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#### **Contributors**

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# **Urban District of Woodhall Spa**



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1953

With Compliments

of

The Medical Officer

of Health

Health Offices, Horncastle.

Horncastle Rural District. Horncastle Urban District. Woodhall Spa Urban District. Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

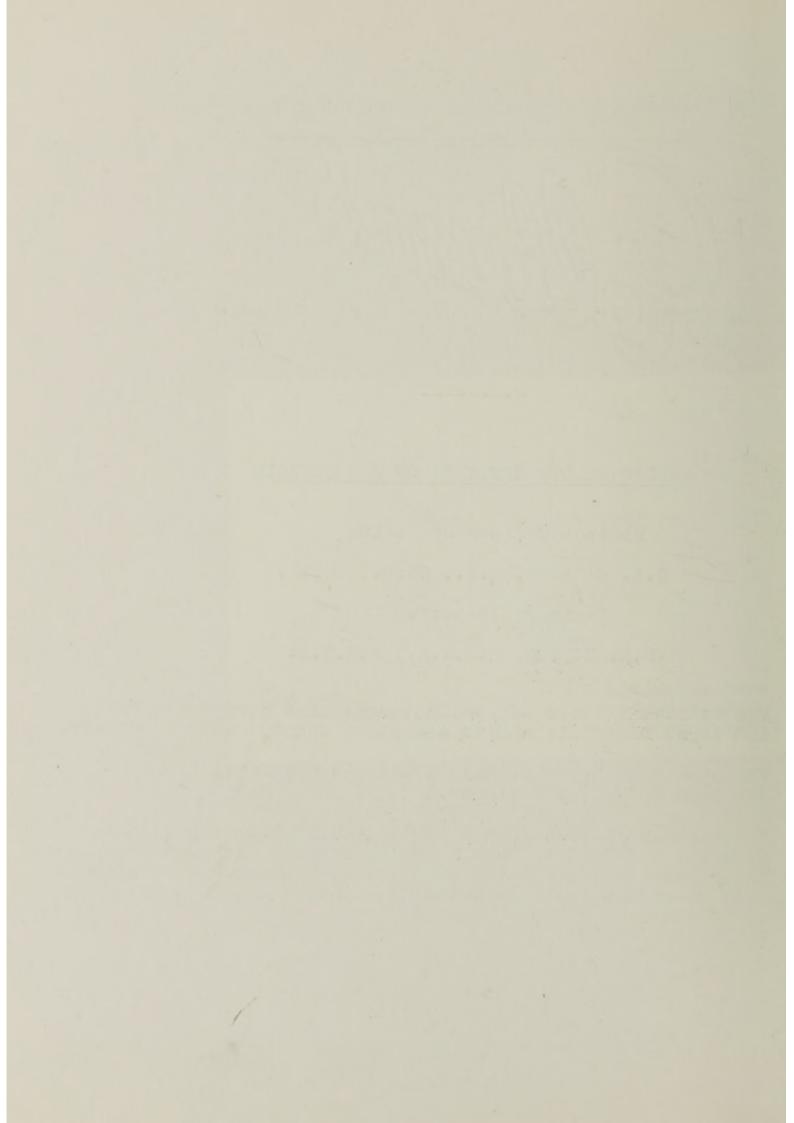
Sanitary Inspector

N.R. BOLTON, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

The Medical Officer of Health serves also Horncastle Urban and Rural Districts and as Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector also holds the appointments of Surveyor and Water Engineer.

The Highways; Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deals with water supplies and swimming baths.



The Council of the Urban District of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1953.

The report follows the pattern of the last few years, being prepared in accordance with skeleton instructions from the Ministry of Health.

Certain factors are outstanding. Firstly the persistently low birth rate which has only once in the post-war years reached anything like the national level. This is true, even when the age structure of the population is taken into account. In general a low birth rate is of poor economic significance. The death rate remains unchanged by any significant amount, as does the age-distribution of deaths.

There were no outbreaks of serious infectious disease, although measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever made their appearance in due season.

