

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S HANDBOOK

A Manual for Sanitary Inspectors and
other Public Health Officers

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WITH NINETY-NINE ILLUSTRATIONS

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**THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
HANDBOOK**

PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION

A REPRINT of the fifth edition—prepared in war-time—being exhausted, the author has felt it a duty to prepare a new edition, specially adapted to meet the conditions and problems of the post-war period.

The duties of public health officials, and of the sanitary inspector in particular, tend ever to extend in scope and to increase in importance. The need of the student for specialised training is greater than ever before ; the problems, both administrative and technical, of post-war development are such as to make the most exacting demands upon all who hold responsible office in the Public Health Service.

The technology of hygiene and sanitation can never remain static ; new problems arise, new materials are developed, and new methods evolved.

In order to meet the needs of the student at a time when many of the recognised courses of instruction are still suspended, and with a view to assisting the busy administrator in office, the author has undertaken a thorough revision of the book. The technical portions have been carefully revised and amended ; a considerable amount of new matter has been added. Several of the original illustrations have been redrawn to harmonise with the trends of modern practice ; some are omitted and some new illustrations have been added. Despite a ruthless pruning where necessary, the revision has resulted in some enlargement.

Special care has been taken in bringing up to date the outlines of the Law relating to each subject, but—beyond brief references in particular cases—it has been thought neither necessary nor desirable to include provisions of a purely emergency character.

The author is deeply indebted to Mr. James R. Hayhurst, M.R.C.V.S., Chief Veterinary Inspector to the City of London, who kindly undertook to read and revise the pages on *Practical Meat*

Inspection; also to Mr. K. P. Keywood, Chief Inspector to the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, who kindly undertook to read and revise the chapter on Fish Inspection. The co-operation of these high authorities will be appreciated by the reader as it is by the author, who gladly expresses his grateful thanks for the valuable assistance he has received in dealing with these specialised subjects.

The author is also indebted to many friends in Great Britain and other parts of the Empire for suggestions whereby the usefulness of the book might be increased. As far as possible, without losing sight of the original intention to keep the book of moderate size, these suggestions have been accepted and acted upon.

No effort has been spared to ensure the sixth edition being in all respects fitted to fulfil its objective as a sound foundation for study, and a reliable vade-mecum for the sanitary inspector in office and for all concerned with public health administration.

Acknowledgment is again made to The Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office by whose permission extracts are made from Statutes, Orders, Regulations, Model Byelaws and Official Memoranda.

H. H. C.

LONDON, *March* 1947.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

For many years the need for a handbook dealing specially with the duties of sanitary inspectors and similar officials was largely met by the well-known volume written by the late Mr. Albert Taylor, and revised in its last edition by the late Mr. John H. Clarke.

Under the ever widening scope of public health administration, however, and in view of the high standard demanded of students presenting themselves for the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board, the need has arisen for a handbook, more comprehensive and more in accord with the progressive demands of modern times, than has been available hitherto. At the request of the publishers, this volume has been prepared to meet that need and to replace the earlier work referred to above.

Despite the number and variety of the subjects necessarily included in a book of this character, the author has endeavoured, as far as is practicable within the limits of a single volume of convenient size, to cover the whole range of the duties of a sanitary inspector, observing due proportion in the attention given to each subject, and while dealing fully and in detail with some subjects, omitting none that is of real importance.

The author has always felt that the subjects to be studied by sanitary inspectors are by no means of an uninteresting character. It has been his endeavour to make this book "readable" and such as to rob systematic study of much of its inherent drudgery.

Few things are of more practical value to executive public health officers, either in examination or in practice, than the ability to illustrate answers or suggestions by sketches. In order to assist readers in this direction, the liberal illustration of technical matters has been made a special feature of the book; every illustration being from an original line drawing in which sectional details are shown, and which the reader may reproduce or develop for himself

Extracts from Acts of Parliament and from Orders and Regulations issued by the Minister of Health are included with the permission of His Majesty's Stationery Office.

The author expresses his grateful thanks to his colleague Mr. L. Kluth for valuable assistance rendered by him in preparing the more important illustrations ; to Mr. J. Jones, Meat and Foods Inspector of the City of London, for assistance with the chapter on Meat Inspection ; and to Mr. C. Hattersley, Chief Inspector of the Fishmongers' Company, for assistance with the chapter on Fish Inspection.

