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Wetherby Rural District Council



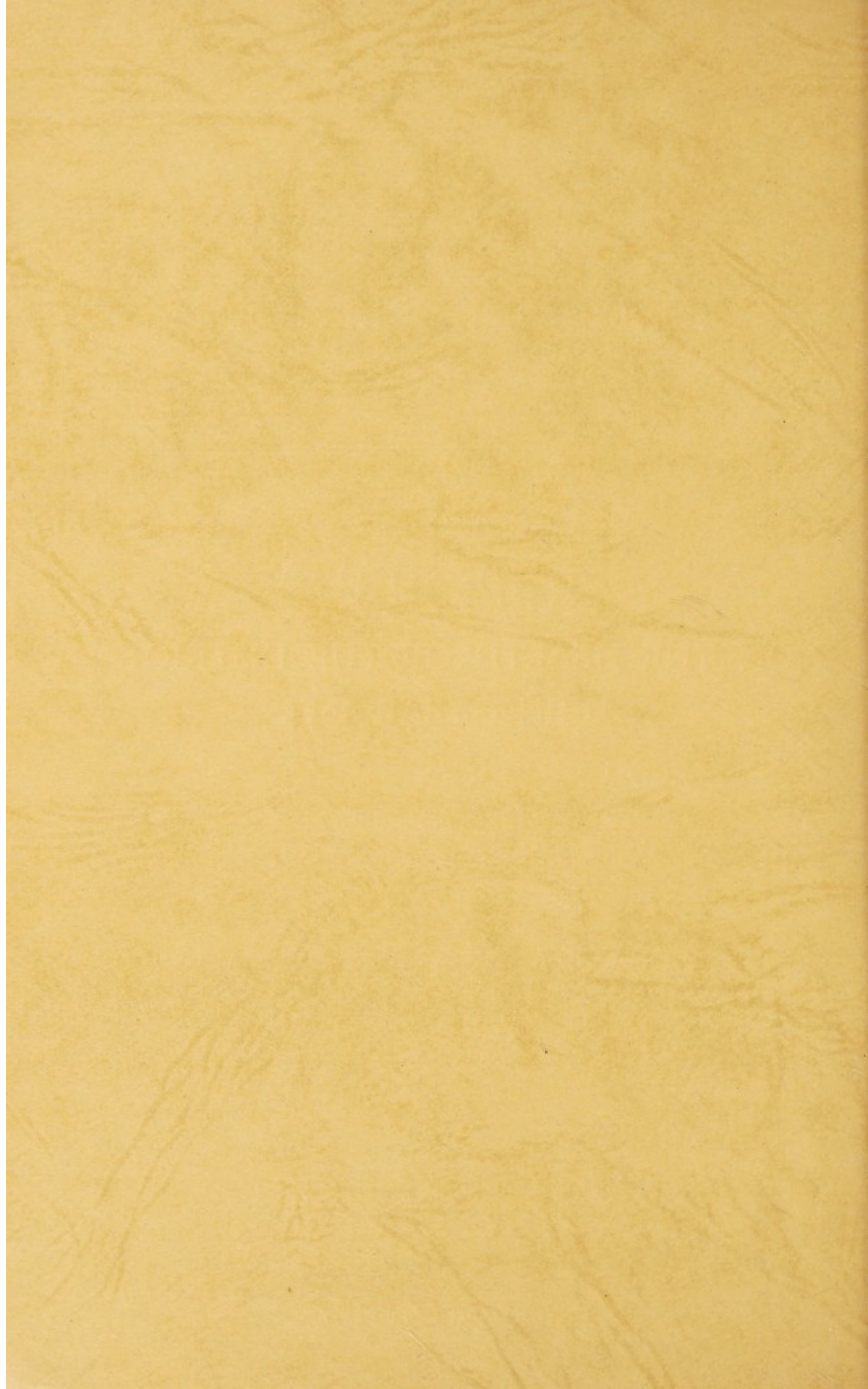
REPORT
ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
DURING YEAR 1954

by

RONALD G. SMITHSON
Medical Officer of Health

and

JOHN MARRIOTT
Engineer, Surveyor and
Chief Sanitary Inspector



Wetherby Rural District Council

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT DURING YEAR 1954

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WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:

L. R. BURRELL, Esq., J.P., 4, Raby Park, Wetherby.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

J. NORFOLK, Esq., J.P., Northfield, Tockwith.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Chairman: F. K. ABBEY, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: G. H. RAWLINGS, Esq.

THE FULL COUNCIL.

HOUSING COMMITTEE:

Chairman: R. F. THATCHER, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: W. F. ALTON, Esq.

THE FULL COUNCIL.

WATER COMMITTEE:

Chairman: R. PROCTER, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: J. W. WATSON, Esq.

Together with 16 Members of the Council.

DIVISIONAL HEALTH ORGANISATION

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer:

RONALD G. SMITHSON, M.D., Ch.B. (Hons.), D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer:

J. A. G. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B.

Part-time Medical Officers at Clinics:

C. E. ASTON, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

H. B. COOK, M.D., M.B., Ch.B.

R. P. LAWSON, M.C., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

A. MACFARLANE, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H., D.P.H.

C. E. MATHIESON, M.B., Ch.B.

W. MURPHY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. PHILLIPS, M.D., M.B., Ch.B.

CONSULTANTS AND SPECIALISTS WORKING IN DIVISION:

Ear, Nose and Throat:

R. THOMAS, B.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), D.L.O.

Eye:

L. WITTELS, M.D., D.O. (Oxon).

Orthopaedic:

M. B. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B.

Paediatric:

L. J. PROSSER, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

Tuberculosis:

W. S. GILMOUR, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.

V. RYAN, M.D., D.P.H.

S. P. WILSON, M.D., D.P.H.

Dental Officers:

Miss R. SCLARE, L.D.S. (Orthodontic Specialist).

G. O. WOOD, L.D.S.

D. B. OWEN, L.D.S.

Speech Therapist:

Miss M. P. DUNKLEY, L.C.S.T.

NURSING STAFF:

Health Visitors/School Nurses:

Mrs. M. Atkinson, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., D.N.
Miss G. E. Brigham, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Miss I. V. Brigham, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (Queen's).
Miss J. W. Brigham, S.R.N., S.C.M., V.V.Cert.
Mrs. E. Marsden, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Miss M. B. Pepper, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., D.N.
Miss C. Swift, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Home Nurses/Midwives:

Miss E. E. Basher, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).
Miss V. E. M. Finbow, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).
Miss C. A. Fox, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's).
Miss A. Girdlestone, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.
Miss H. M. Glennie, S.R.N., C.M.B.
Miss A. E. Hickes, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.
Miss E. C. Hodgson, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).
Miss E. Ingleby, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).
Mrs. G. Jeffries, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.
Mrs. E. Linley, S.E.A.N., C.M.B. (Resigned 31st October, 1954).
Mrs. A. M. Linins, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's).
Miss M. Murphy, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.
Miss W. E. Payne, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.
Miss M. E. Watson, S.R.N., C.M.B.

Home Nurse:

Miss L. Evamy, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's) (Resigned 30th June, 1954).

Dental Attendants:

Miss Ullathorne.
Miss Dawson.

Physiotherapist:

Vacant.

Assistant Health Visitor/School Nurse:

Mrs. E. Clark, S.R.N.

Tuberculosis Visitor:

Mrs. E. M. Askam, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert. (Queen's).

V.D. Social Worker:

Mrs. Doidge-Harrison.

Mental Health:

Miss C. M. Glover (Social Worker).
Miss C. M. Leng (Home Teacher) (Resigned 18th August, 1954).

CLERICAL STAFF:

Senior Clerk: F. H. Attack.
Miss S. Graham.
Mrs. K. Head (Commenced 24th May, 1954).
Miss J. M. Lawn.
Mrs. E. M. Naylor (Commenced 28th June, 1954).
Mrs. D. M. A. Stephenson (Resigned 8th May, 1954).
Mrs. E. E. Westerman (Commenced 4th January, 1954).

AMBULANCE SERVICE:

Depot Officer: T. G. Woodhouse.

PERSONNEL DETAILS

ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT.

*** Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer:**

John Marriott, Chartered Municipal Engineer, M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I.,
M.Inst.P.C., M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

*** Deputy Surveyor and Deputy Chief Sanitary Officer:**

William Leonard Barnsley, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Surveyor and Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

Peter Telford, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

General Foreman (Public Health):

Brian Wood.

General Foreman (Water):

Norman Rhodes.

Clerk of Works (Housing):

Frederick Clarkson.

Draughtsman/Clerk:

Thomas H. Whitehouse.

General Clerk:

C. Bryan Betts.

Shorthand-Typist:

Miss M. Portway.

Junior Assistant:

Miss C. Whitmore.

Consultant Engineer:

Wilf. K. Rodwell, Chartered Civil Engineer, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Mun.E.

Consultant Architects:

W. A. Jones, F.R.I.B.A.

G. A. Burnett, A.R.I.B.A.

C. W. C. Needham, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.

R. B. Armistead, F.R.I.B.A.

Anthony Steel and Owen, A./A.R.I.B.A.

*** Exchequer contributions to the salaries of these officers under the
Local Government Act, 1933.**

Wetherby House,
WETHERBY.
August, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wetherby Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Vital Statistics for 1954 are satisfactory. The Infant Mortality Rate at 11.4 per 1,000 live births; the stillbirth rate of 7.5 per 1,000 total births; and a single death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis being particularly welcome figures. The birth rate for the area was low compared with the administrative county and with England and Wales, and once again the illegitimate birth rate was substantially higher than the rate for the country as a whole.

We had our first full year's experience of Hospital confinements taking place entirely outside the Health Division and it is interesting to notice that since Hazlewood Castle Maternity Home closed the number of home confinements in the Division continued to be half as great again as before we lost our local Maternity Home. At the same time I can assure the Council that I know of no instance where a mother was denied Hospital accommodation if the circumstances of her case warranted such provision.

The return of Slaughtering to Private hands; the publication of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act of 1954; and the closure of the local office of the Ministry of Food each brought in their wake considerable additional work to the Health and Sanitary Departments.

The members of the Health Department were very pleased to learn that Mr. Marriott had been nominated as a candidate for the Chairmanship of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association. The Council readily gave him permission to accept the nomination and we were glad to learn subsequently that Mr. Marriott's candidature had been successful. We wish him a pleasant year of office and congratulate the Association on its choice.

It is once again my pleasant privilege to express thanks to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of the Council's Committees, and to members of the Council for their help and forbearance during the year under review. To the Staff of my own Department I am particularly indebted for support throughout the year, and we in our turn would find our job much more difficult if we did not receive such ready assistance from the Chief Officers and Staffs of other Departments.

I am,

Mr. Chairman,

Your obedient Servant

RONALD G. SMITHSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PART I. REPORT AS MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	64,424
Population, 1951 Census	20,338
Population—Registrar-General's Estimate mid-1954	20,940
Number of Inhabited Houses	6,572
Rateable Value, 31/3/55	£136,755
Product of 1d. Rate, 31/3/55	£535
District Council General Rate, 1954/55	6/-
County Council General Rate, 1954/55	15/6

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births: Legitimate	125	125	250
Illegitimate	8	6	14
Totals	133	131	264
Birth Rate per thousand population	12.6		
Stillbirths, 2. Rate per thousand total births	7.5		
Illegitimate live births represent 5.3 per cent. of total live births.			
Total Deaths from all Causes, 221. Crude Death Rate per thousand population	10.6		
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.3		
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth was	Nil		
Deaths of Infants under one year:			
All Infants per thousand live births (3)	11.4		
Legitimate Infants per thousand legitimate live births (2)	8.0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	39.0		
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	1.0		
Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	1.0		

WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT

Comparable Vital Statistics for the year 1954

Based on the Registrar-General's Figures

	Wetherby Rural District	Aggregate West Riding Rural Districts	West Riding Admin- County	England & Wales (Provi- sional figures)
BIRTH RATE:—				
(Per 1,000 estimated population)	12.6	16.3	15.1	15.2
DEATH RATE:—				
(All per 1,000 estimated popula- tion) All Causes	10.6	9.9	11.9	11.3
Infective and Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syphilis and other V.D.	0.05	0.08	0.08	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory	0.05	0.12	0.16	0.16
Tuberculosis Other	—	0.02	0.02	0.02
Cancer	1.86	1.70	2.01	2.04
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	1.48	1.33	1.84	*
Heart and Circulatory Disease ...	4.87	3.64	4.54	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.91	1.08	1.22	*
Maternal Mortality (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and stillbirths) ...	—	1.10	0.89	0.69
Infant Mortality	11.4	27.2	28.0	25.5

* Figures not available.

