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Contributors

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1956

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending 31st December, 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 4,666 acres
Estimated resident population mid-1956, 17,230
Sum realised by a penny rate, £1,063
Number of inhabited houses, about 5,300
Rateable value, £264,567

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	278	163	115
Illegitimate	26	16	10
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid-1956, 17.64			

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 23.02			

DEATHS	298	145	153
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 17.30			

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal causes.....	0	0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	16.44
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.05
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	40
Deaths from measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents	1
Deaths from lung cancer	8

The comparable figures for towns of approximately the same size are as follows:—

Birth rate per 1,000	16.2
Death rate per 1,000	15.4
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age ...	28.4

In the Borough there is a School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals, a Hospital for chronic aged and sick female patients, and an Orthopaedic Clinic held weekly at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals.

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are available, whilst Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part-time officer, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Borough Senior and Additional Public Health Inspectors, all full-time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in Norwich Road is held weekly on Friday afternoons, a record number of attendances being made in 1956.

WELFARE ATTENDANCES FOR 1956

Number of children who attended during the year	394
Number of children who attended for the first time, and who at their first attendance were under 1 year	177
Number of children attending born in 1956 ...	153
Number of children attending born in 1955 ...	116
Number of Children attending born 1954-1951	125
Total number of attendances made by children during the year.	
1. Under 1 year of age	2624
2. 1 year of age but under 2 years	645
3. 2 years of age but under 5 years	1007
Total	4276

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children under the age of 5 years who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year...	179
Between the ages of 5-9 years	184

HOUSING.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

Applicants on waiting list at end of year ...	400
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BUILDING.

Houses completed in 1956:—

Wisbech Corporation	78
Private Enterprise	36
Total post-war houses completed and occupied	815

Work in hand:—

Wisbech Corporation	54
Private Enterprise	13

WATER.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

Appearance	Clear and bright
pH.	7.3
Alkalinity	195
Chlorine as Chlorides (p.p.m.)	26.7
Chlorine (free) (p.p.m.)	Nil
Hardness Carbonate (p.p.m.)	195
Hardness Non-Carbonate (p.p.m.)	67
Total Hardness (p.p.m.)	262

BACT. COUNT PER MILLION.

48 hours @ 37° C.	No counts
72 hours @ 22° C.	No counts

BACT. COLI PER 100 MILLION.

Presumptive	Absent
Confirmatory	Absent
Most probable Number	—

REMARKS.

The above results indicate water of the highest standard of bacterial purity, pure and wholesome in character and suitable as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

EXTENSIONS.

2" pipe	373 yards
3" pipe	128 yards
4" pipe	434 yards
6" pipe	42 yards

RENEWALS

3" pipe	4 yards
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New connections to the mains	91
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FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	27	13	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	102	36	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	129	49	—	—



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2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number of cases in which defects were found
Referred

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H. M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of Prosecutions instituted</i>
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	3	4	0	2	0	1	0	0

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Pneumonia	1	15
Erysipelas	3	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0
Measles	203	0
Acute Encephalitis	1	0
Whooping cough	24	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	0
Food poisoning	11	0
Dysentery	194	0

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Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector for the Year 1956

Public Health Department,
Albion Place,
Nene Quay,
Wisbech.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1956, being my thirty-seventh Annual Report. This report appears mainly in summary form and covers the work undertaken by my department in the interests of the general health of the Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Inspections numbering 295 have been made of premises where matters remedial under the Public Health Acts generally existed. In six cases only was it necessary to report matters to the Public Health Committee for statutory action where informal action had failed. The whole of the remaining cases brought the desired results after informal action by preliminary notice or interviews. Details of the work executed appear in the summaries at the end of this report.

We are again indebted to the Manager of the Wisbech and District Water Board for monthly reports of examinations of samples of drinking water from the Board's supply. In every case the results have shown a water of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

HOUSING ACTS.

Progress has been made in dealing with properties coming within the scope of the Housing Acts. Repairs to old properties have again been carried out in order to render them temporarily fit for human habitation, but many houses remain to be dealt with. During the year repairs have been carried out at 61 houses in the Borough, 14 of these only were dealt with by formal action.

The Slum Clearance programme was well on the way by the end of the year, and many properties were earmarked for early attention. A statement of action taken in regard to the five-year programme would show us that in 1956 the total number of houses demolished was 36, houses vacated prior to demolition was 27 and a further 13 were declared due for clearance although still occupied.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The town has again been very free from infectious disease. Visits have been paid to houses from which infectious disease has been notified and the usual disinfection has been undertaken after the removal to hospital or recovery has taken place. Details of the notifications and action taken will appear in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

One factory has been provided with improved sanitary accommodation, one workshop has been cleansed and limewashed and a certificate of means of escape in case of fire has been issued for one factory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, registered to receive 45 male lodgers. These premises have been inspected periodically and so far as structural conditions will permit, have been carried on in a satisfactory manner.

MEAT AND FOOD.

As mentioned in my previous Annual Report, Meat and Food along with Housing are the two main duties falling to the lot of your Public Health Inspectors. Visits to slaughterhouses for the examination of carcasses are made daily, and evening visits are also made when necessary. There are at present, operating in the Borough, seven slaughterhouses in regular use and these are serving the demand, although in two cases conditions are very cramped and structurally poor.