He is also indebted to Professor W. W. Jameson, and Lieut.-Col. G. S. Parkinson, D.S.O., of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, for many valuable suggestions and much help in compiling the book.

Thanks are also due to the Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute for permission to illustrate the drainage systems recently erected in the Parkes Museum, and also to the firms mentioned in the List of Illustrations, or in the text, for the use of blocks specially prepared for the purposes of this book.

H. H. C.

LONDON, *April* 1933.

INTRODUCTION

FIRST EDITION

THE office of Sanitary Inspector has become much more highly technical and specialised within the British Empire than anywhere else in the world, and the duties for which an inspector is responsible are extremely diverse. Nowadays he has to shoulder responsibilities of a most varied character and is expected to possess a high degree of technical knowledge. Recent housing legislation has added greatly to his work and the success of this country's programme of housing reform is in no small measure due to the skill and energy displayed by sanitary inspectors often in the face of very considerable difficulties. There are few problems encountered by health departments in the solution of which the help of a well-trained and competent inspector is not of the utmost value.

It has long been recognised that, if a sanitary inspector is to do his work to his own and his local authority's satisfaction, he must have undergone a period of special training at the conclusion of which the inevitable examination has had to be surmounted. The Examination Board very properly demands from candidates an ever increasing standard of general education and technical knowledge ; the benefits of this are already being reflected in the work of health departments.

The need for a handbook of this sort is beyond all doubt, and there can be no one better fitted than Mr. Clay to be its author. In addition to many years of practice in one of the most progressive health departments in England, Mr. Clay has had the advantage of long experience as a teacher and examiner in practical sanitation. His plan of summarising the law, so far as it concerns

the inspector, at the commencement of each chapter should be helpful to methodical study, and although in practice the application of the law is confined to Great Britain the principles involved are brought out in such a manner as to be valuable to public health officials in the Colonial Service as well as at home.

I have read the manuscript with a great deal of interest, and I am certain the book will prove most helpful to all students preparing themselves for the sanitary inspector's and similar examinations, and will in addition be found a valuable work of reference in public health departments.

WILSON JAMESON.

LONDON, *April* 1933.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIG.		PAGE
1.	Dust and grit separator Davidson & Co. Ltd.	59
2.	Effect of heights of chimneys	60
3.	Fish frying fume-collecting apparatus Teuton & Co., Ltd.	64
4.	Method of draining floor to a drain opening placed out- side	67
5.	Sketch Plan for House Inspection Report	77
6.	Underground room, Regulations under the Housing Act, 1936	III
7.	Underground room, Public Health (London) Act, 1936	II2
8.	Section of subsoil drain	I27
9.	Connection of subsoil drainage system to ordinary house drain (use of reversed-action intercepting trap)	I27
10.	Horizontal and vertical damp-proof course for solid walls	I28
11.	Damp-proof course, cavity wall, and ventilation of space below wood floor	I29
12.	Damp prevention in buildings at points above ground floor	I31
13.	Roof and chimney construction	I33
14.	Treatment of damp wall without insertion of horizontal damp-proof course Kerner-Greenwood & Co., Ltd.	I35
15.	Treatment of damp wall by aeration	I36
16.	Orientation. Relationship of a house facing south to the sun at latitude of London	I41
17.	Angles of light	I43
18.	Roof lighting to exclude the sun	I46
19.	Expansion of water	I55
20.	Improvised rain-water separator	I59

FIG.		PAGE
21.	Surface and underground water supplies	160
22.	Artesian water supplies	160
23.	Well construction	162
24.	Tube well	163
25.	Hydraulic ram	165
26.	Compression joints for water services	168
27.	Storage cistern and connections	169
28.	Underground water cistern : construction	171
29.	Rapid filter plant Paterson Engineering Co., Ltd.	174
30.	Pressure filter (domestic)	177
31.	Low-pressure filter	178
32.	Metafilter	179
33.	Water-softening plant Paterson Engineering Co., Ltd.	183
34.	Sewers and Drains	196
35.	Drainage system of a dwelling-house	202
36.	Drainage system in cast iron	203
37.	Water-closets and soil pipes. Byelaw requirements	206
38.	Self-centring drain-pipe joint (stoneware)	209
39.	Cast-iron drain joint	209
40.	Support to stoneware drains	211
41.	Ventilation of drainage systems	212
42.	Waste and surface drains (use of master gully)	213
43.	Special joints (lead to iron)	216
44.	Special joints (stoneware to lead)	216
45.	Special joints (lead to stoneware)	216
46.	Cleaning cap (detail)	217
47.	Development of trap	217
48.	Lavatory wastes (copper) Yorkshire Copper Works Ltd.	218
49.	Intercepting trap and chamber (stoneware) Dent & Hellyer, Ltd.	219
50.	Intercepting trap and access chamber (cast iron) Burn Bros. (London) Ltd.	220
51.	The one-pipe system of drainage Dent & Hellyer, Ltd.	222