COMPARABLE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT
From 1940 to Date

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year	Natural Variation		Live Births		Deaths		
		Increase	Decrease	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population (iv)	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population (vi)	Under One Year (vii)
(i)	(ii)	(iii)				(v)	(vi)	(viii)
1940	18,130	—	25	214	11.80	239	13.18	15
1941	18,910	4	—	243	13.91	239	12.64	15
1942	18,890	56	—	307	16.25	251	13.28	14
1943	19,240	69	—	295	15.33	226	11.75	7
1944	20,140	143	—	344	17.00	201	9.98	20
1945	19,460	138	—	328	16.83	190	9.76	10
1946	18,820	159	—	380	20.20	221	11.70	11
1947	18,890	133	—	340	18.00	207	11.00	8
1948	19,470	110	—	298	15.31	188	9.66	8
1949	19,440	112	—	315	16.20	203	10.40	10
1950	20,270	30	—	282	13.91	252	12.43	8
1951	20,530	20	—	278	13.50	258	12.60	3
1952	20,540	65	—	268	13.00	203	9.90	6
1953	20,810	75	—	291	14.00	216	10.40	12
1954	20,940	43	—	264	12.60	221	10.60	3

CAUSES OF CIVILIAN DEATHS

Registrar-General's Abridged List of Causes of Death in District during 1954

	CAUSE	NUMBER		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	6	3	9
11.	Malignant Neoplasm (Lung, Bronchus)	6	1	7
12.	Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	—	5	5
13.	Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	—	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	9	16
15.	Leukaemia (Aleukaemia)	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	1	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	19	12	31
18.	Coronary Disease (Angina)	22	14	36
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	3	6
20.	Other Heart Disease	20	31	51
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	4	5	9
22.	Influenza	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	4	7	11
24.	Bronchitis	3	4	7
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	3	4
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
28.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	7	12
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	2
34.	All Other Accidents	2	2	4
35.	Suicide	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
Total ...		110	111	221

From the Registrar-General's list of causes of death in the District during 1954, it will be seen that the most frequent causes of death, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand population were:—

Heart and Circulatory diseases ...	102, equivalent to death rate of 4.87
Cancer	39, equivalent to death rate of 1.86
Intra cranial vascular lesions ...	31, equivalent to death rate of 1.48
Pneumonia	11, equivalent to death rate of 0.52
Bronchitis	7, equivalent to death rate of 0.33

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports in extensio on the Sanitary Circumstances of the area later in this report. Members of the Council will read with gratification the percentage of houses in the district which are connected to the mains drainage system and to the mains water supply. It must be unusual for a Rural District such as Wetherby to have such a high percentage of connections already made. At the same time the figure of percentage properties having baths and hot water systems gives point to the possibilities of using the Improvement Grant Sections of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act of 1954. It will be noticed that there was a distinct switch of building activity to private property as compared with Council Houses. This was almost certainly directly related to the abandonment of building licencing. Whether such a pronounced swing will be maintained is not certain in view of the high cost of building.

The Housing Repairs and Rent Act of 1954 came into the possession of the Council immediately after the Midsummer recess. I had hoped it would have been possible for the Council to consider a Schedule of Class 5 houses before the end of the year but I was advised that the results of the Rural Housing Survey did not represent the position throughout the district accurately and therefore the Schedule was still in course of assembly at the year end.

The Council has taken all reasonable steps to publicise the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, especially in regard to the availability of Improvement Grants in respect of suitable properties but it does appear that the necessary knowledge regarding Improvement Grants has not yet reached all Landlords. It is, therefore, with the intention of giving further publicity to this matter that I would make the point that full information is readily available at the Council's request through its Officers to any person who wishes to consider improving property in the district.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total	Cases sent to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	13	2	—
Whooping Cough	26	—	—
Poliomyelitis	4	1	—
Measles	75	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	12	—	11
Dysentery	97	58	—
Erysipelas	12	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—

Comments:

The only comment necessary is in respect of the Sonne Dysentery outbreak which occurred in a large Institution for the deaf situated in this area. How the infection entered the School is unknown, there being three separate and distinct possibilities. It was only by hospitalisation of about two-thirds of the cases until they were free from infection that the outbreak was brought under control.

In terms of time it is interesting to note that the investigation of this outbreak started early in September and one was only barely able to consider the School free from infection by Christmas.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following figures show the state of the register at 31/12/54.

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
43	28	12	14	97

This is an increase of 1 case over the figures at 31/12/53.

Analysis of new notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis during year:—

CIVILIAN TUBERCULOSIS

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	...	—	...	—
1—5	—	—	2	...	...	—
5—15	—	1	...	—	...	—
15—25	2	—	...	1	...	—
25—35	2	1	...	—	...	—
35—45	1	3	...	1	...	—
45—55	1	—	...	—	...	—
55—65	2	—	...	—	...	—
65 and over	—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—

Service Cases: 1 Male (Pulmonary), age 15-25 years.

The only significant movement in regard to the
 industry which occurred in a large number of
 the most important industries. The industry which
 showed a decrease were those of the textile
 industry. It was only the textile industry which
 showed a decrease. The other industries which
 showed an increase were those of the
 industry which showed an increase. The industry
 which showed an increase was the textile industry.

TURKISH

The following figures show the state of the
 industry in the year 1912. The industry
 which showed an increase was the textile industry.
 The industry which showed a decrease was the
 textile industry. The industry which showed
 an increase was the textile industry. The
 industry which showed a decrease was the
 textile industry.

CIVILIAN TURKISH

NEW CASES	
1912	1000
1911	1200
1910	1500
1909	1800
1908	2000
1907	2200
1906	2500
1905	2800
1904	3000
1903	3200
1902	3500
1901	3800
1900	4000

DEATHS	
1912	100
1911	120
1910	150
1909	180
1908	200
1907	220
1906	250
1905	280
1904	300
1903	320
1902	350
1901	380
1900	400

Report as
Divisional Medical Officer
for 1954

CLINIC ARRANGEMENTS IN DIVISION No. 9 (Tadcaster and Wetherby Rural Districts).

Abbreviations: A.N.—Ante-Natal. I.W.—Infant Welfare. E.N.T.—Ear, Nose and Throat. T.B.—Tuberculosis.

TOWNSHIP	LOCATION	PURPOSE	DAY AND TIME
MEDICAL OFFICERS' CLINICS (Static)			
Bardsey	Trustees Hall.	I.W.	Alternate Mondays, 1-30 p.m.
Barwick-in-Elmet	Methodist Schoolroom	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Boston Spa	West End Nursery School.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Church Fenton	Methodist Sunday School.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Church Fenton	R.A.F. Station.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Thursdays, 1-30 p.m.
Micklefield	Methodist Chapel.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Sherburn-in-Elmet	Methodist Sunday School.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Swillington	Wakefield Road (Hut nr. Church).	(A.N./I.W.) (Minor Ailment.	Every Thursday, 1-30 p.m. Every Wednesday, 9-30 a.m.
Tadcaster	Multiple Clinic, Leeds Road.	(A.N.) (I.W.) (Minor Ailment. (Speech Therapy. (Ultra Violet Light.	Alternately Wednesday, 10-0 a.m., and Friday, 1-30 p.m. Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Every Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Every Monday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. (Winter months only).
Tockwith	Methodist Sunday School.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Mondays, 1-30 p.m.
Wetherby	Crossley Street.	(A.N.) (I.W.) (Minor Ailment. (Speech Therapy.	Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30 p.m. Every Thursday, 1-30 p.m. Every Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Every Tuesday, 2 p.m.
MEDICAL OFFICERS' CLINICS (Mobile)			
Appleton Roebuck	Village Green	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Copmanthorpe	Lower Green	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
East Keswick	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.
Huby	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.
Ledston	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
Thornor	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
CONSULTATIVE CLINICS			
Tadcaster	Multiple Clinic, Leeds Road.	(T.B.) (Ophthalmic (E.N.T.) (Paediatric. (Orthopaedic	2nd and 4th Tuesday each month, 10 a.m. Every alternate Friday, 9-30 a.m. Every 4th Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 p.m. 1st Thursday each month, 1-30 p.m.
Wetherby	Crossley Street.	Ophthalmic.	Every alternate Friday, 1-30 p.m.

PART II. REPORT AS DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER

As has been the practice since the Scheme of Divisional Health Administration, started in the West Riding in 1947, this Section is inserted to acquaint the Council with the work carried out from the Divisional Health Office under your Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Divisional Medical Officer to the West Riding County Council.

The detailed information given relates to the area covered by the Tadcaster and Wetherby Rural Districts.

During the course of the year two members of the District Nursing Service, namely, Miss L. Evamy in Wetherby and Mrs. E. Linley in Thorner, retired. Both these ladies have served the district for many years and the Wetherby Council placed on record its appreciation of the work done.

Neither vacancy was filled before the end of the year, the work being carried out by existing members of the Divisional Nursing Staff.

Miss Leng, the Home Teacher of Mental Defectives, had to resign her appointment in August on her removal to the West of England. This vacancy also has not yet been filled, Miss Leng's work having been undertaken since her departure by Miss Glover, the Mental Health Social Worker.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

School Medical work here is based on an annual visit of a School Medical Officer to each School in the area. At the beginning of the year we offered Routine School Medical Inspection to all children aged 5, 11 and 14, but during the Christmas term invitations were extended in addition to all children aged 8 years. The total number of Routine Medical Examinations carried out was 3,651. 382 re-inspections of defects found at previous examinations were recorded and 26 special examinations were performed at the request of Heads of Schools. 410 individual children were found to have 448 defects requiring treatment and out of the total number of children examined, 1,914 defects were noted for further observation at subsequent examinations. 0.5% of the children seen were estimated to be below average nutrition.

It is our practice to arrange for each School Nurse to examine all children in her Schools for Cleanliness after each principal holiday. 14,182 such examinations were recorded and resulted in 104 children being found to have signs of infestation with lice.

Although it would be pleasing to be able to report that there are no signs of lice infestation among the school children in the area the results reported cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

Three Minor Ailment Clinics at Swillington, Tadeaster and Wetherby dealt with 43 cases during the course of the year.

The Dental Officers working in the Division report the following Statistics in respect of the work carried out:—

	Total
Number of children inspected	5,839
Number of children found to require treatment	3,394
Number of children offered treatment	3,376
Number of children treated	1,934
Number of attendances	3,162
Number of extractions:	
Temporary teeth	1,253
Permanent teeth	187
Number of general anaesthetics	2
Number of fillings:	
Temporary teeth	162
Permanent teeth	2,310
Number of other treatments:	
Temporary teeth	52
Permanent teeth	212

The arrangements for Consultative Clinics continue to operate in the same way as last year with the following results:

Eye Clinic

452 children were examined, spectacles were prescribed in 237 cases and I understand spectacles were obtained in 182 cases.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic

94 children attended the Monthly Clinic and 35 were referred for operative treatment. 18 of those operations had been carried out by the end of the year.

Orthopaedic Clinic

82 children attended the 11 sessions on 108 occasions. 27 were referred for treatment.

Paediatric Clinic

41 children made 56 attendances at 11 sessions.

In addition, 10 children from this Division were seen at the special Cardiac Centre at Harrogate General Hospital.

Speech Therapy Clinic

36 children received treatment at 140 sessions.

Physically Handicapped Children

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to ascertain Physically and Mentally Handicapped Children between the ages of 2 years and 16 years. Such cases are referred for

investigation by Heads of Schools, Private Practitioners and Parents. At the moment we have records showing that the following numbers of children from this area are in attendance at the types of Residential Schools shown:—

Type of School							Number
Educationally Sub-Normal	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Blind	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Maladjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Deaf	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Delicate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Clinic Facilities. There was no change in the Clinic facilities in the Division during the year, 10 regular sessions being held in permanent buildings and 6 sessions in the Mobile Unit. In all cases arrangements are made for Infant Welfare Work to be carried out in association with Ante-Natal Care.

Towards the end of the year plans were being made for increasing the number of villages served by the Mobile Unit during the period it is at our disposal.

At the Clinics held in permanent buildings 1,063 children attended on 7,786 occasions, together with 107 Expectant Mothers who attended on 359 occasions. 25 mothers attended for Post-Natal examination.

During the three days fortnightly that the Mobile Clinic attended in this Division 1,034 attendances were made at 120 sessions for Infant Welfare purposes and 62 attendances by 16 mothers for Ante-Natal Care.

It should be noted that the villages served by the Mobile Unit would be deprived of Clinic facilities almost entirely were it not for the visits paid by the Mobile Unit.

Distribution of Welfare Foods. At short notice about the middle of the year the Divisional Health Office was asked to make arrangements to take over the distribution of welfare foods formerly carried out by the Ministry of Food. This meant undertaking the distribution of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil in liquid and capsule form at Selling Centres throughout the Division. It was as much to the credit of the former Staff of the Food Office as my own Staff that the change over took place so smoothly. It must also be recorded of the numerous volunteers throughout the area who are actually selling the welfare foods, that not one found it inconvenient to continue under our auspices as in the past. In fact, in thanking these volunteer helpers, the point must be made that resignations have only occurred under dire domestic difficulties. Without being able to quote precise figures and despite an increased availability for sale we have

shared in the National experience of a fall in the sale of welfare foods since the take-over.