The County Council's scheme for whooping cough immunization came into operation during the year. The figures for vaccination and Diphtheria immunization are exceptionally good - practically every baby is immunized and 5 out of every 6 are vaccinated.

In short, the overall picture of the Spa's health is good.

Yours faithfully,

Medical Officer of Health.

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#### STATISTICS

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT:

1874 acros

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S MID-YEAR ESTIMATE OF

RESIDENT POPULATION:

2100.

DENSITY OF POPULATION:

1.12 persons per acre

NUMBER OF INHABITED DWELLINGS:

Houses -

554

Flats -

40

Tomporary Dwellings, Caravans, etc. - 4

RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT: £12,749.

SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE:

£50.

## VITAL STATISTICS

#### BIRTHS

Live Births

Logitimato

Male

10

Female

8

Total

18

Illegitimato

Nil

Crudo live birth rate per

thousand estimated population

8.6

Standardized live birth rate per

thousand estimated population

10.4

Live birth rate, England and

Wales

15.5

One still-birth was registered in 1953 and the total birth rate is thus

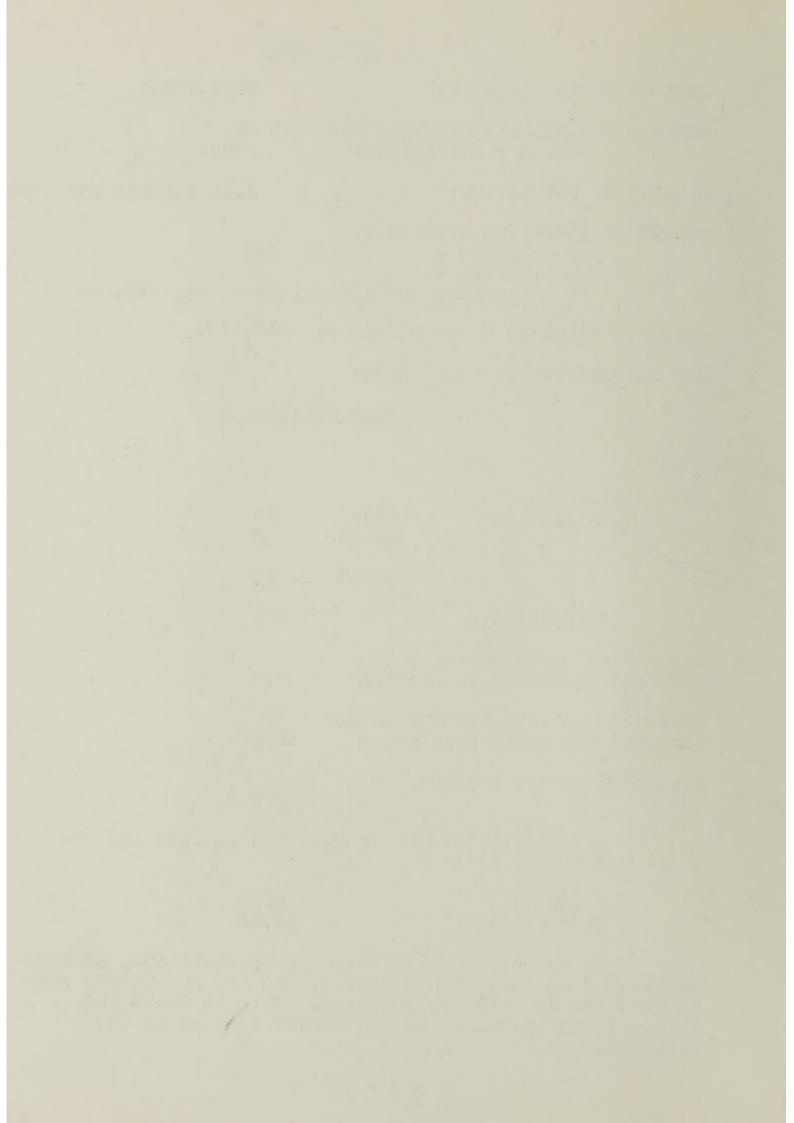
Crudo

9.05

Standardized

10.95

Of the births attributed to Woodhall Spa, 13 were registered in the Urban District, and are presumed to have occurred in domiciliary practice. This is 68.5% and reflects confidence in the maternity service of the district.