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

xxi

FIG.		PAGE
52.	Section of petrol interceptor	224
53.	Trapless gully for garage use Burn Bros. (London) Ltd.	225
54.	Deep seal gully for garages Burn Bros. (London) Ltd.	225
55.	Chemical test The Sanitas Co., Ltd.	226
56.	Application of smoke test and air test	228
57.	Application of water test	230
58.	Pedestal washdown closet Shanks & Co., Ltd.	234
59.	Bracket washdown closet Shanks & Co., Ltd.	234
60.	Siphonic closet (single trap) Shanks & Co., Ltd.	234
61.	Siphonic closet (double trap) Shanks & Co., Ltd.	235
62.	Valve closet with connections Dent & Hellyer, Ltd.	236
63.	Urinal stall	236
64.	Flushing cistern (dome type) Shanks & Co., Ltd.	237
65.	Flushing cistern (silent acting) Shanks & Co., Ltd.	237
66.	Kitchen sink (weir overflow)	238
67.	Lavatory basin (weir overflow)	238
68.	Drinking fountain	238
69.	Block plan	244
70.	Earth closet	250
71.	Chemical closet Elsan Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	253
72.	Sewage purification plant (small)	254
73.	Sewage purification plant (large)	256
74.	Window (design for)	280
75.	Radiator and ventilation	281
76.	Natural (exhaust) Ventilator	282
77.	Deep window bar.	284
78.	Air-conditioning plant Davidson & Co., Ltd.	286
79.	Kata thermometer	287

FIG.		PAGE
80.	Kata thermometer chart	289
81.	Radiant heating system	297
82.	Heating and hot-water system Ideal Radiators & Boilers Ltd.	299
83.	Gas water-heater : ventilation of	301
84.	Gas fire and ventilation	302
85.	Cowshed—construction of	341
86.	Cowshed adaptation	342
87.	Meat inspection, lymphatic glands (bovine)	419
88.	Meat inspection, lymphatic glands (bovine exterior)	419
89.	Meat inspection, lymphatic glands (swine)	421
90.	Steam disinfecter, section in detail	454
91.	Fumigating lamp	457
92.	Disinfecting station, section of	462
93.	Disinfecting station, plan of	462
94.	Rat-proofing—eaves	465
95.	Rat-proofing—upper floors	465
96.	Rat-proofing—doors	466
97.	Rat-proofing—corrugated-sheet building	467
98.	Rat- and termite-proof construction	468
99.	Canal boats	486

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

THE EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

Establishment of the office of Sanitary Inspector, 1848. Reports of the early Commissions. Simon and Chadwick. The Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847. Local Boards of Health. The inspector of nuisances. The General Board of Health. The Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act, 1855. The Metropolis Management Act, 1855. The Sanitary Act, 1866. Report of the Commission on Local Government, 1871. The Local Government Board. Urban and rural sanitary authorities. The Public Health Act, 1875. The Local Government Acts, 1888, 1894, and the London Government Act, 1899. The Ministry of Health. Local Government Act, 1933. Public Health Act, 1936. Factories Act, 1937: Food and Drugs Act, 1938.
pp. 1-7

CHAPTER II

APPOINTMENT, DESIGNATION, DUTIES, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATION OF SANITARY INSPECTORS

Appointment of sanitary inspectors. England and Wales. London. Designation. Conditions of appointment. Duties. The Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935. Qualification. The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board. Training. Examination. Regulations of the Board. Syllabus of examination. General information. Scotland. The Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland. Appointment. Qualifications. Duties. pp. 8-25