Health Visiting. During the course of the year the seven Health Visitors working in this Division carried out the following number of routine visits:—

Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years	Children age 2 but under 5 years	Tuber- culosis House- hold	Other Cases
	First Visit	Total Visits	First Visit	Total Visits	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
719	157	476	603	4145	1990	3132	3	5404

It will be noted that the increased number of visits over last year in respect of "Other Cases" is almost wholly accounted for by the work the Health Visitors have to do in respect of the Home Help Service.

MATERNITY HOME ACCOMMODATION

The following total gives an indication of the place of confinement of mothers normally resident here who bore children during 1954:—

	1953 First Half	1953 Second Half	1954 First Half	1954 Second Half
Hazlewood	127	7	—	—
York Maternity Hospitals	13	32	32	27
Wakefield Hospitals ...	—	34	22	27
Leeds Hospitals	32	45	32	35
Harrogate General	41	71	57	59
Private Nursing Homes ...	33	39	51	45
Otley General	1	2	—	—
St. Winifred's, Ilkley ...	—	1	—	—
Home Confinements ...	114	152	140	141

The purpose of presenting the above Table is to demonstrate that the number of Home Confinements here has continued to increase as compared with the time prior to the closure of Hazlewood Castle Maternity Home in July, 1953. The Table also demonstrates the distances patients are having to be sent for Maternity Home Accommodation since that time.

It should be put on record that the Divisional Medical Officer has never failed to obtain Maternity Home Accommodation for any case in which admission to Hospital was deemed necessary.

Domiciliary Midwifery

14 Domiciliary Nurses carried out Midwifery duties and

the following Table details work done:—

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR—DOMICILIARY CASES

	Doctor present at delivery	Doctor not booked Doctor not present at delivery	Doctor booked Doctor present at delivery	Doctor not booked Doctor not present at delivery	Totals
Midwives employed by the Authority ...	9	83	53	123	268
Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Home)	—	2	4	—	6
Total	9	85	57	123	274

Number of cases delivered in Institutions but attended by domiciliary midwives on discharge from Institutions before the fourteenth day ... 34

Breast Feeding

Number of domiciliary cases in which the infant was wholly breast fed at the fourteenth day ... 208

Statutory Notices received from Midwives

1. Death of (a) Mother ...	—
(b) Child ...	—
2. Stillbirths ...	6
3. Substitution of Artificial Feeding ...	6
4. Liability to be a source of infection ...	1
5. Medical Aids issued because of complications arising in/during:	
(a) Pregnancy ...	1
(b) Labour ...	6
(c) Lying In ...	1
(d) The Child ...	—

There was a substantial increase in the number of cases which availed themselves of Gas and Air Analgesia. Every midwife in the Division has facilities for Analgesia to be made available to her patient and the offer was accepted on 150 occasions. Pethedine was administered on 66 occasions under prescription by the Private Practitioner in charge of the case.

Relaxation Exercises are taught in each Ante-Natal Clinic where accommodation allows.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

The 14 Domiciliary Midwives employed here are also Home Nurses, and for half of the year one whole time Home Nurse gave service in the area.

	Number of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year	Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year
(1) Medical	916	20,276
(2) Surgical	431	7,295
(3) Infectious Diseases	4	24
(4) Tuberculosis	21	710
(5) Maternal complications ...	6	32
Totals	1,378	28,337

Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year

516 15,353

Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year

111 859

Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year

215 11,029

No less than 4,491 visits were made for the purpose of giving injections of modern therapeutic agents prescribed by Practitioners.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER CARE

(i) Tuberculosis

Elsewhere in the report will be found details of the Notifications of Tuberculosis during 1954. The home of each notified case is visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor, who reports on the environmental background. In addition, this specialist visitor carries out contact tracing in accordance with the wishes of the Chest Physician in charge of the case. It is noteworthy that this area is served by no less than 5 Principal Chest Physicians and a further 12 who see occasional cases from this area. Although the co-operation of these gentlemen with the Medical Officer of Health leaves nothing to be desired, with the best will in the world it is not easy to keep track of the true state of the Tuberculosis Register when so many people are involved.

During 1954 Mrs. Askam visited 1,635 homes and the Chest Physicians tell me that 21 children known contacts of Tuberculosis received B.C.G. Vaccination.

Under the County Council Scheme of providing extra

nourishment in the form of daily milk, 35 patients were granted authority to receive such supplies.

About the middle of the year the Miniature Mass Radiography Unit visited Tadcaster and Wetherby and the following figures are of interest:—

Survey Undertaken at	Number Examined	Abnormalities Discovered			Total
		Tuberculosis		Other	
(1)	(2)	Active	Inactive	(5)	(6)
Tadcaster	1,183	1	3	4	8
Wetherby	900	2	1	6	9

Advantage was taken of this visit to extend an invitation to the Staffs of the District Councils and the County Council to submit themselves for examination. In particular, invitations were extended to School Masters and School Mistresses but unfortunately the response could have been better.

(ii) MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORK

Miss Glover, the Mental Health Social Worker, had 73 cases under Legal or Voluntary Supervision at the end of the year and in addition she has tried to continue Occupational Therapy started by Miss Leng before her resignation.

In this connection we are somewhat handicapped by difficulty in disposing of articles made by Handicapped people. The goods produced are in the main wool rugs and dish cloths and the prices for sale are reasonable. We should welcome enquiries from prospective purchasers to allow us to continue offering home employment to those Handicapped people known to us.

(iii) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation in the area continues along the same lines as in previous years, namely, through the medium of Private Practitioners and Medical Officers at the Clinics in the area.

Boosting Doses are suggested on entry into School and again at the age of 10 years. It is with pleasure one is able to report that no case of Diphtheria was notified during the year but at the same time it would be better to be able to report that a greater proportion of children under the age of one year were, in fact, being immunised here.

The Return submitted to the Ministry of Health in respect of 1954 reads as follows:—

Age at 31-12-54 i.e. Born in Year		Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-1950	5-9 1949-1945	10-14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)						
A. 1950-1954	...	88	1,480	2,667	1,475	5,710
B. 1949 or earlier	...	—	—	664	1,258	1,922

These figures mean that as far as the Department can tell only about 60% of children below School Age are being immunised. This figure must more nearly approximate to 80% before one can be reasonably satisfied about the position. The immunisation carried out at all sources during 1954 is shown in the following Table:—

	AGE AT FINAL INJECTION							Total
	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 to 9.	10 to 14.	
1. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation (inc. temporary residents)	248	175	22	11	20	351	92	919
2. Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to complete full course)						6	866	625 1497

(iv) WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION

The County Council Scheme for vaccinating children under the age of 4 years against Whooping Cough continues but unfortunately restricts the antigen to Whooping Cough vaccine alone. Despite this, many Private Practitioners are using the combined protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and we hope the time will not be far distant before the same protective substance is available to County Council Medical Officers. It should be made clear that records of vaccination against Whooping Cough performed by Private Practitioners with the double antigen are accepted by the Department and are included in the report that 398 children were so vaccinated during the year. From my records there would now appear to be 855 children in the area who have been vaccinated against Whooping Cough to date. No case has come to my notice of a child contracting Whooping Cough subsequent to vaccination.

(v) VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

From records available to me from Private Practitioners and from Clinic Medical Officers the following number of persons were vaccinated against Smallpox.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated ...	207	127	28	19	26	407
Number Re-vaccinated	—	—	3	5	47	55

It is interesting to compare these figures with those recorded last year in so far as the bulk of the vaccinations against smallpox in 1954 was in respect of children below the age of 2 years. At the same time these figures present the disquieting position that less than 25% of such children have

been protected against smallpox. It is a Clinical fact that vaccination carried out at this early age is attended by very little risk. It should be noted that modern methods of vaccinating against smallpox produce much less scarring at the site of vaccination than was formerly the case.

VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

To one who remembers the introduction of a National Scheme of immunisation against Diphtheria, and the subsequent rarity of that disease, it was particularly gratifying to be able to introduce into this area the Scheme for Vaccinating Older School Children against Tuberculosis.

This Scheme is based on the knowledge that almost everyone in this country becomes infected with Tuberculosis sooner or later and that one of the periods of life in which many people break down with the disease is between the ages of 15 and 25 years.

The aim of vaccinating against Tuberculosis is to give to those children who have not previously been infected a known dose of the killed germ which, though not capable of causing disease, is capable of stimulating resistance to it.

The Scheme of what is called B.C.G. Vaccination aims at immunising children who are 13 years of age as nearly as possible to their 14th birthday. Before a vaccination is carried out each child is tested for evidence of previous infection. Where no such evidence exists a child is vaccinated and the test repeated six weeks later to check that protection has been produced.

In this area we are visiting the Schools where Senior children attend, three times per year, and offering vaccination to children who are between the ages of 13 years 6 months and 14 years on 1st January, 1st May and 1st September.

The first such visit took place in the Autumn Term of 1954, when 162 parents were invited to allow their children to be vaccinated. 96 Consent Forms were returned and 89 children were fully dealt with. 49 children showed evidence of previous infection and 40 children were vaccinated. All the children who were vaccinated showed evidence of conversion to the Tuberculin Positive state.

I believe B.C.G. Vaccination has great potentialities for the future and I earnestly commend to every parent of an Older School Child in this area the wisdom of giving consent to carrying out this protective practice in the case of their child.

It should be made clear that at the moment this procedure is only available through the School Medical Service unless the child is a known contact of Tuberculosis, and it is only available during the child's 14th year. These points are emphasised to

explain the necessity for parental consent to be given at the time it is asked for.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service continues to provide substantial help in the Division and it has, on occasion, been difficult to meet demands within the establishment laid down. The following number of cases received service:—

1. Maternity (including expectant mothers)	67
2. Tuberculosis	4
3. Chronic Sick, including aged and infirm	93
4. Others	34

198

These cases received 32,225 hours' service.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

The Divisional Medical Officer was privileged to be appointed Secretary of the Wetherby Old Peoples' Welfare Executive Committee and by virtue of this appointment it has been found possible to forward the interests of the aged. In the Tadcaster area the Divisional Medical Officer is a member of the Executive Committee.

It is believed that arrangements made in these two Rural Districts are probably the best example of local voluntary effort through the medium of the Parish Welfare Committees which could be found in any Rural District anywhere. The establishment of Darby and Joan Clubs in many villages is a source of great interest and encouragement to all concerned and acknowledgment is frequently made of the generosity of the County Council's Welfare Department in providing equipment free on indefinite loan.

Nowhere in the Division do the Parish Committees appear to be happy about the position in respect of Chiropody Service. It is surprising that a service which is so much appreciated by the aged should have to depend for its continuance on such an entirely voluntary basis. It is frequently represented that a service such as this should be within the purview of the National Health Service Act.

In neither Rural District has it been found practicable to provide a Meals' Service for the aged.

CARE OF CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES

The Divisional Committee continues to meet bi-monthly and the best that can be reported is that satisfying results can only be expressed on the long-term picture.

WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1954**

Council Offices,
WETHERBY.

July, 1955.

To the Rural District Council of Wetherby:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to submit for your information and consideration, my ninth Annual Report as your Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer in which I record particulars of the work performed during the year 1954. The year has been a remarkable one in view of the amount of work which has been carried out, and steady progress which has again been made.

Outstanding features of the year were the abolition of Building Licensing, the de-rationing of meat, and the resumption of private slaughtering, the acceleration of general housing work and the progress in connection with the completion of the Council's sewerage programme.

Towards the close of the year, I was invited to accept nomination for election as Chairman of the General Council of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association for the year commencing 1st April, 1955, and I desire to record my gratitude to your Council for so generously giving me permission to accept this nomination (although strictly not occurring in the year under review, I am happy to state that I have been elected to that office).

Again I desire to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and unfailing support, the staff of my Department for their loyalty and co-operation for without their help, the work completed could not have been so satisfactorily performed; to the officers of the Council for their consistent help on all occasions and to the officers and members of the various Public Authorities with which the work of the Department is associated.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MARRIOTT,

Chartered Municipal Engineer.

M.Inst.Mun.E., A.M.P.T.I.,

M.Inst.P.C., M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Officer.