#### Deaths

Male Female 22

Total 34

Crude death rate per thousand estimated population 16.2

Standardized death rate per thousand estimated population 11.7

Death rate, England and Wales per thousand estimated

Death rate, England and Wales per thousand estimated population

11.4

## Age at Death

Years	Under 1	1/4	5/14	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	The state of the s	75 and Over
Deaths	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	6	5	20
% of total 1953	2.9	0	2.9	0	0	0	5.8	17.6	14.7	58.8

The death of the child under one year was due to prematurity. The other causes of death at ages under 65 were -

Cardio Vascular disease	5
Cancer of breast	1
Suicide	1
Encophalitis	1

It is worthy of comment that anxiety and emotional stress are regarded as important predisposing causes of cardio vascular disease, whilst their relation to suicide is obvious. Thus 6 out of 9 premature deaths may be regarded as, in some measure, related to the stresses of daily life.

There is, of course, a progressive increase in the deaths in the 75 + age group, mainly due to the degenerations of old ago. Even in this age-group, the stress diseases claim a high proportion of victims for, as age advances beyond maturity, abilities fail and the daily round, formerly done without offert, becomes more and more of a strain.

Short				m - 1 - 3
List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Responstory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and			
	Parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	0	0
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung,			
	bronchus	0	0	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and lymph-			
	atic Neoplasms	0	1	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
	Diabetes -	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous			
	system	2	3	- 5
18.	Coronary disease, angina	4	2	6
19.	Hypertension with Heart	-	2	0
	Disease	3	1	4
20.	Other Heart Disease	1	6	7
	Other Circulatory disease	0	1	1
22.	Influenza	0	1	7
	Pneumonia	0	0	1
24.	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory	U	0	0
~ .	system	0	0	^
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and	0	0	0
~ 1 0	diarrhoea	^	0	_
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth,	0	0	0
٠٠.	abortion	0	0	
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined	0	0	0
020	discases	2	2	4
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	Õ	0	ō
34.	All other accidents	0	ĭ	7
35.	Suicide	0	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of	Ü	-	
00.	war	0	0	0
	TOTALS	12	22	34
	1011110	100	- 22	

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The spring brought with it measles followed by whooping cough and scarlet fever during the summer term.

Actual notifications for those diseases were as follows:-

Whooping Cough	33
Measles	25
Scarlot Fever	11
Pnoumonia	7

The cases of scarlet fever occurred from the end of April to the second week in June and affected an infants class. There were 3 additional cases notified from Stixwould, earlier in April. Two of these were in the same class as the subsequent cases in the Urban District; and probably represent the path by which the organism entered the school.

No evidence was found of a chronic stroptococcal carrier at the time and no further cases followed.

The outbreaks of measles and whooping cough were also basically school-spread and only 2 cases of measles and 4 of whooping cough were in children under 2 years. This is important, since the effects of these diseases are very much more dangerous in the first two years of life. Because of this, when an older child in any family gets measles, many doctors prefer to postpone or modify the infection in any infants subject to infection by means of an injection of human serum, gamma globulin or mother's blood. This confers only temporary immunity lasting, usually, until the next epidemic two years later. In a healthy infant, by delaying the administration of serum, a mild attack of measles may be allowed and the disease is therefore "ever".

In the case of whooping cough, active immunization, giving some degree of lasting protection has been available under the County Council's scheme during 1953. It has not been so widely publicised as diphtheria immunization and no pressure is brought upon parents to have their children immunized. Nevertheless, there is a strong case for immunizing all children between the third and sixth menths of life.

The following tables show the vaccination and immunization's carried out under the County Council's Scheme.

