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Contributors

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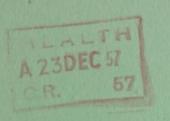
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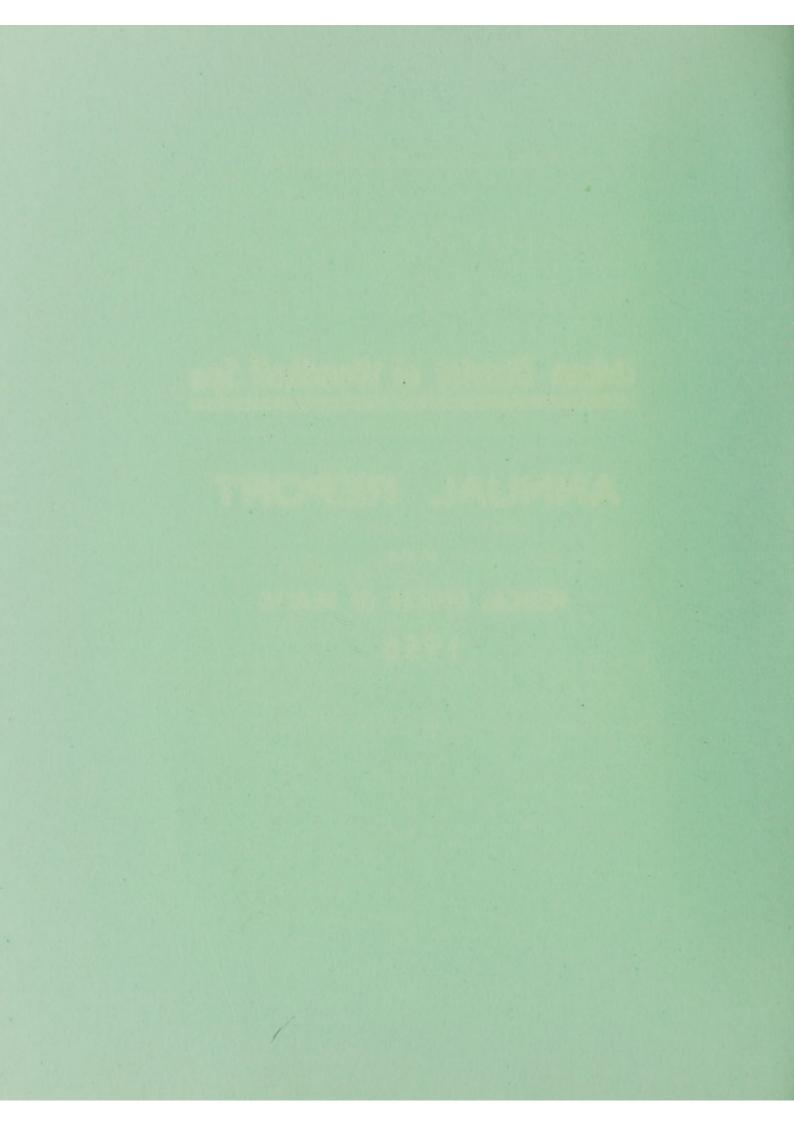
Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1956





WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the

Medical Officer of Health

1956

FUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

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

Public Health Inspector

N.J. ARNEY, A.I.A.S., M.S.I.A. (Resigned May 1957)

D.A. MORMAN, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed July, 1957.)

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 deal with water supplies and swimming baths. All members of the Council sit on all Committees. Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2018 with funding from Wellcome Library

The Council of the Urban District of Woodhall Spa

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1956.

This report does not differ in style from recent issues but retrospectively the work of five years may be more obvious than that of one and some comparisons have Been made over relatively long terms and thus in some measure compensate for chance errors in statistics which are otherwise inevitable in a small district.

The Sanitary Inspector is no more, and the long respected title has been officially changed to the more ponderous one of Public Health Inspector. Inasmuch as it emphasizes to the Public that it is their health which is his prime concern and that the Surveyor part of the appointment is necessarily integrated only as far as it concerns Public Health, this is good.

The year commenced with this appointment vacant and I have barely welcomed Mr. Arney to the post when I have now to record farewell thanks to him and welcome Mr. Norman.

At present, the seasonal polio 'scare' is starting, although Woodhall Spa has escaped. Parents may feel reassured, however, that polio is nothing like the serious danger that the roads present, so that if they are not unduly worried by road dangers, there is still less need to be worried about polio.

