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Joint Public Health Committee (Abingdon Borough, Abingdon R.D.C.,
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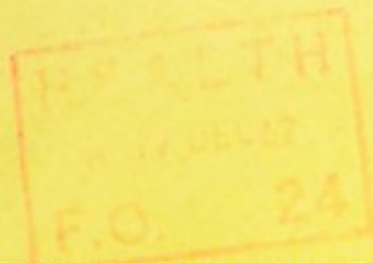
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ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE



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Abingdon and Faringdon Districts Joint Public Health Committee

Members 1961-1962

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Mr. S. Jones, 7 Harcourt Way, Abingdon.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Lt. Col. S. T. Austin, O.B.E., The White House, Shippon, Abingdon.
(Chairman).

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report for 1961.

May I again begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairmen and Councillors of the Authorities that I serve who have been so friendly and helpful, to the General Practitioners and Nurses of the area for their support and co-operation and most of all to the Public Health Inspectors for their continued loyalty, industry and efficiency in carrying out the great volume and variety of tasks referred to in this report.

Once more the general state of the Public Health can be said to have continued good. The birth rate, the death rate, the infant mortality rate and the still birth rate were all better than the National rates. There was no case notified of Diphtheria, Typhoid, Paratyphoid, Food-Poisoning or Polio, nor any death attributable to childbirth — this for the ninth year in succession.

The infant mortality rate is often regarded as the best test of the quality of the social conditions and of the medical services of an area. The recent report of the Berkshire County Medical Officer for 1959 and 1960 showed that for the 10 years 1951–1960 Abingdon had the best infant mortality rate of all the 18 authorities in the County and Abingdon Rural District the second best rate.

To hold these positions of leadership in such a favoured area as the Royal County of Berkshire is quite noteworthy.

The rates were Abingdon Borough 16.0 and Abingdon Rural District 17.2, which were about two-thirds of the National rate of 24.7.

Readers of these pages in the past will know that Fluoridation consists of adjusting the fluoride content of the water to the optimum level of 1 part per million to secure the reduction of dental decay by half in children who drink it from birth onwards. They will also know that it is extremely simple and cheap, completely safe and harmless, perfectly natural and many years overdue.

On September 11th, 1952, Wiltshire's only daily newspaper, the 'Evening Advertiser', reported that the Council of Faringdon Rural District had 'approved in principle a scheme to fluoridate the water to be produced by its new waterworks', and added 'If the scheme is approved (by the Minister of Health) this little town on the Berkshire borders will be taking a leading part in a venture which

will be followed with interest by the authorities of many great cities'.

Ever since, year after year, we have been given one rotten excuse after another for delay. During recent years the easy excuse has been that trials in certain areas are under way and we must await their results.

All this time I have maintained there was no need for this delay and confidently predicted that results would show no important difference from the American trials which were 10 years ahead of ours. I claimed this for the simple reason that areas like South Shields, Slough and Maldon, which had had water containing fluoride for years showed that British eating and drinking habits made very little difference. The Report of these trials now confirms this.

The trial areas completed 5 years of fluoridation in May, 1951, and though the Report was only published on 2nd July, 1962, its findings were sufficiently known by those concerned a year ago.

On the 13th November last, Sir Wilfrid Fish, O.B.E., President of the General Dental Council, referring to the Report on the 'The Conduct of the Fluoridation Studies in the U.K. and the Results achieved after 5 years' said:

'It is impossible not to be impressed by the meticulously scientific control applied by those concerned in the conduct of this investigation, their conclusions are inescapable. The reduction of dental caries in young children where the water either contains fluoride naturally, or has been artificially fortified with it, is of the order of 50 per cent — a figure which corresponds with that obtained from the prolonged series of experiments in the United States of America. It seems incredible that in the light of these investigations, and having regard to the wide distribution of fluoride in natural water with complete absence of any ill effects, there should still be hesitation and delay in conferring upon our population the immense benefit that such a reduction in suffering and loss of working time would bring about. At the same time the hesitation and delay is most discouraging to dental research and frustrating to the idealism and purpose of our profession'.