## Diphtheria Immunization

Aged 0 - 5 years	5 - 14 years	Booster Doses Usually 5 - 14 years
24	0	21

## Small Pox Vaccination

Aged u	nder 1	1 - 4 ye	ars 5 - 14 years	15 years +	Total
Primary Vaccinations	20	1	2	3	26
Re <b>v</b> accinations	0	0	0	4	4

# Whooping Cough Immunization

This is only recommended at ages under 5 years.

Aged	under	1	One+	2+	3+	4+	Total
	0		4	0	2	2	8

These figures should be construed in relation to an average number of births per annum of 24.3. It will be seen at once that the response of parents to diphtheria immunization and vaccination is extremely good and that whooping cough immunization has not yet "caught on". This is a pity; whilst deaths from smallpox and diphtheria have been almost abolished, the nation loses a few lives every week from whooping cough, and much preventable ill-health, especially collapse of part of the lung can be attributed to it.

At prosent, the use of combined vaccine or double dosage for simultaneous diphtheria and whooping cough immunization has not been recommended and it may well be that mothers are unwilling to subject their tiny babies to more "pricks" than they feel to be absolutely necessary.

#### MATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

## General Medical and Nursing Services

Two doctors, a health visitor and a district nurso are based in the Spa and there is every indication that the service is popular and efficient.

As referred to above, the proportion of babies born at home is rather higher than in neighbouring districts. This is not due wholly to the lack of bad homes in Woodhall, for this is balanced by a lamentable habit of wealthier people to have their babies in nursing homes or hospitals, thus converting a physiological experience into something of an "operation" with all the bustle and excitement of "going in", and strange faces and surroundings for what is properly the most homely of all functions.

## Hoalth Services of the County Council

No clinic for the Maternity & Child Welfare or School Health services exists in Woodhall Spa and residents of the Spa make use of the clinic at Horneastle which provides services as listed below

Clinic	Day and Timo	ttondanco
Anto-natal	lst, 3rd & 5th Tuosday	Casual
Infant Welfare	lst, 3rd & 5th Tuesday 2 p.m.	ii -
Ophthalmic ) Orthopaedic ) Dontal )	By appointment	

Appointments for children of school age and under are made either by the Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, the School Medical Officer or the family doctor and in each case, both family doctor and the County Medical Officer's staff receive copies of Specialist's Reports, so that all may work together. It is found, however, that where a child is seen by a Specialist at the request of the family doctor, there are a few lapses when inconvenience is caused by non-receipt of the report by the School Medical Officer.

## National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No action was taken under this act during the year.

#### SANITARY CERCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

## Water Supply

In common with the rost of Eastern England, there was a deficiency of rainfall during the year so that for a considerable period, water could not be fed on to the largest of the sand filters which was built at a high level. This is fed from the dyke which normally supplies all three beds with a surplus of water but which falls in level rapidly when any prolonged drought occurs. Water from the storage pends can then be allowed to gravitate to the two lower beds only.

During the year connections were fitted to the "Air Ministry" supply plant to allow it to feed into the town supply when required. This plant has its own chlorinating and alkali-dosing equipment and gives a very high quality water.

The main town supply was fitted with the rebuilt Candy chloramine apparatus, rebuilt and set to dose with chlorine and seda-ash. This is proving effective in sterilizing the water and rendering it more inert chemically, so that the rate of corresion of metals used in the supply system and demestic plumbing will be markedly reduced.

## Sewage Disposal

No further work has been done on the sewage works at Green Lane which continue to cause anxiety, for the works cannot run for any length of time on one filter bod, whilst neither the Surveyor nor myself would venture to say how long the old bod, with its walls cracked and bulging, will remain standing.

A scheme is being propored for the modernization of the Sewerage system and disposal plant, although the estimated cost per head will be enormous. Some 300 yards of new sewer have already been laid.

There remain some 15 proporties in the Spa which are not fitted with W.C.'s. Whilst 3 cosspools also remain. One, however, is upon a property which has been closed and awaits demolition.

## Public Cleansing and Scavenging

It has not always been possible during this year to maintain as effective a service as the Council would wish. This is largely due to the need for keeping expenses down. Obviously more men and equipment could maintain a more frequent service but the cost would burden the rate payers still more.

