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#### **Contributors**

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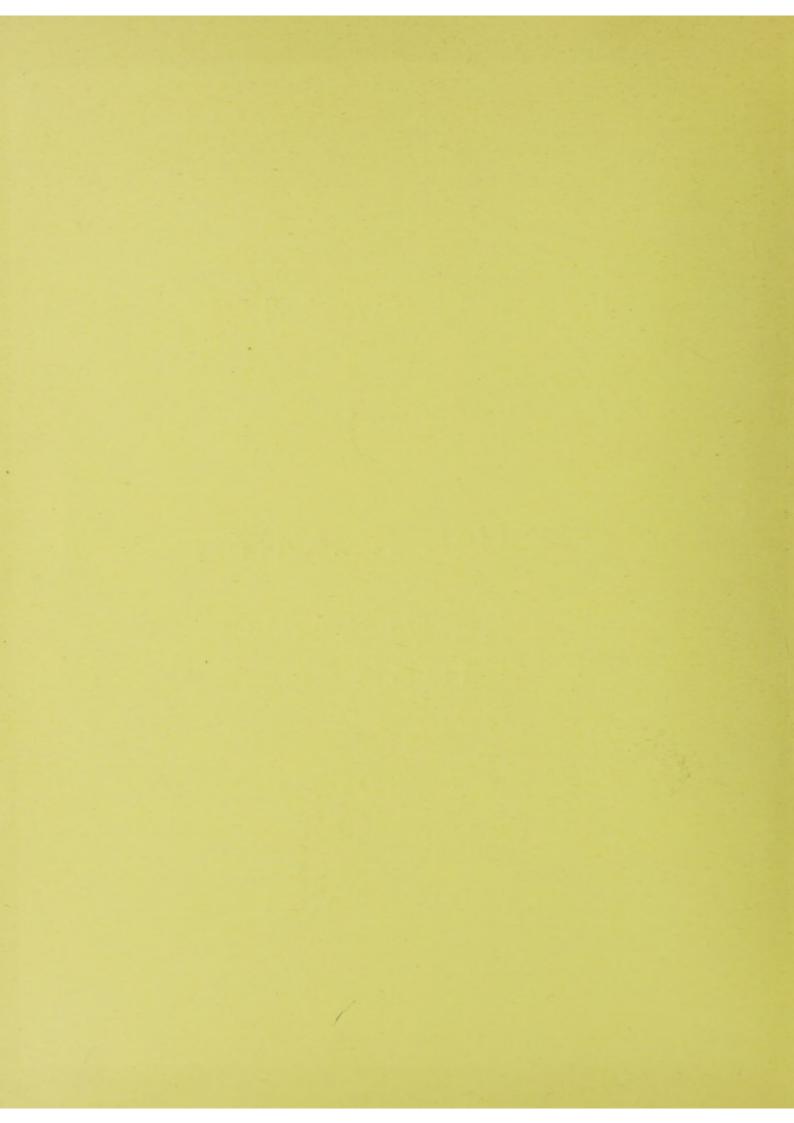
# Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1954



### WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1954

### 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. (Resigns - December, 1955)

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 the Public Health matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with water supplies and swimming baths.

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The Council of the Urban District of Woodhall Spa Mr. Chairman and Members. Sirs. I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for 1954. Progress in certain directions has been frustratingly slowed by Ministerial delays - doubtless part of a wellordered scheme of priorities but not well enough understood by the lay people to prevent their levelling their criticisms at the Council. Good progress has been made with housing and 1955 will see the completion of the Council's present housing programme. Slum clearance will not be a major problem in Woodhall Spa and no vast effort, as foreshadowed elsewhere will be required. Water and sewage undertakings have served their purpose reasonably satisfactorily but neither has any reserve for either emergency or expansion, and extension schemes are in hand for both. I am, Sirs, Your obedient Servant, 1. Filler Medical Officer of Health. - 2 -

#### STATISTICS

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT:

1874 acres

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S MID-YEAR ESTIMATE

OF RESIDENT POPULATION:

2130

DENSITY OF POPULATION:

1.19 persons per acre

NUMBER OF INHABITED DWELLINGS:

Houses

574

51

Temporary Dwellings, Caravans, etc.

RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT:

£13,261.

SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE:

£50.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

#### BIRTHS

Live Births

Legitimate

Male

14

Female

15

29

Illegitimate

1

Crude live birth rate per thousand estimated population

13.8

Standardized live birth rate per thousand estimated population

n 18.2

Live birth rate, England and

Wales

15.3.

There were no still-births during the year.

There has been a sharp rise in births attributable to the Spa in 1954 and, if this is continued, it may reflect increasing confidence of the population. It must be emphasized, however, that the numbers of potential mothers is so small that wide year to year fluctuations must be expected.

Taking the two quinquenia 1945 - 1949 and 1950 - 1954 the average numbers of births have remained close to 24 a year, being 24.6 per annum in the first quinquenium and 23.4 in the second.

#### DEATHS

Male Female	16 25 41
Crude death rate per thousand estimated population	19.2
Standardized death rate per thousand estimated population	12.5
Death rate, England and Wales per thousind estimated population	11.3

### Age at Death

Years	Under 1	1/4	5/14	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	65/74	75 & Over
Deaths	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	11	22
% of total 1954	2.4	0	2.4	2.4	0	2.4	0	9.8	26.8	53.7

The death of the child under one year was due to congenital defect. The other causes of death at ages under 65 years were:-

Cardio Vascular disease 4 Lymphadenoma 1 Accidental Drowning 1 Nephritis 1 . 1 The age distribution of deaths does not differ greatly from former years although the number of deaths increases slightly. This can only be expected with an aging population. Local enquiry may give the Council valuable information relative to its future policy for housing, etc, for the homes vacated by these deaths will be acquired either by young, productive, and reproductive people or, perhaps by more elderly persons soon to retire.

It is interesting to note that that if the 8 deaths in the under 65 age group are regarded as accidental in the sense that medical science may be expected to prevent the majority of these before long, then the mean age death is 79 years, including 22 whose mean age at death was 85 years.

The occurance of two suicides is regrettable and suggests that there may be opportunities for more voluntary social work amongst the elderly. Considerable facilities for their welfare do already exist, but so often one finds older people who have dropped out of contact with friends and relatives and who need bringing back to the social circle. This is a field in which no expenditure of public money can compensate for the personal service of voluntary social workers.

# Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's short list

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	Ö	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	Ö
4.	Diphtheria	Ö	Ö	0
5.	Whooping Cough	Ö	Ö	ő
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	Ö	Ö
7.	Acute Poliomylitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	Ö	0
	Other infective and Parasitic	,		,
•	diseases	0	0	0
10.	Melignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	0	0
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	O	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic			
	Neoplasms	2	1	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	6	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	3 2 1	0	9 2 2
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	7	2
20.	Other Heart Disease		7	8
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	0	2
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	1	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	0	0 -	0
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	1	. 1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined	1020		-
	diseases	1	2	3
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	1		2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	TOTAL	16	25	41_
		THE PERSON NAMED IN		

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification of infectious diseases during the year were as follows:-

Whooping Cough	Nil
Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	8
Pneumonia	4

Concern is felt over the prominance of Scarlet Fever amongst the notifications of infectious diseases. The congregation of young children from several villages in small and not well heated rooms at Woodhall C.E. school invariably conduces to the spread of infectious diseases. Also wherever there are cases of Scarlet Fever, other streptococcal infections will be found, of a non-notifiable nature, just as contagious and potent for lasting damage to health.

Adequate ventilation will not be secured in winter without efficient heating and the Woodlands section of the school is particularly poorly heated and ventilated. This is well known to the Education authority but it is difficult to advise spending much money on buildings that are basically unsuited for use as schools.