Engineer and Surveyor.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT, 1955

SERVICE TO DWELLINGS																		
TOWNSHIP	Estimated extent (acres)		Population		Dwelling No. of	Rateable Value £	Produce of Penny Rate £ s. d.		Water Supply			Sewerage			Closets			
	1	2	1951 (Census)	1953 (Est.)			3	4	5	6	Private Supply		Public Sewer		Private Sept. Tk Other		W.C.	E.C.
											7	8	9	9				
Angram	521	54	54	54	16	201	16	4	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	
Bardsey-cum-Rigton	2732	1315	1323	1323	486	8606	37	17	6	471	38	7	—	—	—	473	13	
Bilton-with-Bickerton	2299	372	375	375	106	1136	4	10	9	102	15	11	—	—	—	82	24	
Boston Spa	880	2401	2450	2450	850	12628	54	10	7	848	12	4	—	—	—	832	18	
Bramham-cum-Oglethorpe	4112	228	230	230	362	4383	8	3	5	345	15	2	—	—	—	324	38	
Clifford	742	1010	1010	1010	322	4247	18	6	8	320	2	—	—	—	—	298	24	
Collingham	2842	1295	1300	1300	439	9014	39	11	10	419	19	1	—	—	—	429	10	
Deighton North	1475	93	93	93	33	567	2	5	1	31	2	—	—	—	—	33	—	
Harewood	8154	1126	1130	1130	361	9186	41	3	0	327	19	15	—	—	—	279	82	
Hutton Wandesley	1233	101	98	1233	32	679	1	8	0	32	—	—	—	—	—	23	9	
Kearby-with-Netherby	1422	125	125	125	46	723	3	0	0	45	1	—	—	—	—	30	16	
Keswick East	1290	621	620	620	214	3456	14	9	11	202	10	11	—	—	—	192	22	
Kirk Deighton	2276	440	459	459	149	2234	8	19	6	126	21	2	—	—	—	141	8	
Kirkby Overblow	2224	310	310	310	102	1549	6	4	1	95	7	—	—	—	—	74	28	
Long Marston	2850	291	304	304	88	1144	5	0	11	88	—	—	—	—	—	71	17	
Ribston Little	858	169	170	170	53	474	17	13	9	50	1	2	—	—	—	48	5	
Rigton	3058	363	365	365	129	1452	6	2	8	114	9	6	—	—	—	74	55	
Searcroft	1073	449	459	459	167	3309	13	15	11	165	1	1	—	—	—	156	11	
Sicklinghall	1495	255	258	258	87	1223	5	3	2	72	15	—	—	—	—	66	21	
Spofforth	5468	810	822	822	280	4454	18	10	4	258	21	1	—	—	—	235	45	
Thorn	2461	1099	1100	1100	386	6180	24	19	11	383	—	3	—	—	—	357	29	
Thorpe Arch	1529	475	480	480	104	10353	25	13	3	103	—	1	—	—	—	80	24	
Tockwith	3188	547	555	555	187	4791	12	18	2	176	5	6	—	—	—	119	68	
Walton	1590	196	196	196	61	14086	31	12	5	59	2	—	—	—	—	46	15	
Wetton	1373	621	622	622	253	5035	21	10	5	244	7	2	—	—	—	247	6	
Wetherby	2460	4237	4405	4405	1168	27955	120	16	6	1163	3	2	—	—	—	1160	8	
Wighall	2247	229	230	230	66	1251	3	13	7	65	—	1	—	—	—	60	6	
Wilstop	1080	56	51	51	12	141	10	11	—	11	1	—	—	—	—	3	9	
Wothersome	772	50	46	46	13	127	10	11	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	
	64424	20338	-20640	-20640	6572	140584	544	4	6	6343	178	51	—	—	—	5729	5947	625

I. GENERAL

a. General Statistics

During the year, it was necessary to quickly revise the details obtained during the Rural Housing Survey and this afforded an opportunity of obtaining and recording accurately the present sanitation statistics of the district. The figures given in this report, are now accurate and are not an estimate as has been the case in previous years.

In view of this, a comparison with previous statistics will show certain discrepancies. From now on, however, it will be possible to keep the statistics completely up to date.

The development of the environmental health services in your district has continued, and at the end of 1953, the details were as follows :—

	No. of Houses	Per Cent. of Total	Increase 1953
Water from public main	6343	97.0	261
Piped water supply (including private sources)	6521	99.2	293
Connected to public sewers	5729	87.8	284
Satisfactory drainage to public sewers or private sewage disposal schemes	6364	97.0	275
Water closets	5947	90.5	287
Earth closets	625	9.5	91 dec.
Baths	5160	79.0	330
Hot Water Supply	5195	79.5	333

b. Legislation

The year has seen a number of important Acts placed on the Statute Book as follows :—

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1954.

The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, with associated regulations.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The Town and Country Planning Act, 1954, with associated regulations.

The Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1954.

The new Building Byelaws adopted by your Council became effective on the 26th July, 1954.

c. Staff and Organisation

There has been no change in the staff and I am happy to report that the staff are working together as a very efficient and happy team.

d. Manual Workers

Out of an establishment of 37 workmen, 35 workmen have been employed by the department and in this connection, I have to record the increasing difficulty in recruiting labour for sewerage and public cleansing. Vacancies which exist on establishment have not been filled and this, together with the inability of obtaining casual labour during holiday periods has created difficulties in maintaining the various services.

The records of sickness for the year ending 31st March, 1955, show that 451 man-days were lost due to illness compared with 501 man-days in the previous year; this gives an average of 13 days per man employed. 19 men had no absence due to illness, 6 men were away for more than 30 days each, and the longest total period of absence was 72 days.

The incidence of illness amongst the manual staff, whose average age is in the region of 48 years, is not, in my view, excessive having regard to the nature of the work which the men have to perform; and although every case is carefully reviewed at monthly intervals, I am confident that the sickness scheme is not being abused and is valued by the majority of the Council's employees.

The improved Depot and Stores accommodation was completed during the year, and the final scheme now available for use, has enabled a very satisfactory allocation of buildings for the Water Department, garages, Public Health Department, Housing Department, and Stores.

II. TOWN PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

a. General

Parallel with the relaxation and final abandonment of Building Licencing, private building work has continued to increase and has exceeded pre-war levels. The reduction in work associated with building licencing has more than been offset by the increase of work involved in the control of building under planning and Building Byelaws.

There is a very considerable demand for sites for the erection of private houses, particularly in the parishes of Wetherby, Collingham, Bardsey and Scarcroft, and your Committee have met the Area Planning Officer and arranged the allocation of additional sites for private development.

The position in the township of Wetherby is still difficult and there is also a demand for sites at Wike.

b. Control of Building and Development

The following gives details of applications received and dealt with:—

					PLANNING APPLICATIONS			
					Construction	Change of use	Advts.	Building Byelaws
Brought forward from 1953					8	2	—	8
Received 1954	...	...	...		235	24	11	367
					243	26	11	375
Approved	...	...	...		119	18	6	285
Conditionally approved	...				95	2	3	3
Temporary Buildings	...	...			8	2	—	78
Refused	.....	...	...		17	2	2	4
Withdrawn	...	...	...		1	—	—	4
					240	24	11	374
Outstanding 31.12.54	...	...			3	2	—	1
					243	26	11	375

It will be observed that the total number of applications (375) compares with 321 in the previous year, 9 enforcement notices have been served under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and of these 4 cases were outstanding at the year end, including in one case a prosecution for the use of premises, contrary to an enforcement notice.

There have been nine appeals against planning decisions to the Minister and seven enquiries have been held, the Council being successful in 5 of these cases—2 cases were outstanding at the year end.

c. Industrial Area—Wetherby

No further developments regarding the above site have taken place during the year apart from a number of enquiries from prospective developers. It appears that unless the Council have the site developed to such an extent as to enable a prospective developer to take possession of a site immediately, it is unlikely that purchasers or lessees will become actively interested in the area.

Towards the close of the year, discussions were in progress regarding the acquisition of the ex Air Ministry Works Department site at Wetherby (which was previously not available to the Council but which during the year has been released by the Air Ministry).

d. Vehicular Parking, Wetherby

The car park in Hallfield Lane has again been of considerable value to the traffic frequenting the town and the financial returns are most satisfactory. In this connection, your

Committee instructed me to prepare a scheme for the provision of public conveniences on the site. This scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and tenders are now in preparation.

The repair of the Victoria Street Car Park has been completed.

e. Building Byelaws

The new Building Byelaws came into operation in July, 1954. My original doubt that these Byelaws represent a relaxation of the previous Byelaws in certain respects appears to be well founded, although I am happy to report that most architects are continuing to observe standards established by the former Byelaws. It should be noted that the Byelaws provide rather greater exemption in respect of certain buildings including temporary structures, such as garden sheds, etc.

f. Building Licencing

I am happy to report that this will probably be the last occasion on which I shall have to include this item in my Annual Report. On the 1st April, 1954, a very considerable relaxation of Building Licensing occurred and from that date all houses up to 1,500 sq. ft. in floor area were licenced by the Ministry of Works, and houses over that size and all building works exceeding £1,000 in value for alterations to houses to be licenced by your Council.

During the year, 35 new house licences and 4 licences for alterations of buildings were issued by your Council, whilst 22 licences for new houses were issued by the Ministry of Works.

On the 10th November, 1954, building licencing came to an end and it is interesting to record that during the whole period of building licencing, your Council issued 2,844 licences.

III. HOUSING

a. Housing Progress

The general overall picture during the year has not been unsatisfactory although Council houses under construction and completed at the 31st December, 1954, show a reduction as compared with a year ago. The figures, however, in respect of private building show a very large increase. The policy of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government appears to be to limit overall building so as not to exceed 300,000 houses per annum for the country as a whole, in order to ensure that the capacity of the building trade is not exceeded and that there is not an unduly long period between the time of contract and completion.

The burden of housing costs is causing your Council (along with other Local Authorities) very serious thought. The rate contribution for housing in the year ending 31st March, 1954, was £6,135 and a rate of approximately 1/4d. was levied. The

grants from Exchequer Funds totalled £21,761; The Average income for **each** Council House owned by your Council is £55-4-7 (£35-11-9 from rent and the balance from Exchequer and Rate Funds).

For each new house the average income is £80; (£44-8-0 from rent and £35-12-0 from rate and exchequer funds). The capital assets of the Council in respect of housing at the end of the financial year were £1,726,624. The Council now own 1,432 houses and have sold 35 houses to tenants.

In July, 1954, your Council considered the building programme for the ensuing year which was for 65 houses.

Having regard to the cost of erection of new houses, your Council decided to inform the public that they will give sympathetic consideration to all applications for improvement grants in respect of improvement of existing accommodation or the conversion of buildings to form housing accommodation, provided the house or structure can be made in all respects statutorily fit for habitation and that the improvement scheme will bring the property up to the standard required by the Housing Acts.

In this connection, despite some suspicion of the scheme there has been a very considerable increase of interest and of applications received and grants authorised by the Council.

The work under this heading, together with other details of housing progress are shown in the attached tables of housing at the 31st December, 1954.

					End 1953	End 1954
Private	New Houses—Traditional	...	...		150	260
	do. —Prefabricated	...	...		2	2
	Conversions	...	...	...	123	161
					275	423
Council	New Houses—Traditional	...	...		363	486
	do. —Prefabricated	...	...		246	246
	Conversions	...	...	...	59	59
					668	791
				Total	943	1214
	Demolished or Closed	...	...	...	100	123
	Nett increase	...	...	...	843	1091
Under construction at year end:—						
	Private , all types	...	...	...	94	75
	Council , all types	...	...	...	160	121
					254	196

HOUSING WORK AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

PARISH	Completed			Under Construction		Reconditioning		Demolished or Closed
	Trad.	Private	Council	Trad.	Private	Imp.	Complete With Grant	
Bardsey	20	3	32*	9	5	14	3	—
Boston Spa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bilton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bramham	6	1	4	2	—	2	5	—
Clifford	2	—	—	1	—	14	1	—
Collingham	16	—	8	18	—	10	7	4
Deighton North	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	—
Harewood	8	1	—	9	—	—	2	—
Hutton Wandesley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keswick East	3	—	4	2	—	—	11	1
Kirk Deighton	—	3	4	4	4	4	1	1
Kearby	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Kirkby Overbow	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Long Marston	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
North Ripton	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Ribston Little	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sicklinghall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spofforth	14	5	12	1	6	—	3	1
Scarcroft	4	—	4	1	—	14	2	1
Thorner	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
Thorp Arch	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	—
Tockwith	35	21	48	9	—	44	1	7
Wetherby	1	1	8	—	—	—	5	1
Wighill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wetton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilstrop	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	110	33	123	59	16	121	32	23
	148	123	121	75	40	72	60	
	271 completed	196 in erection						

* 2 shops in addition

The commencement of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, coincided with a request from the Minister of Housing and Local Government to local authorities, to take adequate steps to deal with substandard housing problems in their areas. In view of this and in order that the Council can in due course submit the necessary report required by the Minister as to the condition of houses in the district together with the Council's proposals for dealing with those conditions, it became necessary to accelerate the revision of the Housing Survey.