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District:

Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate
of Resident Population:

Density of Population:

Number of Inhabited Dwellings:

Houses
Flats
Temporary Dwellings, Caravans etc

1874 acres

2160

1.152 persons per acre
694

51

Rateable Value of Urban District: £23,520.

Sum Represented by Fermy Rate: £90. 13. 6.

VITAL STATISTICS

| Live Births Legitimate | Male Female | 18 6 24 | |
|---|----------------|---------------|------|
| Illogitimate | Male Female | 0 | |
| | | _0_ | |
| Crude live birth rate per t estimated population | housand | | 11.1 |
| Standardized live birth rat thousand estimated populati | | | 14.7 |
| Live birth rate, England & | Woles | | 15.7 |

There were 3 still-births during the year

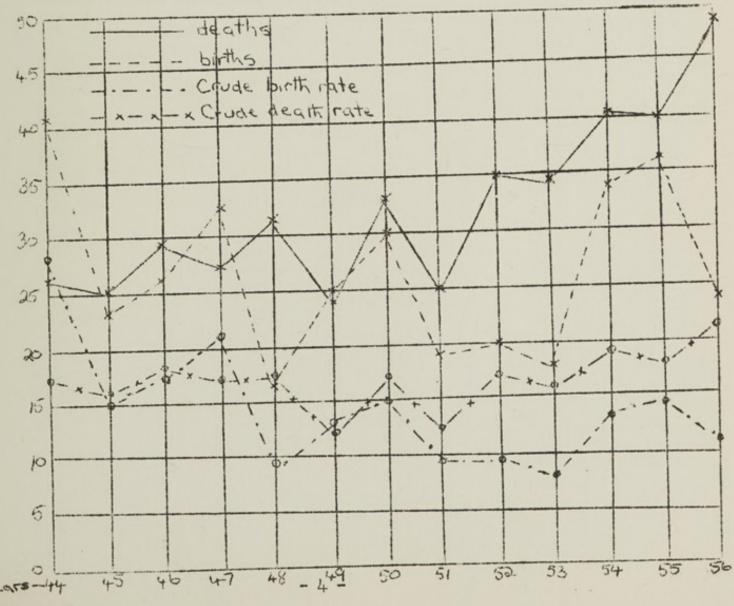
BIDDHE

But for the unfortunate loss of 3 out of 27 babies during the year, by still-birth, the standardized birth rate would not have suffered the sharp blow.

| | Male Female | 2 5 2 3 |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| | | 48 |
| Crude death rate per thousand estimated population | | 22.1 |
| Standardized death rate per thousand estimated population | | 14.0 |
| Death Rate, England and Wales I | er | 11.7 |

It will be appreciated from my comment that 24% of Woodhall people were in 1955 over 60 years of age, that it unreasonable to expect the unstandardized death rate to remain similar to that of England and Wales.

The graph below shows what has been happening in matters of birth and death over the past 13 years.



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81

Crude de Un rete per tioneral

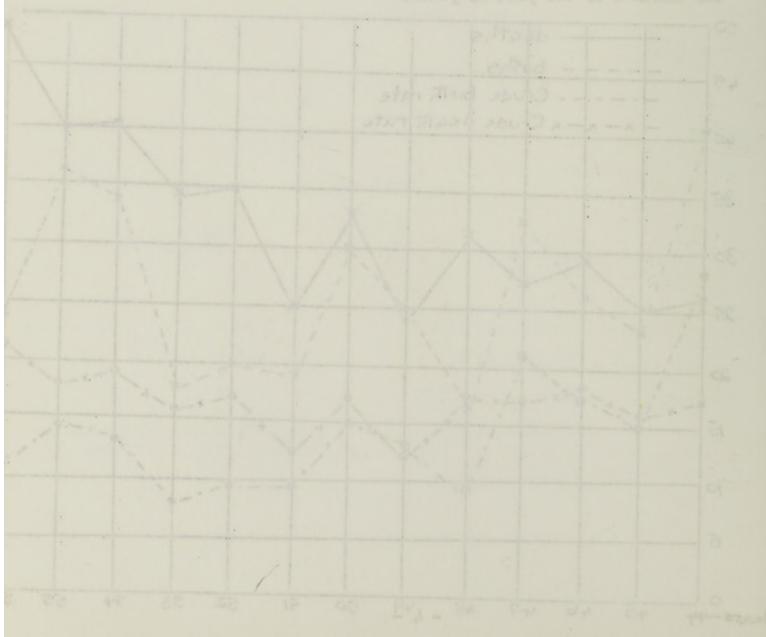
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Essentially in the post-war period there was a fall in births and the post-war peak did not apply to Woodhall as to elsewhere. Since 1948, however the crude birth rate has been substantially steady and the wider fluctuations in the number of births per year has reflected movement of young adults into and out of the Spa with, probably, the current tendency to space children more or less two or three years apart