Nevertheless, allowing for human nature it appears necessary to have a very efficient heating system for each class room if there is to be any hope of keeping windows open to reduce cross infection.

The conspicuous absence of measles and whooping cough is expected in approximately alternate years and will continue until effective control is obtained by immunization.

The following tables show the vaccinations and immunizations carried out under the County Council's scheme.

### Diphtheria Immunizations

Age 0 - 5 years	5 - 14 years	Booster Doses Usually 5 - 14 years
20	0	34

### Smallpox Vaccinations

Age und	er 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	154	Total
Primary	-				
Vaccinations :	12	1	0	2	15
Revaccinations	0	0	3	1	4

### Whooping Cough Immunizations

This is only reccomended at ages under 5 years.

Age	under	1	1+	2+	3+	4+	Total
	8		10	3	5	1	27

There were also two babies given combined whooping cough and diphtheria immunizations.

I am gratified on re-reading my remarks in last years' report that whooping cough immunization "had not caught on" to see the grand response which showed that even as I wrote it had "caught on". Since the adoption of the combined vaccine against both diphtheria and whooping cough reduces the total number of 'pricks', and is now being widely preferred, a further improvement in the protection state of children may be expected and within a few years we may see whooping cough as rarely as diphtheria.

Vaccination has been less in demand following the closure of the operational R.A.F. station. It remains vitally necessary, however, to secure the vaccination of every child.

Immunization against diphtheria remains at the lower limit for safety, but the present trend is for combination of this with who oping cough immunization and this may help to raise the proportion of safe children.

### Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year but this cannot be accepted as evidence that none occurred. Woodhall has a large and important catering trade and it is vital to protect that trade from the hazard of food poisoning.

For example, meat enters Woodhall from several sources, not all of it under my surveillance. In some neighbouring districts all meat slaughtered is inspected, whilst in others, shortage of inspectors precludes this, and the matter cannot be rectified by the examination of portions of carcases in butcher's shops by this Council's Inspector.

Wet fish tends to be less menacing since it becomes offensive more rapidly than it becomes dangerous. Nevertheless, I look forward to the displacement of wet-fish shops by pre-packed quick frozen fish.

Milk has recently been incriminated in spreading salmonellosis, a particularly unpleasant food-borne infection. The outbreak did not to my knowledge involve Woodhall Spa but it was near enough to warrent considerable vigilance to insure that only properly heat-treated milk is given to young children and also, for that matter, to older persons.

The fact that the infected source was a high quality T.T. supply emphasizes what I have frequently stated - only heat treatment, properly controlled together with scrupulous cleanliness in collecting, transporting and despatching milk can keep it safe.

### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

### General Medical and Nursing Survices

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

The number of domiciliary births remains the same. as last year in spite of a considerable increase in total births and one inclined to regret the implication that life is circumscribed by a hospital whence one is released and whither one returns.

Breast feeding is less usual after a hospital confinement and its failure is frequently the procursor of many physical and mental illnesses.

### Health Services of the County Council

An Infant Welfare Centre has now been started in the Community Centre and although attendance figures are not available, there is reason to have confidence in its popularity and usefulness. The other clinic services at Horncastle remain available to the residents of the Spa, as in previous years.

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Clinic	Day and Time	Place	Attendance
INFANT WELFARE	2nd & 4th WEDNESDAY AT 10 A.M.	WOODHALL SPA	CASUAL
Infant Welfare	lst, 3rd & 5th Tuedsay at 2 p.m.	Horncastle	Casual
Ante-natal	lst, 3rd & 5th Tuesday at 10a.m.	Horneastle	Casual
Ophthalmic )			
Orthopaedic )	By appointment		
Dental )			

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 the 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 where inconvenience is caused by non-receipt of the report by the School Medical Officer.

### Mational Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action was taken under this act during the year.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

### Water Supply

The domestic demand continues to rise from an average of 80,000 gallons per day three or four years ago to a present level which, with urgent economy notices out, rarely falls below 100,000 gallons per day.