While we await a statement from the Minister we read that Parliament has given a first reading to 20 Bills ranging from one 'to prohibit the sale of small tortoises' to another to authorize 'oaths by Government representatives in overseas posts' (no mention of swearing in inland correspondence).

The vital question is — Will the Minister do the right thing and take such steps as will *ensure* the adoption of fluoridation throughout the nation as quickly as the installations can be made? If he does, no-one will cheer him louder than myself. If he effectively harnesses the support which the evidence, properly presented, could so readily obtain from all the leaders of the Medical, Dental and all other professions, from the leaders of

industry and of the Trades Unions, with the help of the press, radio and television, and with every reasonable M.P. of all parties behind him, he should have no difficulty in securing fluoridation on a national scale.

If he does not, I am afraid it will be because he has been frightened quite unnecessarily. In May, 1958, the 'Oxford Mail' quoted me as saying at the Health Congress in Eastbourne that 'the opponents (of fluoridation) are the most utter rubbishy, unscientific scaremongers and — in many cases — liars, that you could find. Unfortunately, they were creating a great deal of trouble, intimidating many people, even our own leaders'. This is still true, and though the evidence for the safety and effectiveness of fluoridation has piled up and up, any procedure which leaves the choice to local authorities to vote for or against fluoridation is simply asking for trouble. The subject has developed in the United States into such an insane conflict of smear and falsehoods that it has appealed to the type over here who can still believe the earth is flat or that their destiny is decided by their date of birth or to those who are just 'anti-everything'.

If agents from Russia, by night, put something into London water which caused decay in millions of our children's teeth we would immediately stop them and punish them. Those who hold up or delay fluoridation are having precisely that effect. The only defence against the charge of 'criminal' could be that 'they know not what they do'.

Anyone who dares to mention thalidomide as a reason for delay in promoting fluoridation is clearly 'either a fool or a knave'.

Thalidomide is a very complex, man-made, synthetic chemical compound of very recent manufacture, whereas fluoride is a very simple, common natural salt, present in almost every type of food and in almost all water, and which has been consumed for generations by millions of people. Anyone who does not know this does not know the first thing about the subject and so is extremely foolish to pretend that he knows more than the overwhelming mass of experts who believe in fluoridation.

If he *does* know this and still raises the bogey, then he must be a knave. He may, of course, be both. In fact, the only excuse for him could be that he is so foolish as not to know he is a knave.

The same equally applies to those unscrupulous enough to use the word 'poison' to discredit fluoridation. Only a fool or a knave would start a smear campaign to frighten us that common table salt (sodium chloride) is a lethal poison (which is true if you take enough of it), or, if he did, the holders of 'Cerebos' shares might sue him for defamation of character. Fluoridation, which means one part of fluoride in a million parts of water, is even more harmless than table salt — it is even harmless to those with damaged kidneys.

The press has a grave responsibility in this matter, and recent experience of it is far from reassuring. On August 25th, a national daily printed a letter from a certain peer containing the following claim: 'Experience in the United States has shown that the cost of providing pills of fluoride to the child population is only about one-twentieth that of putting fluoride in the public water supply'.

This, clearly, was intended to imply that there were two ways of producing the same result, and that providing the pills did the same thing as fluoridation of the water supply — but very much cheaper. If that were not the meaning intended, then to compare the costs would be not only absurd but dishonest. As we all know that the cost of fluoridation is less than 10d. per head per year, I wrote to the editor pointing out that the claim was clearly absurd, but my letter was not printed. Twelve days later, on September 6th, another letter from the peer appeared, which asked five questions and repeated the claim thus: 'Fluoride pills are being given in Clifton, New Jersey, and other places, and at a cost of about a twentieth of fluoridating the public water supply'.