Since 1951 the tide of death has been rising although the death rate shows this to be largely due to increased population. Nevertheless, if the increased deaths require burials in Woodhall Spa then an active programme of cemetry extension will be needed.

estrate at the post-our period there was a fall in the strainer.

Ince 1945, increase the create birth state has been embatamentally estratedly and the wider the create birth state has been embatamentally estratedly and the wider flyenestions in the maker of births for year pass of the created account of years adults into int out of the law with, who or there are considered and and the law of the created the constant and the law that the created and the law of the contract of the law of the constant and the law of the constant and the conduct. If the increase of constant and call the monday and constant and the monday of the monday of the manual of the conduct.

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

| Short List No. | Cause of Death | Male | Fomale | Total |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. | Tuberculosis, Respiratory Tuberculosis, other Syphilitic disease Diphtheria Whooping Cough Meningococcal infection Acute Poliomyelitis Measles | 0000000 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0000000 |
| 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. | Other infective and parasitic diseases Malignant Neoplasm, stomach Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus Malignant Neoplasm, breast Malignant Neoplasm, uterus Other malignant and lymphatic | 0 1 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 1 0 0 0 |
| 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. | Neoplasms Leukaemia, aleukemia Diabetes Vascular Lesions of nervous system Coronary disease, angina Hypertension with heart disease Other heart disease Other circulatory disease Influenza Pneumonia Bronchitis | 30033051040 | 2 0 0 3 2 2 5 2 0 1 0 | 50065203050 |
| 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. | Other Diseases of Respiratory system Ulcer of stomach and duodenum Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea Nephritis and nephrosis Hyperplasia of Prostrate Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion Congenital malformations Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 | 000000 | 0100000 |
| 33. 34. 35. 36. | Motor vehicle accidents All other accidents Suicide Homicide and operations of war | 0 2 1 0 25 | 0 1 0 0 | 0 3 1 0 |

Courses of Double as given in the Rendered Secretary Secretary and Link

| | 1086 | |
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INFECTIOUS DUSEASES

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

| Pneumonia. | 10 | (8 over | 70 | years | of | age) |
|----------------|----|---------|----|-------|----|------|
| Whooping Cough | 5 | | | | | |
| Dysontery | 2 | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | | | | | |

There were no notifications of mealers during the year.

Vaccination and Immunization

The accompanying table shows the improvment in the rate of protection of the children, together with evidence of the completeness of the change-over to combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine.

| 1 | 954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Initial Diphtheria Initial Whooping Cough | 20 27 | O 4- | 0 |
| Combined vaccine | 2 | 23 | 23 |
| Smallpox - Vaccinations Revaccinations | 15 4 | 13 13 | 20 5 |
| Births during the year preceeding year | 29 18 | 31 29 | 24 31 |

The figures for births in each preceeding and current year give some idea of the number of children at the optimum age for vaccination and immunization, but it would be fallacious to attempt to present "percentage protected" on so small a total of eligibles.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During 1956 the public were uncertain of their reaction to vaccination after the American mishap and the British scheme was launched very cautiously, taking the utmost care to avoid any possible cause for reproach.

The only ill effects observed were occasional faints due to emotional upsets; this in turn being primarily due to indecisiveness and anxiety on the part of the parents.

Since then, however, the public opinion has crystallized and the general question is now no longer "whether?" but "how long mustI wait?"

The cost to the nation of protecting its children must be high but I doubt whether it would compare even financially with the burden of maintaining wholly or partly the paralysed victims the disease has already claimed.

-7-

Modeling on the contract of th

There were no notifications of medicas disting the year.

