	Nil
Premises licensed for (a) Manufacture of rag flock	Nil
(b) Storage only	1

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Licences were granted in respect of three 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, 1955, was 206, i.e. with mechanical power 178; without mechanical power 21: other premises 7; a decrease of 5 during the year.

44 inspections were made and 4 written notices served requiring defects to be remedied. These were :

Sanitary Conveniences :	Insufficient	Found 1	Remedied 1
	Unsuitable or Defective	„ 6	„ 5

Eight notifications of infringements were received from H.M. Inspector.

Outwork.

Half-yearly lists were received from 36 employers and 5 outside authorities notifying the employment of 415 outworkers in the Urban District (August List). Most of these were employed in connection with the making, etc., of boots and shoes and clothing.

Particulars relating to 275 outworkers were also notified to other authorities during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control.

Particulars of the work carried out during the year are given in the following tables. There was a slight increase in the number of surface infestations, but none gave rise to any special problem. Regular attention has been given to the Council's two refuse tips at Gipsy Lane and Northampton Road.

A major infestation occurred along one section of the Swanspool Brook, between Castle Fields and the railway embankment. It was aggravated by the amount of undergrowth along its banks, but with the co-operation of the Nene River Board and the riparian owners the whole stretch was cleaned up and the infestation satisfactorily cleared.

The services of the rodent operative was again made available to Raunds and Irthlingborough Urban District Councils.

Free service is given to private householders, while work done at business and industrial premises is charged on a time and material basis. A number of business firms have their premises regularly served by private disinfestation firms, while a few are dealt with by the Council under servicing contracts.

The usual two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out, as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. In addition, a comprehensive treatment of the Croyland Housing Estate was also undertaken. Certain defined areas of the town which have repeatedly been found to be infested were given additional attention.

The use of Warfarin, the blood anti-coagulant, is now almost universally used as a bait base for the treatment of surface infestations, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide being used in sewers.

Surface Infestation.

(a) Premises inspected :

(i) As result of notification	.. .. ..	97
(ii) Routine Visit or Survey	.. .. ..	120
		217

(b) No. of Infestations found :

Rats—Major	19	
Rats—Minor	88	
Mice only	41	
	—	148

(c) No. of Infested Properties treated by local authority :

Private Dwellings	65	
Business and Industrial Premises (including those under Servicing Agreements)	37	
Agricultural Properties	—	
Local Authority Properties	13	
	—	115

(d) Total Visits made by Rodent Operative 911

Annual Servicing Agreements.

	1955	*1954*
Number in force	13	15
Total Value	£157	£212

SEWER MAINTENANCE

TABLE M.

Treatment	*Wellingboro'*	*Finedon*
First—(March, 1955)		
Number of manholes baited	74	23
Number showing infestation (bait take)	19 (26%)	Nil
Croyland Housing Estate (August, 1955)		
Number of manholes baited	80	
Number showing infestation	37 (46%)	—
Test-Baiting (August, 1955)		
Number of manholes baited	23	—
Number showing infestation	7 (30%)	—
Second—(Sept./Oct., 1955)		
Number of manholes baited	62	—
Number showing infestation	27 (43%)	—

Verminous Disinfestation.

26 cases of verminous infestation were notified and dealt with during the year. These included :

Ants	4	Fleas	14
Beetles	1	Silver Fish ..	2
Bugs	2	Wasps	1
Earwigs	2		