The original Survey was commenced in 1943 and although not finally completed, a considerable amount of work had been done under this heading. The tabulation of the information obtained, however, had not been completed, because it became evident as time progressed that developments in the district had to some extent, falsified the information already obtained. At the end of the year, the revision of the survey had been almost completed and the work of tabulating and analysing the data so obtained was in progress. I estimate that upwards of 200 houses require comparatively urgent action for demolition or closure and in addition there are probably a further 200 houses which require either demolition, closure or extensive reconditioning and which can only be adequately dealt with by action under the demolition sections of the Housing Act, 1936.

b. Existing Houses

The new Housing Act has been partially designed to assist owners to maintain their property in a satisfactory condition by giving the right to owners, under certain circumstances, of increasing rents, but in view of the complications of this new legislation, I am extremely doubtful whether the intention of legislation will in effect be realised.

Where a notice of rent increase is served on a tenant that tenant may apply for a certificate of disrepair and your Council on such an application must issue what, in effect is a factual statement of the condition of that house. If disrepair exists, the owner is not allowed to increase the rent, and at law is not entitled to the 40% increase permitted by previous legislation until the house is again put in a satisfactory state of repair. At the end of the year only one application for such a certificate had been received but so far as I am aware there has been no substantial action taken by owners to increase rents in your district.

In respect of unfit houses, during the year 14 demolition orders and closing orders have been complied with and at the end of the year, 21 such cases were outstanding. The table

hereunder indicates the position:—

REPRESENTATIONS	Outstanding	Made 1954	Complied with or completed 1954	Outstan- ding at year end
	5	15		8
Demolition Orders	17	8	13	12
Closing Orders	—	3	1	2
Undertaking to repair ...	5	2	—	7
	22	13	14	21
Voluntary Closure			10	
Voluntary Demolition			5	
Total houses abolished				29

238 houses have had repairs carried out by informal and statutory action under the Public Health Acts and 72 houses have been fully reconditioned, resulting in 23 houses which would previously have been of a demolition class, being made into satisfactory houses. Of this number, 32 houses were reconditioned with the assistance of improvement grants and 12 of the improvement grant cases were houses which would have been considered for action under the demolition or closing order procedure. At the end of the year 38 cases of reconditioning of houses were in progress. I am again happy to report that only one case of statutory overcrowding is known to exist within your district.

Appendix B gives details of housing work in the tabular form required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925:—

APPENDIX B

HOUSING STATISTICS

Housing (consolidated) Regulations 1925 Year 1954

Number of dwelling houses in the District—6572.

Number of back-to-back houses included in above—14.

1. Inspection Of Dwelling Houses During The Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts—3,400.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—approximately 4,000.

2. (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations—350.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—approximately 400.

3. Number of dwelling houses needing further action :—
 - (a) Number considered to be in a state so)
 dangerous or injurious to health as to be) Provisional
 unfit for human habitation—1,380.) results of
 - (b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3)) Housing
 (a) above) found not to be in all respects) Survey.
 reasonably fit for human habitation—397.)

2. **Remedy Of Defects During The Year Without Service Of Formal Notices**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority for their officers—306.

3. **Action Under Statutory Powers During The Year**

A. **Proceedings Under Sections 9, 10, and 16 Of Housing Act, 1936**

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—2.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners—4 (includes two Notices outstanding 1953).
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—nil.

B. **Proceedings Under Public Health Acts**

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—306.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners—47.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—8.

C. **Proceedings Under Sections 11 and 13 Of The Housing Act, 1936**

- (1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation—15.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—7.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—13 (6 outstanding from 1953).
- (4) Any action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953? If so, what?—No.

D. **Proceedings Under Section 12 Of The Housing Act, 1936**

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made—nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year—1.
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein—1.
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein—5.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year—1.
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year—nil.
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases—nil.

5. New Houses

Number of new houses provided during the year:—

By the Local Authority: Permanent type 123.

Temporary type —.

By Private Enterprise—148.

6. Housing Act, 1949

Any action in connection with:—

- (a) Section 4—advances for purpose of increasing housing accommodation?—2.
- (b) Section 20—grants to persons other than local authorities for improvement of housing accommodation?—40.

IV. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

a. Drainage and Sanitary Conveniences

Although progress with the completion of the sewerage schemes had not been as rapid as one would wish, it has nevertheless been possible to connect 27 existing properties to the new sewers, in addition to seven properties to existing sewers.

256 new houses have been connected to the public sewers and 16 new septic tanks have been installed at premises which previously had unsatisfactory drainage direct to ditches, streams or land. There are now only 208 houses in the district without drainage suitable for the installation of water carriage sanitation. 49 houses have been completely re-drained and 91 earth closets converted into water closets.

The housing survey has revealed 78 houses with earth closets which were not known to exist, but of this number, 15 are in respect of derelict houses. For comparative purposes, therefore, the tables given of earth closets this year as compared with previous years do not balance; the total grants paid by the Council during the year for earth closet conversion amount to £643-14-10 in respect of 42 conversions, at a cost of £15-6-6 per convenience.

In addition to this, 5 conversions were carried out as result of improvement grant schemes.

In view of the financial position, it has not been possible to deal with more than approximately 40 conversions per year under the present grant arrangements and your Council have received the Minister's consent to the introduction of a comprehensive scheme for the clearance of all remaining convertible earth closets in the district as quickly as possible. It is hoped, therefore, within the next few months, to submit to the Council, details for the commencement of this comprehensive scheme.

b. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal (existing)

The new sewage disposal works are working with complete satisfaction, although operational problems which I reported last year at Crimble Beck (due to the use of detergents and infiltration water) and at Long Marston (due to septic sewage from the pumping mains) still continue; I am happy to state, however, that the difficulties have to some extent been overcome.

At Wetherby works, the scheme of replacement of filtering media and overhaul of the two percolating filters has progressed but at the year end had not been completed (various reasons—principally the non-availability of labour accounted for this delay).

The old works which are to become redundant under the schemes now under construction are all causing me considerable anxiety and the tolerance of the Yorkshire Rivers Board in this connection is very greatly appreciated.

The sewer syphon at Sicklinghall which has caused difficulty in the past, has now been eliminated and since this has been done, no further difficulties have arisen.

Sewers throughout the district have been inspected regularly but very serious difficulties arose by reason of blocked sewers at Tockwith and at Wetherby.

In the case of Tockwith, the trouble was found to be a general silting up of a sewer which was laid at a considerable depth and to a very flat gradient. The cost of overcoming the difficulty amounted to £146.

At Wetherby an old sewer on the Great North Road was found to be blocked and defective. This was remedied at a cost of £123.

Towards the close of the year, one of the deepest sewers in the district, namely the trunk sewer between Kirk Deighton and Wetherby was found to be blocked at Wetherby at a depth of 26ft. Work was in progress for dealing with this blockage at the end of the year, but I estimate that to adequately clear the same will cost at least £800.

Apart from the foregoing, 55 blocked sewers and 6 defective sewers have been dealt with.

c. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—Post War Schemes

The year has seen the development of the remaining portions of the Council's comprehensive sewerage schemes for the area and the "Western Area" and "Thorp Arch" schemes should be completed during the ensuing year. In connection with the western area scheme, the Kirkby Overblow and Harewood section is approaching completion but work on the Weeton and North Rigton section is at present suspended by reason of difficulties with the Contractor.

On the Thorp Arch scheme, negotiations are in progress for settling the date for the taking over of the R.O.F. Sewage Works at Thorp Arch into the direct management of the Council. The outstanding section of this scheme (the Walton-Wighill section) which was originally excluded from this scheme by the Ministry of Health, was the subject of an application by your Council to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for authority to proceed with the same. The Ministry indicated that this could not be authorised for the current financial year but would consider it for inclusion in the 1955-56 programme of works. It is hoped that the Minister will finally agree to this work at that stage, as the conditions, particularly at Walton are very unsatisfactory indeed. Apart from the difficulty and disgusting conditions at the outfall, the sewers themselves throughout the whole of the village are defective, and unsatisfactory.

Your Council decided to press the Minister also to agree to the construction of the branch sewer at Kearby to serve the Chapel Hill and Clapgate area where again, conditions are most unsatisfactory.

The estimated cost of this scheme is £3,233.

At Alwoodley Gates near the Leeds City Boundary, a group of old cottages were found to drain to land with a final discharge into a stream. In view of the near proximity of the decanting reservoir of Leeds Corporation, the Council decided to take immediate action to deal with this matter and at the year end works were in progress on the interconnection of the drainage with the Council's public sewer, whilst the drainage of nine other houses in the vicinity is to be the subject of later report.

The Linton Common Sewage Works, which for a considerable number of years have dealt with the sewage from a few houses has, because of building developments in that vicinity, become very much overworked and serious nuisance is arising along the river bank. The connection of the drainage of this area to the Council's public sewer and the abolition of this unsatisfactory sewage works, should have the urgent consideration of the Council.

On completion of the works already in hand and the schemes at present under consideration for submission to the Ministry,

virtually the whole of the built up area of your district will have been provided with modern sewers and sewage disposal schemes. There will still remain a few places where extensions of sewers are required; in particular the Blackmore Lane area of Scarcroft, the Hill Top area of Collingham, and the hamlet of Wike. I know of no comparable district which has made such astonishing progress in the provision of sewerage facilities and I estimate that on the completion of the present schemes, approximately 95% of all the properties in the district will drain to public sewers, and sewage disposal will be carried out at seven modern sewage works.

Your Council have given consideration to the labour force required for the new sewage works which will shortly be completed and have decided to provide a van for the transport of the mobile attendant who will service the works in the western half of the district. The Council have also agreed to take over as an employee of the District Council the present pumping attendant at the R.O.F. works at Thorp Arch.

d. Private Enterprise Sewers

In order to facilitate the development of private housing estates the Council have agreed in two cases to lay public sewers at the cost of the developer and this will provide sewerage facilities for 14 houses at Boston Spa and for 5 houses at East Keswick.

e. Financial Statement year ending 31st March, 1954

The total cost of the service was £17,097, the income was £4,017, leaving a deficiency of £13,080 to be borne by the General Rate Fund. The rate levied for the provision of sewerage is now 24.17 pence.

Loan charges amounted to £10,342.

The capital assets of the Council at cost in respect of sewerage amount to £296,234.

V. WATER SUPPLY

a. Private Supplies

The policy of the Council of examining all private supplies at least once per year has been continued and 1,953 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological analysis—of these 51 were found to be unsatisfactory and 16 of doubtful purity. Arising out of this, considerable work has arisen in securing the improvement and/or abolition of the existing unsatisfactory supplies and 19 houses have been connected to piped water supplies during the year in lieu of wells and springs.

It is found that there are now 229 houses obtaining their

water from private wells and boreholes and of this number only 51 have not a piped water supply. 2 Statutory Notices for the provision of a piped water supply were outstanding at the year end and 10 informal notices were similarly outstanding. The Council have arranged with the owner of a School and a large group of cottages at Sicklinghall to lay on water to that property by means of a guarantee under the provisions of the Water Act, 1945, and at Kirkby Overblow the present water supply to the Swindon Lane Council houses is to be abolished and a piped supply laid on at a cost of £375-0-0.

At Linton Springs a group of 8 houses (distant from a public water main) were found to be supplied with water of unsatisfactory purity and steps were being taken to provide an alternative supply.

b. Public Supplies—General

The accompanying table gives full details of water supplies within the district.