During the year a very large number of pigs were slaughtered in Wisbech for export to the London Markets, in addition to those slaughtered for local consumption. In this respect the number of pig carcasses dealt with during the year increased to 14,411 out of a total of all animals numbering 20,512.

FRESH MEAT CONDEMNED

Whole carcasses of Beef.....	13
Part carcasses of Beef	22
Whole carcasses of Pork	24
Part carcasses of Pork.....	51
Whole carcasses of Mutton	3
Whole carcasses of Veal	1
Part carcasses of Veal.....	1
Ox Heads and Tongues	15

Ox Offals (complete)	6
Ox Offals (part).....	3
Ox Livers (complete)	28
Ox Livers (part)	16
Pigs Plucks	324
Sheeps Plucks	1

	lbs.
Shell Fish.....	12
Fish	553
Cheese	79
Dried Fruit	7
Cake	2
Fats	2½

CAUSES FOR CONDEMNATION.	lbs.
Tuberculosis	3,692
Inflammation	2,816
Dropsy	2,138
Cirrhosis	1,976
Fevered	1,334
Moribund	1,231
Congestion	1,225
T. Pericarditis	746
Bruised	566
Jaundice	559
Emaciation	450
Deterioration	320
Pyoemia	294
Fracture	149
Abscess	120
Actinomycosis	120
Erysipelas	115
Degeneration	72
Parasitic	48
Fibrosis	47
C. Angioma.....	14
Urticaria	12
Uraemia	6
Cystic Kidney	3
Nephritis	2
	18,055

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED:— 8tons 1cwt. 0qrs. 23lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Tins	644
Jars	2
Peaches	500
Cauliflowers	360
	lbs.
Bacon	69
Cooked Meats.....	2
Sausages	6

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1879	295	141	3786	14411
Number inspected	1879	295	141	3786	14411
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcasses condemned	4		1	3	23
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	65		1	1	359
Percentage of the number inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	3.17%		1.42%	0.11%	2.65%
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	9		—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	25		—	—	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.56%		—	—	0.12%
Cysticercosis: Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—		—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—		—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—		—	—	—

Total number of animals slaughtered, 20,512

LICENCES

Licences in force at 31st December, 1956:—

Licences to slaughter or stun animals	37
Licences for slaughterhouses	7
Licence for Knackers Yard	1
Licensed Gangmasters	9
Licensed Campers	6
Licensed Fellmongers	1
Licences to keep Pet Shops	3
Licensed Common Lodging Houses	2
Licensed Ice Cream Premises	83
Licences to use premises for Manufacture of Preserved Foods	5
Licences to use premises under Rag Flock Act, 1951	3
Dealers Licences to sell T.T. Milk	6
Dealers Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	9
Dealers Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	10

Supplementary Licences to sell T.T. Milk

Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised
Milk

Supplementary Licences to sell Sterilised
Milk

RODENT CONTROL.

This work is carried out successfully by one operator.
The twice yearly treatment of sewers has been under-
taken so as to qualify for grant aid.

The following additional operations have taken place
and the cost of these operations has been recovered
where applicable:—

Prebait laid	61
Poison baits	2,20
Bodies recovered	25
Estimated kill	80

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1956

INSPECTION OF PREMISES

Where infectious disease has occurred	18
Inspections of Factories	36
Inspections of Workshops	13
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	582
Inspections of Caravans	37
Inspection of Bunks	1
Inspections of Licensed premises	2
Inspections of Common Lodging Houses	22
Inspections under Housing Acts	229
Inspections under Food and Drugs Acts	45
Inspections under Public Health Acts	295
Inspections of Works in progress	268
Re-inspections as to compliance with notices	244
Number of premises treated for vermin	22
Smoke Tests applied to drains.....	3
Water Tests applied to drains	36
Number of complaints investigated	275
Housing applications investigated	12
Rodent Control.....	48

WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER SUPERVISION OR IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES

DRAINAGE

Drains repaired, cleansed, etc.....	66
New pipe drains provided	9
Inspection chambers built on drains	5
Cesspools emptied	6
Sewer connections	79

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	6
Flushing cisterns repaired	8

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

Workshops provided with improved sanitary accommodation	1
Workshops cleansed, limewashed, etc.	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Repaired	2
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MISCELLANEOUS

Houses cleansed, limewashed, etc.	4
Houses repaired	61
Houses demolished	36
Accumulations of refuse removed	5

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Dustbins supplied	8
Dyke cleansed	1
Removal of animals	1

As this will be the last Annual Report that I shall have the pleasure of presenting to you, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful thanks for the help and guidance afforded me during my long service with you. Especially would I thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for his ready advice and support in dealing with the many and often difficult matters that have presented themselves for attention. Finally my thanks are due to Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Kerridge of the Public Health Department for their efforts towards the smooth running of the department.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. J. SUTCLIFFE, F.A.P.H.I.,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

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Expenditure supplied
Type of animal
Method of analysis

As this will be the last Annual Report that I shall have the pleasure of presenting to you I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments for the help and assistance which the duties of my work have given me. I should also like to thank the Committee of the Public Health Department for the many and often difficult and urgent requests which they have presented to me for attention. Finally my thanks are due to Mr. Brown and Mr. Jones of the Public Health Department for their kind and helpful assistance during the year.

I have the honor to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

W. A. BROWN, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Senior Public Health Inspector

Public Health Department