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1954 gave a cloudy summer with frequent replenishment of supply so that it was only in the late autumn that any anxiety was felt for the adequacy of the source.

Quality was well maintained on the town supply but electrolytic continues to cause anxiety. The mains which had been attacked previously may now be more stable, but iron bacteria already in the main can continue to correde it where iron or steel mains are used, so that occasional bursts will continue to occur.

The provision of water on an increasing scale may before long involve the Council in some considerable works, for the catchment area is something of an uncertain quantity and only 15 days supply is available from storage. It is possible at a small cost to double the storage capacity and it would be possible to divert some 40,000 gallons per day at present supplied to the R.D.C. to the use of the Spa, but it is doubtful whether much further increase could be obtained.

### Sewage Disposal

Fortune has favoured the Council and the works did not become totally unserviceable, and authority has been obtained for the rebuilding of the second filter bed. This should releive much anxiety, although with increasing flow, and no bed available for adequate alternation, it will remain urgent to proceed with the scheme as soon as possible.

### Public Cleansing and Scavenging

A new vehicle has been put into service and only staff difficulties have slowed up refuse collection. There is still considerable room for more co-operation by householders in burning scraps of food which render their bins offensive to themselves, and the men'and which attract rats to the tip.

### Swimming Pool

The year's operation was marred by an unfortunate fatality. This inevitably invites speculation whether had it been possible to maintain clear visibility to the bottom, the boy might have been got out in time for artificial resperation to be effective.

The growth of algae in the pool is inevitable when the weather is fine, and its control by copper sulphate has been alluded to in earlier reports, but any major scheme of improvement, as for example to attempt to circulate the water once in four hours as generally recommended, would involve a very considerable capital expenditure.

Consideration should, however, be given to the employment of a competent swimmer in or near the baths whilst all should have some knowledge of first aid to the apparently drowned.

#### FOOD

### Meat

Following the decontrol of meat in July, butchers were free to buy on the hoof or on the hook, in any market or privately and a limited number of slaughterhouses were licenced by neighbouring authorities. No slaughtering is licenced in Woodhall Spa.

It will be seen therefore, that unless the meat inspector of the authority in whose area the animal was killed, had suitably marked the carcase, there is now no indication of where or when the animal was killed and inspected.

Adequate protection for the meat in transit is necessary and it is bad to see a side of beef lying on the floor of a van unwrapped. Action will have to be taken to ensure that these aspects of food hygiene are attended to. A Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor has little enough time to observe such matters and no unofficial tasks should be required of him.

### Meat Products

None were made in the Spa. No complaints or bad samples were received. In 1955 one butcher has started sausage making and the business was sold out of local control.

### Ice Cream

Sampling presents some difficulty in as much as its value depends upon the very rapid delivery of specimens to the Laboratory in Lincoln. However, no sample was lower than Grade II.

#### Other Foodstuffs

I have again to report that there is no record of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

No foodstuffs have been surrendered for disposal. These statements in the Sanitary Inspector's report do less than justice both to him and to the trades people.

Mr. Bolton's help and advice is so readily available that formal inspections become unnecessary.

So far as I am aware, the absence of surrendered foodstuffs represents a real improvement in the standard of checking bulk supplies to local retailers so that, in fact, there is no unfit food to warrant formal condemnation.

#### Housing

A further 15 houses were completed during the year, comprising 9 Council Houses and 6 Private ones, compared with 12 and 5 in 1953.

### Housing Survey

A preliminary estimate of the number of houses likely to require complete replacement within the next five years is only about a dozen.