PROGRAMMENT PROGRAMMENT

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of out sinted interest operated by the first operation of the day of the control operated on the part of the parents.

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- 5 -

Tuberculosis

Lindsey County Council has just undertaken the task of active attack on tuberculosis by B.C.G. Vaccination. This is most desirable at 13 years of age and has been practiced in most other modern nations for many years, with very satisfactory results, and for some years the direct child contacts of infectious cases have been vaccinated by the chest physicians.

The time is ripe, however, to extend the offer to that group who have always been at greatest risk - the adolescents. Information is being sent to all parents of 13 year old children, together with forms of consent to the necessary skin test and veccination of those who are found to have no natural resistance to the disease.

As with all provisions of this nature, the decision whether or not to accept either testing or veccination must be left to the individual parents who will, of course, be able to consult both their own doctors and the School Medical Officer on the matter.

Food Foisoning etc.

No case of food poisoning was notified and although the communities of Horncastle and Coningsby were badly affected by Sonne Dysentery only two cases were reported in Woodhall Spa.

The fact that the older Woodhall Spa children were at school in Horncastle and Gartree Schools apparently did not cause them either to become affected themselves or to become carriers.

Nevertheless, for several months anxiety remained for, had the disease become established in the younger groups it would have been as difficult to eradicate in Woodhall as in other areas.

Notional Health Service.

This remains unchanged from 1955, as also are the health services of Tindsey County Council.

The following table of Clinics is also unchanged from 1955:-

| Clinic | Day and Time | Place | Attendance |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|------------|
| INFANT WELFARE | 2nd & 4th week | WOODHALL SPA | CASUAL |
| INFANT WELFARE | Wednesday at 10 a.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday at | Horncastle | Casual |
| ANTE-NATAL | 2 p.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday | Horncastle | Casual |
| Ophthalmic Orthopaedic Dental | at 10 a.m. By appointment | | |

The time is sign, browner, to corest the exist to that group when here the time and the group when here they always been at the contract of the contract to the character.

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Meverthiless, for several meeting contests remained for, bid the most several brown to would be the groups groups of the best bear to distribute to contest to distribute to the distri

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This receive unchanged from 1995, or also mer the health

The following table of Chimnes in also wechnight from 1950;-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supply

Throughout 1956 the Waterworks operated by the U.D.C. remained adequate in quantity and quality and sold a surplus averaging 40,000 gallons per day to the Horncastle Rural District Council.

Interconnection with Horneastle Rural Council's supply and Boston Corporation and Horneastle Water Coy. supply can all be effected so that there is little risk remaining of a water shortage.

The increased storage on the Woodhall Waterworks site gave valuable assistance throughout.

The Waterworks Engineer has developed an instrument for descaling the iron mains in fairly long sections without removing them. It the end of the year this had been used to very good effect on a trial section of main and it appears that its continued use will result in considerable saving of money and labour.

The worst sections of main are to be treated systematically and it now expected that relaying on a big scale will be deferred for many years.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

An extensive Scheme of improvement to the Sewage Works was commenced during 1956, involving a new deep sewer laid cross country from the centre of Woodhall to a deep ejector on the Works, reasing the effluent from the sewer some forty feet to the level of the screens and settlement tanks. A new large aeration bed is incorporated, together with humus settling tanks, and the ultimate effluent should attain a normal standard of purity.

Refuse Collection

Collection has been satisfactory during the year, despite the continued extra burden of removing and destroying combustible materials such as wrappings and packings, vegetable waste, etc.

These materials are most offensive in dustbins, attract flies and considerably increase the cost of collection. Most of this filth has to be raked out of the refuse and separately burned. This is necessary because of difficulty in controlling tipping and providing the necessary two feet of earth to protect from flies and vermin. On low lying land, however, ordinary practices are difficult and the compromise is reasonably satisfactory.

It would however, be better to concentrate refuse destruction in a simple incinerator rather than open fires, even though a full scale incinerator for all refuse is hardly practicable. golices fol courtes

The Swimming Pool

No new situation has arisen, but the filtration plant is definitely overloaded when a good day causes a heavy use. Filtration and chlorination is regarded as adequate if a complete turnover of the water occurs every 6 hours. With the existing plant, however, it takes some 15 or 16 hours for a theoretically complete change over.