Routine analysis of all the public supplies at fortnightly intervals has been carried out. 212 samples have been submitted for analysis, of this number, 22 were unsatisfactory and 15 were doubtful. 14 samples of water have been submitted for chemical and mineralogical analysis and the table below gives details of the present hardness of public supplies in your area:—

Supply	Parts per Million		Parts per 70,000 (Clarks Scale)	
R.O.F.	374	(390)	27½	(27½)
Stockeld	200	(180)	14½	(13)
Low Level (Bardsey)	196	(206)	14	(15)
Eastern Area	300	(330)	21½	(23½)
North Rigton	47	(51)	3½	(3½)
High Level (Leeds) ...	76	(100)	5½	(7)

(figures in parenthesis relate to 1953 analysis)

WATER CONSUMPTION

Quantity Supplied	Year 1951-52			Year 1952-53			Year 1953-54			Year 1954-55		
	Annual Total	Gallons	Average Diurnal Total	Annual Total	Gallons	Average Diurnal Total	Annual Total	Gallons	Average Diurnal Total	Annual Total	Gallons	Average Diurnal Total
Domestic	177,267,202	485,000	485,000	172,861,650	468,000	468,000	179,688,864	492,298	492,298	171,173,430	470,400	470,400
Metered	38,731,000	105,000	105,000	44,253,000	122,000	122,000	43,129,000	118,161	118,161	50,498,000	137,000	137,000
Total	215,998,202	590,000	590,000	217,014,650	590,000	590,000	222,817,864	610,459	610,459	221,671,430	607,400	607,400
Quantity Supplied per day	Gallons per Person	Gallons per House	Gallons per Person	Gallons per Person	Gallons per House	Gallons per Person	Gallons per Person	Gallons per House	Gallons per House	Gallons per Person	Gallons per House	Gallons per House
Domestic	28.4	98.8	98.8	26.8	90.0	90.0	27.3	93.8	93.8	26.0	85.5	85.5
Metered	6.3	21.2	21.2	7.2	26.0	26.0	6.2	22.5	22.5	7.74	25.0	25.0
Total	34.7	120.0	120.0	34.0	116.00	116.00	33.5	116.3	116.3	33.74	110.5	110.5

WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH NAME	PUBLIC SUPPLIES				TOTAL				PRIVATE SUPPLIES		
	Area	1954 Pop	Hses	Harrogate Corp Hses Pop Meters	Leeds Corp Hses Pop Meters	Wetherby R.D.C. Hses Pop Meters	Miscellaneous Hses Pop Meters	Pop	Hses	Meters	Hses not Piped
Angram	521	54	16	—	—	16	—	54	16	7	—
Bardsey-cum-Rigton	2752	1323	486	—	—	16	—	54	16	7	—
Bilton-with-Bickerton	2299	375	106	—	—	99	—	365	99	21	2
Boston Spa	880	2450	850	—	—	697	—	2446	848	39	2
Bramham	4112	1230	362	—	—	345	—	1200	345	32	2
Clifford	472	1010	322	—	—	324	—	1005	324	27	2
Collingham	2842	1300	439	—	—	419	—	1260	419	37	1
Deighton North	1475	93	33	—	—	31	—	90	31	12	2
Harewood	8154	1130	361	—	—	43	—	180	43	21	15
Hutton Wandesley	1233	98	33	—	—	30	—	95	30	12	—
Kearby-with-Netherby	1422	125	46	—	—	45	—	122	45	24	1
Keswick East	1290	620	214	—	—	202	—	594	202	16	2
Kirk Deighton	2276	459	149	—	—	126	—	410	126	17	2
Kirkby Overblow	2224	310	102	94	—	1	—	316	95	10	7
Long Marston	2850	305	88	—	—	86	—	302	87	37	—
Ribston Little	858	170	53	—	—	50	—	164	50	6	2
Rigton	3058	365	129	3	—	103	—	295	114	42	6
Scarcroft	1073	459	167	—	—	165	—	455	165	28	1
Sicklinghall	1495	258	87	—	—	72	—	200	72	24	15
Spofforth	5468	822	280	17	—	241	—	726	258	38	1
Thorner	2461	1100	386	—	—	383	—	1094	383	39	3
Thorp Arch	1529	480	104	—	—	77	—	402	103	12	1
Tockwith	3188	555	187	—	—	176	—	531	176	39	6
Walton	1590	196	61	—	—	57	—	187	59	193	2
Wetton	1373	622	253	—	—	—	—	—	244	619	3
Wetherby	2460	4405	1168	—	—	1094	—	4225	1163	103	2
Wighill	2247	230	66	—	—	62	—	225	62	28	1
Wilstrop	1080	51	12	—	—	11	—	49	11	9	1
Wothersome	772	46	13	—	—	13	—	46	13	6	—
	64424	20940	6572	114	375	5440	429	1140	6343	10191	744
				13	360	17723	713			178	51
				Nidderdale R.D.C.	7	3	18			3	229
				Tadcaster R.D.C.	...	7	28			3	
				Tadcaster R.D.C.	...	6	24			2	
						5456	17793	721	6358	20261	752

† Royal Ordnance Factory Supply in detail by the Ministry of Supply
 ‡ Naval Training Stations supply in detail by the Ministry of Supply

* Lascelles Estate Supply in detail
 ** Bulk Supply for Parish of Healaugh
 †† Direct Supply for Parish of Barwick

c. Public Supplies, Wetherby R.D.C.

(i) General

The year has been one of routine development and matters regarding future development of the supply were under active consideration at the year end.

(ii) Water Production and Consumption

Water is now supplied by the Council to the whole of the rural district with the exception of Kirkby Overblow, Weeton, and Harewood, and based on the Registrar General's population figures, the Council supply approximately 18,000 people. It is, however, debatable whether the present figures are a true indication of the present population of the district as they do not appear to reflect the growth of the housing in the district. I estimate that at least 19,400 population are now supplied with water from Council sources. The statistical data and consumption per head, however are based on the Registrar General's figures.

The Annual water consumption for 1955 is interesting in that with approximately one million gallons less water distributed than in the previous year, 300 additional houses were being served and seven million gallons more water for trade purposes, delivered by meter.

There has also been an improvement in the output per hour from the boreholes; for the year under review the figures are 7,300 gallons per hour compared with 6,800 for the previous year. This increase in efficiency of the pumping plant and the reduction in water consumption due largely to the effects of adequate and efficient waste detection, have now reached a level where any substantially greater improvement can only be achieved at uneconomic cost.

I now anticipate that as consumers increase, so in ratio will the consumption of water increase. With this in mind, I am anxious that the Council will give early consideration to the augmentation of supply.

The rainfall for the year under review in the Wetherby Rural District was 31.43 inches, this compares with the 35-year average for your district of 30.39 inches. The University of Leeds have kindly supplied me with detailed monthly rainfall statistics which are recorded at their weather station at Bramham and this gesture is very greatly appreciated.

(iii) Development of Water Undertaking

1. General

The work during 1954 has been concerned largely with routine repair and overhaul.

The new borehole at Stockeld has continued to give very efficient service and 50 million gallons of water were abstracted from that borehole at a rate of 11,000 gallons per hour.

The electrification of Bardsey Pumping Station was finally completed and the removal of the steam plant substantially completed. Due to a decline in the output of the borehole the air lift pump was removed for overhaul and the borehole was shot fired. On resumption of pumping, the yield from the borehole had increased from 8,000 gallons per hour to 12,000 gallons per hour.

2. North Rigton Supply

This scheme is continuing to cause considerable anxiety particularly during the Summer months. In June, July, August and September, there were six complete failures of supply and the cause of this was the inability of Harrogate Corporation to supply water to the Council at sufficient pressure for it to gravitate into the Council's reservoir.

The distance between the Harrogate Water Tower and the Council's reservoir is 3 miles and there is only an operating head of some 30ft. between the two points. Consequently, when the consumption of the Harrogate side of the meter increases (due to summer consumption or other causes) there is a consequent pressure drop in the main and trouble in the Rigton area then ensues. Negotiations with Harrogate Corporation during the year for permission to install a booster pump of adequate capacity on the gravity main were not successful and the Council at the year end were considering alternative methods whereby this problem could be overcome.

3. High Level Area

The high level area of Thorner has for many years suffered from an intermittent supply. During the year, a new trunk main has been constructed from Scarcroft to Thorner and certain interlinkage works carried out in Thorner and this has substantially improved the supply.

4. Bramham High Level Area

The high level area of Bramham has caused anxiety for many years. A new trunk main has been constructed between Boston Spa and Clifford in order to overcome the problem of supply in this village. Although the effect of this main has been to considerably improve the supply position, there are occasions when difficulty still arises. This is due to the small diameter of the connecting main between Clifford and Bramham which en route passes over a relatively high ridge. In order to completely cure the Bramham position, it appears that duplication of the main between Clifford and Bramham must be effected.

5. Hardness of Water

The Council have been concerned for many years at the hardness of water supplied throughout the district, and the inevitable cost to householders in the renewal of hot water

installations and the inconvenience to consumers of the hard water. Accordingly, I was instructed to prepare a scheme for softening the water obtained from the boreholes at Long Marston and this was in an advanced stage of preparation at the year end.

6. Augmentation of Water Supply

During the year due to developments at the Royal Ordnance Factory I was informed that the bulk supply of water which the Council have relied on in the past to meet emergencies might not be available for a protracted period in future. Although the Factory would endeavour to give a supply in an emergency they could not agree to maintain this for any substantial period and no reliance must be placed on this source.

In view of this, and in view of my remarks regarding the effect of waste detection having now almost completely utilised the hidden reserve of water due to waste, and by reason of the continued expansion of housing in the district, I feel that the Council must give serious consideration to developing an alternative source of water supply.

In this connection, investigations have been proceeding with the Geological Survey and certain preliminary reports have been considered by your Council with a view to sinking a borehole in the vicinity of Linton. Further reports will be submitted during the coming year.

7. Kirk Deighton Area

Notwithstanding work which has been carried out during the year and in the past to improve the Kirk Deighton position (and it must be conceded that a substantial improvement has occurred) the position in this parish is by no means completely satisfactory. The whole supply to Kirk Deighton must traverse the distribution mains through the township of Wetherby and it is known that the main between Wetherby and Kirk Deighton which is nominally 3 inches in diameter has, due to incrustation over the years, been reduced in diameter to (in places) less than 1½ inches diameter. The considerable pressure loss between Wetherby and Kirk Deighton which is increasing every year and which is aggravated by new development in Wetherby is the cause of difficulties at Kirk Deighton.

The remedy lies either in the development of an alternative supply for this area or the duplication or re-laying of water mains between Wetherby and Kirk Deighton. I hope to submit a comprehensive report on this matter at an early date to the Water Committee.

8. Waterless Areas

There still exists in the district several waterless areas where it is known that difficulties of water supply exist in a drought period and where the quality of existing supplies is not satisfactory. One particular district is the Ingmanthorpe area where some 6 farms (including three dairy farms), one residen-

tial school, and 28 houses urgently require a satisfactory water supply.

I propose to report fully on this matter to the Committee at an early date.

9. Hydrants and Valves

Work on the installation of hydrants and valves has proceeded and during the year 58 hydrants and 29 valves have been installed, and at the year end there were still 96 hydrants and 25 valves to be installed to complete the scheme.

10. Water Mains

A considerable amount of work has been carried out to water mains and again principally in the relaying of inadequate sized pipes, the interlinkage of mains to provide ring circuits, and the extension of water mains on Council housing estates. Approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 3in. water main has been laid during the year for these purposes. In connection with water mains, there has been an increase in the laying of water mains under guarantee for private enterprise development. Four such schemes has been approved by your Committee and two of the schemes completed.

11. Defective Fittings

The following defects have occurred:—

Water Mains Fractured	...	...	...	...	23
Defective Communication Pipes	...	...	...	...	69
Defective Service Pipes	...	...	...	...	97
Other Defective Fittings	...	...	...	...	247

The average cost of repair of communication pipes was £11-8-5. 1,807 taps have been re-washed at 891 premises.

12. New Connections

There have been 295 new connections, compared with 238 last year, and these include 123 Council houses, 91 new private houses, 18 existing houses, 8 farms, 37 cattle troughs, and 18 miscellaneous supplies.

In addition, there have been 15 re-connections involving the metering of the supply, the work being done at the Council's cost. 64 building water supplies were given by meter and 49 at a flat rate charge. 114 additional w.c's., 59 baths, and 62 hot water systems have been installed in existing houses.

13. Complaints

There was a total of 52 complaints during the year compared with 76 complaints during the previous year. Of this number 23 consisted of a series of complaints due to failure of supply as result of various causes. 22 were in respect of dirty water, 5 in respect of inadequate pressures of water, and 2 miscellaneous complaints.

14. Financial Details

Expenditure was £32,040 and income £29,063, leaving a

deficit on the revenue account of £2,977 to be paid out of general rates. The deficiency rate levied for this purpose was 6.06 pence. The capital assets for water supply were £154,081.

15. Public Supplies

Leeds Corporation and Lascelles Estate

During the year there has been considerable public agitation regarding the quality of water supply in the parish of Harewood and considerable work has been done by your Committee and your officials in this connection. It is not prudent at this stage to give a full report on the details of this, beyond to say that continued negotiations with Leeds Corporation appear to have proved abortive. The cost of various schemes proposed by Leeds Corporation were in the opinion of your Council, far too costly to be approved and your Council have considered alternative schemes utilising local sources of supply for overcoming the present unsatisfactory position. Towards the year end, Leeds Corporation announced that it would proceed with a supply to Harewood irrespective of whether the Council made a guarantee of income from the scheme or not, and at the year end, work on a supply to Dunkeswick was under construction.

It is interesting to report that during the year there has been a marked reduction in the number of unsatisfactory samples collected from the existing public supplies in Harewood, as provided by Lascelles Estate.

This is due to the fact that the Lascelles Estate Co. have carried out certain suggestions made repeatedly by your Council, and for several months, no unsatisfactory sample has been collected in respect of the main village supply and the Stanks and Weardley supply.

In addition the inadequacy of water available has been largely overcome by the location in Harewood of a long standing and serious main fracture.

VI. PUBLIC CLEANSING, TRANSPORT AND SALVAGE

a. Development of the Service

This important service was maintained generally satisfactorily throughout the year with a normal collection period of 14 working days. There was generally an absence of serious complaints which indicates that a satisfactory service is operating.

The most serious criticism which appears to be increasing throughout the district is the period between collections, and in the more urbanised parishes, the public are increasingly requesting a weekly collection.