	DURING THE YEAR	
TOTAL 1	NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR	15
(11)	By Local Authority By other Local Authorities By other Bodies or Persons	6
INSPECT	PION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR	
(1)(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	33
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	39
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	
(3)	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	_
(4)	Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	-
	OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF NOTICES	
	Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	1
ACTION	UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9 & 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring	

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of informal	
(a)	notices:- by Owners - (b) by Local Authority	-
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring	
(2)	defects to be remedied Number of houses in which defects were	6
	remedied after services of formal notices:- (a) by Owner - (b) by Local Authority	-
	seedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the sing 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 or Closing Orders	1
	sing Act, 1936 :-	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground 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	_
(e)Prod	seedings under Sections 25 & 26:-	
(1)	Number of Clearence Orders made	-
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in persuance thereof	

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING	
(a)(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
(ii)Number of families dwelling therein	2
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	14
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	-
(c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	-
(d)Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	***
HOUSING ACT, 1949	
(a) Number of applications for grants received	1
(b) Number of grants made	1
(c)Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	
MOVABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, etc.	
Number of site licences Number of individual licences Number of inspections during the year - Sites - Dwellings	2 1 2 1
Number of contraventions remedied	
FOOD PRIMISES	
Bakehouses	
Number in district Number of inspections Number of contraventions Defects remedied	24
DETECTS Temedited	

# Milk Supplies

Number of distributors on register:- Sterilized Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested Non-Designated	3 3 3 1
Number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery (other than bacteriological)	-
Number of inspections of dairy premises	24
Number of contraventions remedied	-
Ice Cream	
Number of manufacturers on register Number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream Number of inspections of premises made Number of contraventions found Number of samples taken Grade I Grade II Grade IV	2 7 21 - 6 3
Meat Products	
Number of premises licenced for manufacture of meat products Number of inspections made Number of contraventions found Other Food Premises	1 8
Number of inspections Number of contraventions found	-

### UNSOUND FOOD (Carcases inspected and condemned)

No carcases were inspected or condemned in this area during the year.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

None.

DRAINAGE AND SEVERAGE	
Number of houses with privy vaults in district Number of houses with pail closets in district Number of pail closets repaired Number of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	4 11 -
	609
New lengths of sewer laid New sewage disposal works provided at Details of improvements to existing works Any part of the district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons	- - No
Drains	
Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc. Drains unstopped, repaired, etc.	19
Cesspools	
Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc. Cesspools abolished	
WATER SUPPLIES	
New sources of supply - public  New sources of supply - private  Number of supplies closed as polluted  Number of houses supplied from public mains - on prems of the standard -	
Number of houses supplied from private sources - on premises - not on premises	1
Any part requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for health reasons	No

Number of samples taken for chemical examination Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination:- Cl. I - 11; Cl. II - 1;	-
GENERAL	
Offensive Trades	
Number of premises in district Number of inspections Contraventions of byelaws Contraventions remedied	=
Knackers Yards	
Number licenced Number of inspections Defects Remedied	=
Shops Act, 1950.	
Number of shops inspected Contraventions remedied	43
Disinfection etc.	
Rooms disinfected (ordinary infectious diseases) (tuberculosis) Rooms stripped and cleansed Number of premises disinfested	1
House refuse	
Method of disposal Con	10 days trolled tipping
Is this satisfactory? Is collection by Local Authority or by contract?	Yes L.A.
Nuisances  Details of nuisance  After informal intimation	1
Smoke Accumulation of refuse Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water Nil Fowls, pigs and other animals Dampness Drainage Other nuisances	

NOTE OF STREET STREET, THE STREET OF TOTAL

### Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of Rodent Operatives employed 1 part time
Number of premises treated (dwelling-houses) 11
(other premises) 5
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district? No.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1936 & 1948

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

Premises	No. on	Numb	er of	
	Register	Inspections		Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	5	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	23	Nio.	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7. is enforced by Local	NAT	N. a. T.	N47	Nil
Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	MIT
TOTAL	10	28	Nil	Nil

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## Cases in which defects were found

Premises	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. 1	rred By H.M. Inspector	prosecutions were instituted	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-		-	
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	=	-	=	
Sanitary Conveniences: a.insuffic-						
ient b.unsuitable	-	-	-	-	-	
or defective	-	-	-	-	-	
ate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	
Other offen- ces, etc.	1	1	-	1	-	
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-	