CHAPTER III

POWERS OF ENTRY

Warrant certifying appointment. Powers of entry for general purposes of the Public Health Acts. House inspection for the general purpose of the Housing Acts. Offensive trades. Examination of drains, water-closets, etc. Smoke abatement. Common lodging-houses. Underground rooms. Tents, vans, sheds, etc. Canal boats. Inspection of Food and Food Premises. General duties under the Food and Drugs Act. Slaughter-houses. Slaughter of Animals Act. Factories (including bakehouses). Shops Acts. Sampling food for the presence of preservatives. Infectious disease regulations. Nursing homes. Rats and mice destruction. Rag flock. Demolition of buildings. List of abbreviations. pp. 26-35

CHAPTER IV

NUISANCES

Nuisances and infectious disease. Nuisances at Common Law. Statutory nuisances. Nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1936. Nuisances under miscellaneous Acts. Nuisances under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936. Power to make byelaws. Procedure for abatement of nuisances. . pp. 36-52

CHAPTER V

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Public Health Act, 1936. Public Health (London) Act, 1936. Smoke Nuisances. Power to make byelaws. Coal, general causes of smoke, composition of smoke, atmospheric pollution. Smoke observations. Means of preventing nuisance. Grit separation. Height of chimneys. . pp. 53-61

CHAPTER VI

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The Public Health Act, 1936. List of offensive trades. Provisions as to trade of fish frying. Model byelaws. The Public Health (London) Act, 1936. The Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. Prevention of nuisance. Construction of premises. pp. 62-68

CHAPTER VII

INSPECTION OF PREMISES

Casual and incidental inspections, nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. House-to-house inspection. Inspections made under the Housing Acts. Routine order of procedure. Specimen report. Schedule of works. pp. 69-80

CHAPTER VIII

HOUSING—PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS, 1936

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

The Housing Act, 1936. Clearance areas, Re-development areas, Individual unfit houses and obstructive buildings. Notice of intention to enter. Provision for obtaining information. "Sanitary defects." Specific matters for attention in inspection. Angles of light. Inspection of drains. Procedure after the inspection of district. Clearance areas. Procedure. Clearance order. Re-development areas. Procedure. Individual unfit houses. Houses regarded as capable of being rendered fit, and houses regarded as incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost. Closure of part of a building. Removal of obstructive buildings. Back-to-back houses. Cleansing before demolition. Objections and appeals. Overcrowding. New housing accommodation. Density—houses, etc., on site. Maintenance of proper standard of housing conditions. pp. 81-103

CHAPTER IX

HOUSING—PREMISES SUBJECT TO SPECIAL PROVISIONS

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS USED FOR HUMAN HABITATION

The Public Health Act, 1936. Model Byelaws, 1936. Movable dwellings, Camping. Temporary buildings. Cleanliness. Hop-pickers' and fruit-pickers' lodgings. pp. 104-109

UNDERGROUND ROOMS

Housing Act, 1936, minimum legal requirements. Public Health (London) Act, 1936. Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. Model Regulations. pp. 109-113

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

Housing Act, 1936. Limit of application. Meaning of "working classes." Model Byelaws, 1935. Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. pp. 113-117

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES

Definition. Public Health Act, 1936. Public Health (London) Act, 1936. Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. pp. 118-122

CHAPTER X

THE HYGIENE OF BUILDING

Model Byelaws, Series IV. Building sites. Site surveys. Physical characteristics. Local data. Subsoils. Subsoil drainage. Damp prevention. Causes of dampness. Capillarity. Damp-proof courses. Porosity of walls, infiltration of rain. Cavity walls. Capillary grooves. Condensation. Roofs. Remedial measures. Dry rot. Chimneys and flues, construction and defects. pp. 123-139

CHAPTER XI

NATURAL LIGHTING

Orientation. Lighting of rooms. "Daylight Factor." "Sill Ratio." Angles of light. Adequacy of daylight. Light reflection. Standards of illumination. The foot-candle. Essentials of good lighting. pp. 140-148

CHAPTER XII

WATER

Duty of sanitary inspector. Public Health Act, 1936. The Water Act, 1945. Power to close polluted well. The provision of sufficient water supply. Absence of supply. Cutting off of supply. Cisterns. Amount required per head. Physical properties. Chemical properties. Sources of water supply.