Some reduction in the degree of polution would result if
(a) all bathers were required to have a shower before entering

the pool, preferably using scap and warm water; and
(b) the paving at the edges of the pool were cambered away
from the pool to avoid rain and water dripping from these
bathers on the sides from washing soil into the pool.

These two measures would not be unduly expensive and could contaibute considerably to reducing the chlorine demand of the water.

It is further probable that more efficient distribution of chlorine would result from the diversion of some or all of the water aeration cascade to two or more jets discharging into the bath with enough force to create some turbulence. It is common practice to combine this with forcible aeration of the filtered water.

There is still no swimmer in attendance for life saving.

Food & Drugs ct, 1955

Meat Products:

Only comparitively small quantities of sausages are made at Woodhall and the Contravention of the Wood and Drugs Act regulations was a purely technical one, not likely to affect the Public Health.

Ice Cream:

Sampling, although inadequate, gave good results as far as it went and there is no reason from inspection of the storage equipment to expect other than Class I results unless there has been a power failure of exceptional duration.

In the case of Food Premises generally the conduct of the staff and the practice of their trade is excellent. Contraventions of regulations consisted in the main of insufficient washing facilities and these were in the main, remedied as soon as plumbers could do the work. At the end of the year only two premises had their improvements unfinished.

It is evident that there is a general willingness to comply with the law and the Public Health Inspector and myself found our task was not to enforce the regulations but to advise on the best was to ensure compliance.

Housing:

No new houses were built by the Local Authority and none are contemplated.

One case of an unfit house was represented to the Council but no action was taken thereon.

It will be recalled that the census in 1951 showed 44 families, including 108 persons without a separate home. Since then the U.D.C. has built 37 houses, other authorities 13 and private persons 32 whilst the population in 1951 was 1671 and is now estimated as 2160.

Not much interest has been aroused by the scheme for Housing improvement grants and I am doubtful whether the older properties have improved since the Census.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING THE MEAR

HOUSING:

| Total number of houses erected during the year:- (1) by local authority (2) by other local authorities (3) by other bodies or persons | - - 9 |
|---|-------------|
| Housing Repairs and Rents Let, 1954:- (i) number of houses scheduled for demolition but retained by formal action under Sec. 2, 3, 4 or 6. (ii) number of certificates of disrepair issued | Nil None |
| Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:- (1)(a) total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing lets) (b) number of inspections made for the purpose | 21 25 |
| 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 or their officers | Ł. |

| (a) proceedings under Secs. 9 & 10 of the Housing Act, 1936: number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | _ |
|---|--------|
| (b) proceedings under Tublic Health Acts: number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | _ |
| (c) proceedings under Sec. 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | |
| (d) Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Set, 1936: number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were made | _ |
| (e) Proceedings under Sec. 25 & 26: number of Clearance Orders made | - |
| Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding | |
| (a) (1) number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year (2) number of persons concerned in such cases | 10 |
| (b) (1) number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (2) number of families dwelling therein (3) number of persons dwelling therein | 228 |
| Housing Let, 1949 | |
| number of houses for which applications for grants have been received number of houses subject to grant number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of a grant aid by the Ministry. | - |
| Moveable dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc. | |
| number of site licences number of individual licences total number of caravans permitted under licences number of inspections during the year - sites dwellings number of contraventions remedied | 213322 |
| number of contraventions remedied | - |

FOOD TRIFTISES

| Bakehouses number in district number of inspections number of contraventions defects remedied | 261 |
|---|----------------|
| Milk Supplies mumber of distributors on register Sterilized Pastcurised T.T. N/D number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery number of inspections of dairy premises contraventions remedied | 3331 |
| number of manufacturers on register number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream number of inspections of premises made number of contraventions found contraventions remd died number of samples taken - Grade I other grades | 2 9 12 1 1 3 - |
| Meat Froducts number of premises registered for manufactur of meat products number of inspections made number of contraventions found contraventions remedied | 7 1 1 1 |
| Other food premises number of inspections made number of contraventions found contraventions remedied | 6 2 1 |
| Slaughterhouses number licensed - abattoir type private (individual) number operated by local authority | |

UNSOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole . or in part

Nil

Other condemned foods

91b. Miscellaneous Tinned Goods

Method of disposal - Incineration

DRAINAGE AND SEVERAGE

| OTOS | et | | |
|------|----|--|-----|
| No. | of | houses with privy vaults in district | 1 |
| | | houses with pail closets in district | 9 |
| No. | of | houses with water closets in district | 623 |
| No. | of | water closets substituted for pail closets | |
| | | or privy vaults | - |

| Ces | speels and Septic T | anks | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| No. | of cesspools and s | eptic tanks | emptied, cleansed | |
| | | | etc. | 1 |
| No. | of Cesspools and s | eptic tanks | abolished | - |

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal
Details of areas or villages where provision has been
made of new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements
improved:-

New main drainage scheme commenced during the year involving re-sewerage of Stixwould Road - Fark View area.