There is scope for much more co-operation by householders for large quantities of refuse of a combustible nature is placed in ash bins so that there is insufficient space for ashes, etc. If householders made a rule of burning all combustible refuse, they would provide lighter leads, fewer journeys and consequently better service. The only ways they can obtain improved scavenging are by co-operation or else by paying for more men.

## Swimming Pool, Jubilco Park

No difficultues of any great consequence were encountered during the season although in peak periods there was some shortage of cubicle accommodation.

/

Chlorination to break-point is practical only with the plant running almost continuously for the whole 24 hours. This is the inevitable result of a 19 hour turnover time with the chlorinated water fed back at only one point. The chlorine gradient drops steeply along the length of the path and free chlorine is not infrequently absent from the deep water near the draw-off grille.

The absorption of chlorine in a pool varies with many factors but the number of bathers is the most important variable factor.

The Removal of perspiration, etc. from the skin by the shower before entering the bath should be an invariable rule, whilst an adequacy of W.C.'s is essential if occasional gross pollution is to be avoided.

## FOOD

#### Moat

Under the Ministry of Food arrangements, Woodhall Spa has been supplied from Herneastle abattoir and depot.

It is anticipated that a similar arrangement will obtain when meat control is released in July, 1954.

## Ico Cream

The trend in this trade is towards wholesale manufacture and despatch to retailers pre-packed. This is much to be preferred, since by its nature, ice cream is liable to convey various diseases and the responsibility of the small maker is out of proportion to the profit. There are no large scale manufacturers in the area. Sampling shows a very satisfactory state of the ice cream offered for sale.

## Meat Products

No manufacturer of meat products takes place in the Spa: such supplies as are required being derived either from the famous firms or from Herncastle. In either case, a satisfactory standard is maintained.

## Other Food Promises

It is regrettable but inevitable that with the Sanitary Inspector employed largely upon surveying work, the sanitary inspecting, which rarely shows spectacular results, suffers. No inspection is recorded of food premises other than milk distributors, bakehouses and ice cream manufacturers. A small quantity of foodstuffs were inspected and were voluntarily surrendered by their owners.

That the quantity is small is probably due to inspection at the larger centres before reaching the smaller shops in Woodhall.

## Housing

A further 17 houses were completed during the year, comprising 12 Council Houses and 5 private ones, compared with 6 and 3 in 1952.

The replacement of unserviceable housing is not a major problem in Woodhall and, whilst it serves partly as a dormitory for Lincoln, there is not a great demand for Council houses.

## Caravans

With the increasing availability of houses, the number of caravans on permanent sites has decreased markedly, only 2 remaining.

The Caravan Club has paid two visits to the Spa, in force, and has demonstrated the usefulness of the mobile caravan and that there is an immense difference between the owner-user of a mobile caravan, and the series of holiday tenants of static vans on some holiday sites. The visitors have been most welcome. So far, no approach has been made by the Camping Club for similar facilities but, no doubt, they would be equally welcome.

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-  (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied  (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-  (a) by owners - Nil  (b) by Local authority in default of owners - Nil	Nil
(0)	Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-  (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made  (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in persuance of Demolition Orders  (3) Number of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	Nil Nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-  (1) Number of separate tenements or under- ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made  (2) Number of separate tenements or under- ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil Nil
(e)	Proceedings under Sections 25 & 26 (1) Number of Clearance Orders made (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in persuance thereof	Nil Nil
Housin	g Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding	
(ii (iii (b) (i	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Number of families dwelling therein Number of persons dwelling therein Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Number of persons concerned in such cases	2 2 15 Nil Nil
(c)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nal