I would, however, draw the Committee's attention to the difficulty of recruiting suitable labour. The competition of alternative employment for the available labour is resulting in more and more difficulty in obtaining replacements for vacancies

as they arise.

I must draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that since the end of the war there has been a considerable amount of building in the district, and again this year, a further 271 houses have been completed and occupied.

Having regard to figures which I give later, this increase for 1954 represents the work for one working day of one vehicle, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the present collection. Until three years ago, it was relatively easy to make up the loss of collecting time at Bank Holidays by either deploying additional collecting labour to the vehicles or by acceleration of work on the vehicles immediately before and after the holiday break. This is no longer possible because of the difficulty of obtaining casual labour and because surplus collecting time is no longer available. Every endeavour is being made by re-organisation of collecting rounds to defer the date when some extension of the service will become inevitable, but the scheme which I had formulated for increasing the frequency of collecting in certain parishes appears to be inoperable in view of the difficulties which are increasing in maintaining the present period of collection.

As I have stated in previous years, most of the difficulties of collection and disposal arise between April and October when the bulk of refuse is greater and there is an increasing tendency of the public to use the dustbin for garden refuse. Associated with this is the low ash content of the refuse which makes the work of disposal more costly and difficult.

Another problem which is now arising in the Winter period is the potential danger from the use of all-night burning fires. Hot ashes placed in the dustbin and then emptied into the refuse vehicle within a short time can cause a serious fire in the vehicle and/or at the tip.

Two or three tip fires during the year appear to have been caused by this means. It is important that the public should realise that the only refuse to be placed in a dustbin is that stated in the Council's Cleansing Byelaws namely **normal domestic refuse** and this should be kept dry and also free from fire.

Another problem which is having repercussions on collection time and cost is that of the multiplicity of dustbins (probably due to the inferior type of fuel used by some householders). Additional dustbins are appearing with increasing rapidity and this is not confined to large houses but is a feature of every Council housing estate. Every additional bin inevitably slows down the rate of refuse collection.

Finally, the question of the disposal and cleansing of contents from earth closets has caused considerable difficulty and the proposals of the Council to eliminate so far as is practicable this type of convenience with the utmost expedition is to be commended in assisting materially in the work of public

cleansing and contributing to the problem of maintaining the present collection system for as long as possible.

It is probably not appreciated by the Council the time spent on cleansing of earth closets and middens (and in addition to this the objectionable nature of the work) is probably the greatest contributing factor to the difficulty of obtaining labour for this service. Loaders do not appear unduly worried regarding the emptying of dustbins but object to dealing with earth closets and middens.

b. Transport

The fleet of vehicles has been maintained to the satisfaction of the Transport and Depot Sub-Committee. During the year, the Waterworks Ford van was replaced with a new vehicle.

c. Refuse Disposal

The Council have still in use seven refuse tips with one site held in reserve. During the year the Council acquired a large sand and gravel quarry at Bramham for refuse tipping. At Spofforth the low lying land adjoining the Council site has continued to be tipped and the embankment which will form the basis for future road construction and access to back land is substantially complete. Owing, however, to the near proximity of this tip to the adjacent Council houses, there have been a number of complaints, a few which have been justified and have related to delay in covering the refuse. The most general complaint, however, is the presence of a tip at all. In order to reclaim adequately this low lying bog area, it should be known that tipping is likely to take place in this vicinity for many years. However, as tipping proceeds, it will go further and further from houses and the problems and inconveniences which have existed in the last 12 months are not likely to continue.

There is an increasing and tremendous amount of paper deposited in refuse and tipped on refuse tips. This is due to many members of the public not separating the paper at source and leaving it separate for salvage collection. Once paper gets into the refuse vehicle and then into the tip, it becomes soiled and virtually irrecoverable and furthermore, it presents a serious problem in the operation of controlled tipping. In fact, the present salvage scheme for the recovery of paper is basically a method of refuse disposal and if the quantity of paper (200 tons) sent to the paper mills found its way into the tips, very serious and costly problems would inevitably arise and valuable tipping space would have been taken.

The mechanical loading shovel has continued to give excellent service and has enabled the cost of refuse disposal to be maintained within reasonable limits, whilst ensuring satisfactory control of the tips.

d. Collection

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have again

published their costing returns of public cleansing from the large urban areas of the country for the year 1953-54 and taking the basis of this report, as to the weight of refuse during 1954, 5,472 tons of refuse was removed by your Council from 8,500 premises. This represents a daily yield of refuse of 15 tons per day. Analysis of the figures given by the Ministry (and our own data) reveals that on an average, 300 premises are visited (280 working days per year) and 310 receptacles are collected each working day by each vehicle with an average weight of 5 tons of refuse collected per vehicle per day.

124 receptacles are collected each working day by each loader and in view of all the circumstances in the district, I consider that an excellent output, having regard to all circumstances.

e. Financial and General Statement

The total cost of the service for the year, **including provision of dustbins and cesspit emptying** is £13,596 of which sum £7,060 was the cost of labour and £4,410 the cost of vehicles. Refuse disposal cost £2,126.

*Mileage of motor vehicles	...	...	...	...	33,074
*Petrol used (in gallons)	...	...	...	...	5,326
Premises visited	...	...	...	...	221,350
Bins emptied	...	...	...	...	333,748
Middens cleansed	...	...	...	...	3,914
Pail closets emptied	...	...	...	...	7,472
Loads removed	...	...	...	...	2,012
Cesspool and septic tank emptied	...	...	...	...	598
Loads from cesspools	...	...	...	...	1,314

*These figures include collection of salvage

The cost of your Council during the year compared with figures taken from the National Costing Returns are as follows:

Public Cleansing Costs									
	Large Urban Areas (under 30,000 population)						Wetherby R.D.		
	1937/38			1953/54			1953/54		
	Ton	1000 Pop.	1000 Premises	Ton	1000 Pop.	1000 Premises	Ton	1000 Pop.	1000 Premises
Collection	14/6	£129	£497	...	35/3	£438	£1410	...	42/-
Disposal	6/1	£39	£159	...	14/2	£61	£261	...	7/9
TOTAL	20/7	£168	£656	...	49/5	£499	£1664	...	49/9

f. Salvage

Financial details in respect of this service are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Sales of SALVAGE	1,058	8	11
Expenditure including salvage bonus	11,045	11	9
Deficiency on year	87	2	10

There was a steady demand during the year for some forms of salvage, particularly waste paper, and the deficiency on the year was largely due to the fact that at the end of the financial year there was a quantity of paper in stock which could not be

transported owing to the threat of a railway strike. Had this paper been sold within the financial year, it is possible that there would have been no deficiency.

The costs of collection of salvage have substantially increased in recent years and I am hoping that the service will continue to show a profit. The paper, however, which is available to the Council has shown a reduction, and this is undoubtedly due to the declining interest of householders and other persons in keeping paper separate for salvage collection. At the same time the paper mills are requiring an increased quantity of paper and it is interesting to note that nationally the tonnage of waste paper collected is just under 33 per cent. of all new paper and cardboard put into circulation, so that paper is there to be saved if only this can be done.

Whilst one does not wish to go back to the war time emphasis on salvage, it is of interest on the national economy and to the Council, to recover the maximum quantity of waste paper. As I have already indicated an undue amount of paper is finding its way into dustbins, refuse vehicles, and the tips, and salvage at tips is not the answer to the problem.

Paper separation in the vehicle or on the tip is never practical, the only true solution is separation at source and this must be done by the housewife. Unfortunately she has been thoroughly disillusioned and if an increase of paper is to be obtained she must be encouraged to continue this civic and national service, and it appears that the best appeal is to her intelligence and not asked to do this work as a matter of duty.

I am endeavouring to get the co-operation of the whole of the refuse collectors to encourage the householder to save more and more paper and I feel that this is probably the best approach and for this reason, I am glad that the Council have decided to continue the payment of a salvage bonus which is based entirely on the increased quantity of paper brought in for salvage above the basic figure.

g. Dustbin Provision Scheme

The scheme has continued to work exceedingly well and during the year 376 dustbins were issued and 41 sold. The serious troubles confronting other authorities regarding the renewal and provision of dustbins have been happily absent from this district for some 5 years. The cost of the scheme is remarkably small (approximately 1d. rate), but the benefits which the Council have obtained, particularly in the saving on refuse collection time have, I think, been justified.

I continue to receive many enquiries from other local authorities regarding the experience of the Council on this scheme and it is interesting to note that more and more authorities are going over to the type of scheme which your Council adopted so long ago.

VII. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

The day to day routine work of the department continued without respite and every effort has been made to cover and deal with all matters which can affect public health. This is an important section of environmental hygiene as for instance, the early detection and suppression of nuisances are vital in protecting the health of the community. Most of the work under this heading has been done as result of informal notices and discussions with owners and occupiers, and the Appendix 'A' to this report gives full details of the work achieved.

Statutory Notices

	Statute	Out-standing 31-12-53	Issued 1954	Abated 1954	Out-standing 31-12-54
Sect. 39	Drainage	4	4	1	1
„ 44	Provision of W.C.	6	—	6	—
„ 45	Defective W.C.	1	—	—	1
„ 47	W.C. Conversion	16	31	26	21
„ 53	Temporary Buildings	1	—	1	—
„ 65	Building Byelaws	—	1	—	1
„ 89	W.C. Provision—Inns	1	—	—	1
„ 93	Nuisances	3	4	4	3
„ 138	Water Supply	4	1	3	2
Housing Act, 1936					
Sect. 11	... ..	4	2	4	2
		40	43	45	32

VIII. SUPERVISION OF WORKPLACES

a. Factories Act, 1937

The following is a summary of the work achieved under this heading:—

Type of Factory	Registered	Inspections	Defects Found	Remedied
Factories with power ...	104	154	3	2
Factories without power	79	172	2	2
Other premises	59	200	2	—
	242	526	7	4

The defects which have been dealt with are unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences (2), insufficient sanitary conveniences (3), and provision of fire escapes (2).

b. Shops Act, 1934

Work under this heading has been very small and only 2 defects were found and dealt with. The Government are, at the moment considering legislation under this heading, arising out of the report of the Gowers Committee. If and when the proposals of the Government are given legislative effect, it is likely that the work under this heading and in respect of other

places of non-industrial employment (including Agriculture) will be very considerably increased.

IX. SUPERVISION OF FOOD—GENERAL

Under the general heading of public health work, this is probably one of the most important duties of the Council and for this purpose, regular and routine visits are made to food establishments throughout the district. Generally speaking, a good standard of hygiene exists, and there has been a gradual improvement in this direction over a period of years. This has been largely due to keener public discrimination and to a lesser extent to the efforts of your Council; public opinion, however, is the greatest weapon against unsatisfactory practices and in this connection, I am glad to note that there has been an increasing reference to me of unsatisfactory practices and conditions which are observed by the housewife.

There is still much to be done, and particularly in relation to the mobile food shop and delivery van. In an area such as the Wetherby Rural District, this is an increasing problem.

During the year, there was 18 defects in food establishments and these were dealt with informally under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. 390 inspections were made to food premises in general, 301 to slaughterhouses, 90 to bake houses, 94 in connection with ice cream, and 31 in connection with food inspection (other than meat).

b. Slaughtering and Inspection of Meat

In July, 1954, the de-rationing of meat occurred, and the slaughter of animals reverted to private butchers after 13 years of centralised slaughtering. The Council in common with other Local Authorities, had only a comparatively short time in which to make their arrangements and this development involved your Committee in long consideration of the issues involved. A detailed report was submitted to your Committee on the condition of all the slaughterhouses in your area and finally, your Council agreed to licence 9 slaughterhouses as compared with 16 slaughterhouses in use prior to the war.

Since July, I am happy to state that it has been possible to give 100% cover for the inspection of animals slaughtered in these slaughterhouses and the attached table gives details of the work under this heading together with details of meat condemned as result of these inspections.

The return of meat inspection duties has altered the focus of work in the Department and a considerable amount of time and increased travelling is necessary in order to carry out this work as it should be done. It has also involved a fair amount of overtime due to varying times of slaughter. Whilst this at the moment is not excessive, there is a tendency to introduce slaughtering at week-ends particularly on Sunday and at such

times as would involve the Council's staff in considerably increased amounts of overtime. This is not a local but a national problem and the Associations of Local Authorities are giving, together with the Ministry of Food, very serious consideration to the matter.

The arrangements for slaughtering are intended by the Government to apply for a relatively short period of 3 years, during which time it is hoped that the Expert Committee on slaughtering will have reported. The Government have indicated their insistence on a future policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering. Just what is meant by the term "moderate concentration" will depend on the report of the Expert Committee. It does, however, seem obvious that any scheme propounded by this Committee will involve considerable costs in the erection of modern abattoirs and, therefore, there appears to be a strong possibility for the continuance of local slaughtering as at present for a lengthy period.