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved:-

Improvement of ejector stations and improvements at Sewage Disposal Works involving, inter alia, provision of percolating filters, humus tank and sludge Drying beds. Scheme commenced.

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons:-

VATER SUPPLES

| Domestic | |
|---|--|
| No. of houses supplied from public mains - in house 628 - standpipe 5 | |
| No. of houses supplied from private sources 0 | |
| New sources of supply and location 0 | |
| No. of public supplies closed 0 | |
| Any part of district requiring public supply or replace- | |
| ment of public supply for public health reasons No | |
| No. of samples taken for chemical examination Nil | |
| No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination:- | |
| Class I - 11; Class II - 2; Class III - 2 | |

A PRODUCT TO THE REAL PRODUCT OF THE PRODUCT OF THE

| Swimming Pools | |
|--|-----------------|
| number of public swimming pools in operation number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration | 1 |
| and chlorination | 1 |
| number of samples of swimming pool water taken for chemical examination | - |
| number of samples of swimming pool water taken for | 3 |
| bacteriological examination - satisfactory unsatisfactory | _ |
| CINETED AT | |
| GINERAL Offensive Trades | |
| number of premises in district | - |
| Knackers Yards | |
| number licensed | - |
| Shops Act, 1950 | |
| number of shops inspected contraventions remedied | 12 |
| Contraventions remedied | |
| Disinfection and disinfestation rooms or premises disinfected (a) infectious disease | |
| other than tuberculosis | - |
| (b) tuberculosis | - |
| number of premises subject to disinfestation | |
| Refuse collection and disposal number of premises from which refuse is collected | 661 |
| frequency of collection 7 - | 10 days |
| method of disposal con is this satisfactory? | trolled tipping |
| is collection by L.A. or contract | yes L.A. |
| Nuisances | |
| total number of nuisances during the year | |
| (1) abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector | 12 |
| (2) Reported to Council Statutory notice issued | 2 |
| " " not issu | ed 1 |
| Details of nuisances abated After Informal intimation | After Statutory |
| Refuse 1 | - |
| Foul ditches, ponds & stagnant warter - 6 | _ |
| | - |
| Poultry & Animals 1 Dangerous promises 1 Miscellaneous nuisances 3 | - |
| Thousand The Paris of the Paris | |

| Rats and | Mice Destruction | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| No. | of rodent operatives | employed | 1 - part time |
| | ** | (without ope | erative for part of year) |
| No. | of premises treated | - dwelling houses | 12 |
| | | other promises | 4. |
| Arc | there any serious res | | |
| | | the district ? | |
| | | | |

Atmospheric pollution
No. of visits
No of nuisances found

None None

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

PART I of the Act - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises | Number on Register | Nur Inspections | mber of Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| i. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities | 1 | 6 | - | - |
| <pre>ii. factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority</pre> | 9 | 21 | | - |
| iii. other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority | | and | 1 | _ |
| TOTAL | 10 | 27 | 1 | |
| Cases in which defects were for | und | CONTRACTOR ACCORDING TO CONTRACTOR CONTRACTO | | and the company of the second |
| Particulars | Number o | f cases in fects were Remedied | which p | of cases resecutions stituted |
| Want of cleanliness | - | _ | | - |
| Overcrowding | | - | | - |
| Unreasonable temperature | - | - | | - |
| Inadequate Ventilation | - | - | | - |
| Ineffective drainage of flors | - | - | | - |
| Sanitary conveniences:- | | | | |
| insufficient unsuitable or defective | _ | | | _ |
| not separate for sexes | _ | _ | | - |
| Other offences against the Act | 2 | 1 | Amburgae et le susse | - |
| TOTAL | 2 | 1 | | and the second of the second o |