# Housing Act, 1949

(a) Number of applications for grants received (b) Number of grants made	Nil Nil
(c) Number of applications for grants made by the Local Authority	Nil
	21 22 22
Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.	
Number of site Licences	2
Number of individual Licences	2
Number of Inspections during the year :- Sites -	2
Dwellings -	2
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil
FOOD PREMISES	
The lands are a second	
Bakehouses	
Number in district	2
Number of Inspections	24
Number of contraventions Defects Remedied	Nil Nil
Control of Milk Sapplies	
Number of distributors on register	3
Number of dairies on register	2
Number of Inspections of dairies	24
Contraventions Remedied Number of milk samples taken :-	Nil
Satisfactory -	Nil
Unsatisfactory -	Nil
Ice Cream and Meat Products	
See the other designation of the second section of the second sec	
Number of Manufacturers: (a) ice cream	Nil
(b) meat products Number of premises registered for the sale of	NTT
ico cream	7
Number of contraventions found	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied Number of samples taken : Grade I	Nil 11
Grade II	1
Grade III	Nil
Grade IV	Nil

## Slaughter-houses

Number of slaughter-houses	s on register	Nil
Number of Inspections		Nil
Contraventions of byelaws		Nil
Contraventions remedied		Nil

## Other Food Premises

Number	of	Inspections		Nil
Number	of	contraventions	found	Nil
Number	of	contraventions	remedied	Nil

## Foods Condemned

1 - 22 pound tin Frozon Egg

30 - 7 ounce tins Luncheon Meat

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

#### Closets

Number of	houses with privy vaults in the district	4
Number of	houses with pail closets in the district	11
Number of	pail closets repaired	Nil
Number of	water closets substituted for dry	
receptacl	OS CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTO	Nil
Number of	houses with water closets in the district	594
Number of	water closets repaired	4

## Sewers

New lengths of sewer laid 300 yards

# Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.

Alterations to	sewage disposal works	Nil
Any inadequacy	of sewage disposal works or	Insufficient
complaints as	to smells	filter area.

## Cesspools

Cesspools	emptied, cleansed,	etc.,	3
	abolished		Nil

# Drains

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc. Drains unstopp 6, repaired, etc. Existing soil pipes, etc. renewed or repaired	12 3 1
GENERAL	
Knackers Yards	
Number Licenced Number of Inspections Defects remedied	Nil Nil Nil
Shops Act, 1950	
Number of shops inspected Contraventions remedied	40 Nil
Water Supply	
Wells: New Sunk Closed as polluted Public Supply: Percentage of houses - internal supply Communal Supply Number of samples obtained for analysis: - (a) from wells - (b) from public supp	
Any insufficiency and where	No
Disinfection etc.	
Rooms disinfected: (a) ordinary infectious disea (b) tuberculosis (c) rooms stripped and cleans (d) number of premises disinfested	Nil
House Refuse	
Number of houses using dustbins Is refuse removed by house-holder or by public scavenger? How frequently is refuse removed from each house? Number of complaints of non-removal	570 public 7 days 8
Method of final disposal Cont	rolled
Are existing arrangements for removal satisfactory	Yes

## Nuisances

Total Number of nuisances during the year :- (1) Abated as result of Informal action by

Sanitary Inspector 15
(2) Reported to Council - Statutory Notice issued Nil - Statutory Motice not issuedNil

Details of nuisances	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice	
Smoke	Nil	Nil	
Accumulation of Rofuse	Nil	Nil.	
Foul ditches, pends and stagmant water	Nil	Nil	
Fowls, Pigs and other	or Nil	Nil	
Dampness	1.	Nil	
Yards repayed or repaired	Nil	Nil	
Other nuisances	14	Nil	

## Rats and Mice Destru:tion

Number of rodent operatives employed 1 part-	time
Number of premises treated:- (a) dwelling houses	12
(b) other premises Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the	3
district?	No

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

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

Premises	No. on	Number of		
(1)	Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	4	Nil	Nîl
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	25	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		29	Nil	Nil

# Cases in which defects were found -

Premises	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which
	Found		Referr To H.M. Inspector	ced By H.M. Inspector	prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness		-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-		-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences: a.insufficient	-	-	-	***	
or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c.not separate	-	-	-	-	-
Other offenses	1	1	-	1	_
TOTAL	1	1	_	1	-