I am happy to record that in general, the quality and hygienic condition of the meat supplies of your district, are now infinitely superior to those which existed during the period of control, and in saying this, I am not discussing the quality of the meat as a commodity. The butchers of your district operate to a very good hygienic standard and apart from the question of some degree of centralisation of slaughtering with your district, the present conditions are not unsatisfactory.

Meat Inspection—2nd July, 1954, to 31st December, 1954

	No. Inspected	No. Entirely Condemned		No. of Animals Parts of which Condemned	
		T.B.	Other Disease	T.B.	Other Disease
Cattle	644	—	1	39	23
Calves	93	—	—	—	1
Sheep and Lambs	1220	—	1	—	2
Pigs	911	—	—	14	7
	2868	—	2	53	33
		(wgt 870 lbs)		(wgt 1398 lbs)	(wgt 582 lbs)

c. Food Inspection

Apart from meat inspection, the following food was found to be unfit for consumption:—

Food Inspection

(including meat inspection to 2nd July, 1954)

143 tins of various foods—blown and/or decomposing—	339 lbs.
Milk Powder —soured	— 21 lbs.
Boiled Ham —Bone taint	— 37 lbs.
Jellied Veal —Decomposition	— 6 lbs.
Prunes —Fermentation	— 20 lbs.
Beef —Multiple abscesses	— 54 lbs.
Bread —Containing foreign matter—	12 lbs.
	489 lbs.

d. Milk

There has again been a steady increase in the demand for graded milks and the amount of raw milk distributed is very small indeed. 18 samples of milk have been collected for bacteriological analysis of which only one was unsatisfactory. Three were submitted for biological examination (tuberculosis) and all were free from infection. 12 retailers of milk are registered with the Council and 27 Supplementary and Dealers Licences were issued by the Council for graded milks compared with 19 in the previous year.

e. Ice Cream

41 premises are now registered with the Council for the sale of ice cream compared with 32 in the previous year. No ice cream is now manufactured in the district. 78 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological grading with the following results:—

49 samples were placed in provisional grade 1 (81.3%)						
17	"	"	"	"	"	2 (12.5%)
5	"	"	"	"	"	3 (4.7%)
7	"	"	"	"	"	4 (1.5%)

In the case of the grade 4 samples, representations were made to the Chief Sanitary Inspectors of the authorities concerned, and in each case with satisfactory results.

The problem of the itinerant vendor of ice cream who visits the district with mobile sales vans infrequently, but mainly at weekends and during Bank Holidays, continues, and the control which can be exercised over these dealers is extremely small. Because the time of sale is at weekends, it is extremely difficult to obtain samples of ice cream for analysis but the co-operation of colleagues in adjoining districts is resulting in some measure of control.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Camping and Moveable Dwellings

There are now 250 moveable dwellings on 11 licensed sites in your area. These sites are under constant supervision and have been inspected during the year by your Camping Ground Sub-Committee. The Housing Survey has included a detailed survey of these sites and I am glad to report that there are only two of the moveable dwellings permanently occupied and in these cases a report will be in due course submitted to the Public Health Committee for appropriate action.

Provision of public sewers at Kearby now facilitates the improvement of five licensed sites in this parish by the provision of proper sanitary conveniences and the elimination of the individual chemical closets. Discussions are now taking place with the owners of these sites relative to development in this connection.

It is necessary, however, to draw attention to difficulty of

the law relating to moveable dwellings, designed at the time when the use of caravans and other structures for permanent occupation was a rarity and legislation was mainly to deal with use of sites and dwellings for occasional and recreational purposes. There is an increasing number of enquiries from would-be licence holders for sites for permanent occupation. I am happy that the Council has adopted a very rigid policy in this connection as I fear without this, many moveable dwellings in the district would be used as permanent and very sub-standard homes.

During the year three caravans were brought into the district and used for permanent occupation without consent from the Council. They have been dealt with under Town Planning enforcement action and they have now been removed.

b. Public Conveniences

The public conveniences owned by your Council and those owned by the Parish Council at the playing fields at Wetherby have continued to give satisfaction. Your Council during the year proceeded with their proposal to erect public conveniences on the Car Park at Hallfield, Wetherby, and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have sanctioned the scheme. Tenders for the scheme are to be invited early in the ensuing year. In connection with the development of public conveniences, I am very happy to report that a programme of conversion of earth closets to water closets at Wetherby Racecourse has now been completed, and all the conveniences are now water closets. The work in this connection has extended over the years since racing was resumed at Wetherby after the war and I know of no racecourse in the country where there are better and more adequate facilities.

Income from public conveniences during the year amounted to £255 and the expenditure was £625.

c. Petroleum Act, 1928

Again there has been an increase of work under this heading and there are in your area at the moment 32 public filling stations and 22 private storage installations.

There has been an increase of new installations in the year and work under this heading has again been heavy. I am concerned in view of certain unfortunate happenings which have occurred in other parts of the country, that licence holders strictly observe the conditions of licence, and during the ensuing year, I hope to draw the attention of licence holders more forcibly to the need for adequate fire appliances near to petrol pumps.

d. Civil Defence

Work under this heading has been slow during the year and it is regretted that volunteers for the various services for which I am concerned are not forthcoming despite personal and other

appeals. The Rescue Party carried out extensive operational training until the middle of the year when due to holidays and other causes, the course was discontinued and unfortunately has not yet again resumed.

e. Schools

I am happy to report that there are now no schools in the district without water carriage sanitation, as during the year the last school has been provided with water closets.

A private Boarding School in the district has for a number of years caused your Council considerable concern regarding the quality of water supplied from private sources. This matter was given energetic consideration during the year and finally after meetings with the owners, a scheme for the laying on of a piped supply of water to the school and associated cottages was agreed. The cost to be guaranteed under the terms of the Water Act, 1945, by the owners. Tenders for the work were invited and the final stages of dealing with this matter prior to commencement of constructional work were in hand at the year end.

f. Dangerous Buildings

9 dangerous buildings were found during the year, and 2 were dealt with, leaving 7 at the year end in process of action.

g. Land Charges

385 Land Charge requisitions were referred to me for information and the work dealing with these requisitions was not inconsiderable.

h. Rodent Control

Work under this heading has continued. Discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and your Committee were held relative to information contained in the statistical return. As I indicated last year, the statistical details are not a true reflection of the amount of work carried out as during visits to premises for other purposes, it is inevitable that attention is given to the degree to which the premises are, or are not, infested, and I have always maintained that the duplication of records of visits to a property can be misleading. When one visits a property it is for a prime reason and that reason is recorded as an inspection. Any associated information which is obtained during such a visit is irrelevant to the main purpose of the visit.

The Ministry Officials, however, felt, and it was finally agreed by your Committee, that records should be given of this work, and therefore, the new details supplied do include the figures requested by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The work under the heading of rodent control has been systematically and regularly carried out, and two block treatments of areas were dealt with during the year.

The Rodent Operative is a most efficient officer and is doing useful if not spectacular work. The work, however, is not uniformly spread over a year and there is considerable increase of work at certain periods.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	1954
Total inspections of properties	259
Premises infested by rats (major)	22
Premises infested by rats (minor)	77
Premises seriously infested by mice	57
Number of premises treated	126
Notices served requiring treatment	—
Premises ratproofed	13

i. Atmospheric Contamination

Records have again been kept and forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on the extent to which your district is affected by the smoke drift from nearby industrial areas.

This matter is of increasing importance and new legislation is now before Parliament under this heading. It is important that the public should realise that although industrial areas are most badly affected by atmospheric pollution, the domestic fire place with its low degree of efficiency (normally less than 25%) is a serious problem. The new forms of fuel appliances for domestic property are far more efficient than the older types of fire places and less nuisance is likely to arise from their use, therefore, the increased installation of smoke reducing grates in domestic property is a valuable contribution to the reduction of atmospheric contamination. Records do not exist of the number of such fire places installed during the year but these are not inconsiderable. All schemes submitted for Improvement Grants, where fire places are installed, are examined to ensure that the grates (if grants are to be paid on them) comply with the requirements. I append the summary of results obtained from the apparatus installed at the Council Offices with comparisons of similar results recorded in Leeds and Harrogate.

	Total Rainfall (inches)	Total Solids Deposited (tons/sq. m.)	Smoke Concentration Average (mg. per cu. m./day)	Sulphur in Atmosphere Average (mg. per 100 sq. cm./day)
Wetherby R.D.C. ...	28.76 ... (19.54) ...	112.61 ... (111.78) ...	0.148 ... (0.158) ...	0.82 ... (0.87) ...
Harrogate				
(Valley Gardens)	37.27 ... (24.65) ...	95.49 ... (101.69) ...	0.075 ... (0.099) ...	0.92 ... (0.61) ...
Leeds				
(Market Buildings)	30.61 ... (20.30) ...	354.64 ... (348.87) ...	0.717 ... (0.664) ...	2.76 ... (2.53) ...

Figures in parenthesis relate to 1953

j. National Assistance Act, 1948

Burial of the Dead

During the year it was necessary to take action in one burial.

k. Disinfection and Disinfestation

Routine terminal disinfection is carried out by the Department after the recovery of persons nursed at home, on the request of medical practitioners or on the instruction of the Medical Officer of Health. Other cases of disinfection are only carried out on the instruction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Three cases of dirty and verminous houses were dealt with during the year and assistance was sought to a considerable extent by occupiers of premises for advice and assistance covering a wide range of infestation, crickets, cockroaches, wasps, ants, and furniture beetles.

l. Contracts

The preparation of contracts for various projects within the scope of the Department including drawings, Specifications and Bills of Quantities has again taken up considerable time. The Contracts include work carried out on behalf or in default of owners under Statutory Notices, various water main extensions, new public conveniences, housing estate roads and other works are as follows:—

Contracts brought forward from 1953 ...	4	...	£5,528
Contracts under tender during 1954 ...	15	...	£11,152

APENDIX A

Statement required by Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935

Housing Nuisances	Outstanding 31-12-53	Found 1954	Abated 1954	Outstanding 31-12-54
Dirty and Verminous	—	3	3	—
State of Disrepair	109	153	186	76
Provision of Services	58	192	168	82
	167	348	357	158
Nuisances—Drainage				
Defective	4	117	118	3
Inadequate	7	52	49	10
Blocked	—	62	62	—
Defective sinks	9	69	68	10
Light and ventilation (inadequate)	7	61	51	17
Overcrowding	—	1	—	1
Paving (inadequate/Def.) ...	13	56	59	10
Refuse Storage				
Pail Closet Renewal	—	13	12	1
Middens abolished	10	53	47	16
Sanitary Conveniences				
Defective	2	32	31	3
Inadequate	8	24	23	9
Conversions to W.C.	16	96	91	21
„ „ P.C.	—	—	—	—
Serious Dampness	7	38	38	7
Sewage Disposal				
Unsatisfactory	7	30	27	10
Direct to streams	—	12	8	4
Water supply (unsatisfactory)	27	30	19	38
Miscellaneous				
General	2	22	18	6
Rodent Infestation	8	47	53	2
Food Storage (unsatisfactory)	2	34	24	12
	129	849	798	180

GENERAL NUISANCES

(Total of premises or cases dealt with)

	Outstanding 31-12-53	Found 1954	Abated 1954	Outstanding 31-12-54
Offensive accumulation ...	—	14	12	2
Animal Keeping	—	2	1	1
Dangerous Buildings ...	—	9	2	7
Food Premises (defects) ...	4	15	18	1
Factories	3	16	16	3
Rodent infestation	—	75	71	4
River and Stream Pollution	—	2	1	1
Sewerage:				
Blocked sewers	—	56	55	1
Defective sewers	2	6	6	2
Shops (defects)	—	2	2	—
Miscellaneous	2	16	17	1
	11	213	201	23
Total all Nuisances ...	140	1062	999	203

GENERAL PROVISION OF SERVICES

Piped Water Supply	18	Baths	59
W.C's. (new)	114	Hot Water	62
Re-drainage	49	Sewer Connections	290
Septic Tanks	16	Sinks	68

NOTICES ISSUED

	Informal	Statutory
Outstanding 1953	87	40
Issued 1954	351	43
Complied with 1954 ...	359	51
Outstanding 31-12-54 ...	79	32
Legal Proceedings ...	—	2

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Building Byelaw (New Buildings)	840
Building Licencing	81
Bakehouses	90
Slaughterhouses	301
Cowsheds and Dairies	30
Conversion of Earth Closets	370
Camping	160
Factories Act	526
Food Premises	390
Nuisances—General	301
Housing Nuisances	876
Housing (inc. Rural Housing Survey)	2524
Housing Programme (New Houses). See also Building Byelaws)	51
Ice Cream	94
Food Inspection (unfit)	31
Public Cleansing	470
Salvage	114
Rodent Control	259
Sewerage	310
Sewerage (proposed schemes)	109
Schools	61
Shops (Sanitation)	67
Town Planning	614
Waterworks	783
Waterworks (proposed schemes)	145
Miscellaneous	184



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