On the same day, on an outside telephone, I read my answer to his questions and had my letter read back to me for accuracy from the office of the London paper, and I posted a typed copy in confirmation. I said: 'To claim that the cost of doing what fluoridation can do would be one-twentieth if given in the form of pills is utterly ridiculous. The cost of fluoridation is less than 10d. per head per year. The cost of the pills (at present over 10 shillings per head per year) would be a small part of the vast cost of trying to secure a *comparable* result by the swallowing of a pill a day by every child. And, of course, it would prove impossible'.

My letter was not even accorded the courtesy of an acknowledgment, and was not printed — perhaps because two of the questions asked could have been answered by an intelligent school-boy.

I have since confirmed what I suspected is the truth about the claim at Clifton, New Jersey. The President of the Dental Association of one of the larger States, who sent me full details, sums it up thus: Assuming Clifton has 8,000 children up to age 9 (a low estimate of 10% of the population) and the wholesale cost of a pill to be 1 cent (it is 2 cents retail), since they claim to be spending only 350 dollars per year on pills then they can only be giving pills to, at most, 100 children. In fact, only one out of every 80 children is getting the benefit. The fact that the pills cost so little is proof of the failure of the method. If their propaganda had been reduced so that only 50 children got the pills, the claim would be that the cost was only one fortieth.

So one can estimate the degree of the absurdity or the extent of the deception induced by making such a claim as to the relative costs with such utterly different results. One hardly knows which

to deplore the most — that a peer should write such nonsense or that an editor should twice print it and not print the true answer when given.

The urgency of action is shown by the facts that dental decay is 'appalling' and getting worse every year; while the dental profession is hopelessly overworked and only able to meet about a third of the need. Fluoridation, which was described in Parliament this week by Dr. Mabon as "one of the greatest advances of medicine that we will see in this century" — is desperately needed — *quam celerim*.

Yours truly,

NORMAN PARFIT,

Medical Officer of Health.



VITAL STATISTICS

In this first section are collected the various tables which summarize the vital statistics of the three Authorities grouped together. It is followed by sections which deal separately with matters affecting the health of each Authority. All figures in brackets refer to 1960.

AREA AND POPULATION

The following table gives the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1961. It shows that the population densities of the Abingdon Borough and Faringdon Rural District are very close to the national averages for England and Wales. Abingdon Rural District, however, has a density over three times that of the average Rural District, only one-third of this excess being due to the parishes which are on the outskirts of Oxford, namely, Cumnor, North Hinksey and Kennington.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid-1961 Pop.	Increase on 1960	Persons per acre
Abingdon Borough	1,754	14,650	740	8.35
Abingdon Rural	41,185	31,700	180	0.77
Faringdon Rural	55,726	14,200	350	0.26
Totals	98,665	60,550	1,270	0.61

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the 'corrected' rates per 1,000 of Population. 'Corrected' rates are those which take due account of the actual age and sex composition of each area by being multiplied by the 'comparability factor' supplied by the Registrar General. They may then be fairly compared with those of the nation as a whole, or with the corrected rates of any other area. The factors for Births and Deaths are as follows: Abingdon Borough 0.89: 1.27; Abingdon Rural District 0.98: 1.31; and Faringdon Rural District 1.03: 1.14.

District	Births	Birth rate per 1000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	268 (276)	16.3	120 (123)	10.4
Abingdon Rural	674 (663)	20.8	239 (244)	9.9
Faringdon Rural	299 (319)	21.7	117 (121)	9.4
Totals	1241 (1258)	19.9(20.8)	476 (488)	9.9(10.3)
England and Wales		17.4		12.0

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births
Abingdon Borough	6	267	22.5
Abingdon Rural	13	665	19.5
Faringdon Rural	6	295	20.4
Totals	25 (29)	1227 (1235)	20.4 (23.5)
England and Wales			21.4

STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1000 total births
Abingdon Borough	1	—	1	3.7
Abingdon Rural	8	1	9	13.4
Faringdon Rural	4	—	4	13.4
Totals	13	1	14	11.3
England and Wales				18.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the ninth successive year there were no deaths attributed to child-birth.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The 476 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows:—

Cause	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total 1961	Total 1960
Coronary Disease, Angina	17	36	13	66	(80)
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	4	3	7	(11)
Other Heart Disease	14	24	18	56	(52)
Total Heart Disease	31	64	34	129	(143)
Vascular Disease of the Nervous System (Stroke)	20	36	18	74	(73)
Other Circulatory Disease	6	9	8	23	(25)
Cancer of the Lung	6	13	1	20	(21)
Other Cancers	17	33	24	74	(60)
Pneumonia	7	14	4	25	(27)
Bronchitis	3	10	2	15	(28)
Influenza	2	8	1	11	(3)
Other Disease of the Respiratory System	2	—	2	4	(5)
Road Accidents	3	6	4	13	(9)
All Other Accidents	3	12	1	16	(12)
Suicide	2	3	3	8	(3)
Homicide	1	—	2	3	(—)
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	2	1	4	(2)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	2	2	(1)
Non.Pulm. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	(—)
Ulcer of Stomach	1	1	—	2	(—)
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	3	—	3	(3)
Nephritis	—	2	1	3	(4)
Congenital Malformations	3	3	2	8	(5)
Diabetes	—	—	1	1	(4)
Gastritis, Enteritis, etc.	—	2	—	2	(7)
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	1	1	(2)
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	1	3	(2)
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	(—)
All other Causes	11	17	4	32	(49)
Total all Causes	120	239	117	476	(488)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1961 (with the 1960 figures in brackets).

Disease	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total all Districts
Measles	315 (—)	826 (33)	234 (2)	1375 (35)
Whooping Cough	10 (33)	40 (24)	7 (5)	57 (62)
Scarlet Fever	16 (17)	16 (28)	— (1)	32 (46)
Pneumonia	9 (2)	13 (8)	2 (—)	24 (10)
Dysentery	6 (21)	5 (10)	— (—)	11 (31)
Erysipelas	— (1)	2 (4)	— (—)	2 (5)
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)	— (2)
Malaria	— (—)	— (4)	— (—)	— (4)
Meningococcal Infection	— (—)	2 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
Paratyphoid Fever	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Encephalitis	— (1)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (1)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Totals	356 (76)	905 (112)	243 (8)	1504 (196)

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases)

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. It distinguishes between the more serious cases affecting the lungs (Pulmonary) and those affecting other parts of the body.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Total (All Districts)	
	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15—20	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1
20—25	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
25—35	—	—	5	—	—	2	5	2
35—45	2	—	2	—	—	—	4	—
45—55	2	—	2	—	1	—	4	—
55—65	1	1	2	—	—	—	4	—
Over 65	3	—	1	—	—	—	4	—
Totals	8	1	14	3	2	2	24	6
1960 Figures	14	0	6	2	8	2	28	4

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The number of new houses completed during the year was 92, consisting of 66 Council houses and flats and 26 built by private persons. A further 177 houses were under construction at the end of the year, of which 169 were Council houses and 18 were private.

The above additional Council houses brought the number erected since the war to 1260, and with the 523 pre-war houses makes a total of 1783 Council houses.

The rent of pre-war houses, including rates, ranged from £1 5s. 1d. to £1 19s. 4d. with an approximate average of £1 12s. 3d. per week for a 48 week year. The number of applicants for Council houses at 31st December, 1961, was 372. This was 9 more than at the end of 1960.

CARAVANS

As a matter of policy the Borough Council have decided not to grant site licences and not to establish a Council site. As far as possible existing sites will be "run down" by December, 1962. On December 31st 1961, the Council's Caravan Site at Evelin Road was closed and 23 occupied caravans remained in the Borough on individual sites.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household and trade refuse continues to be collected weekly from the kerbside, with special arrangements for some commercial and industrial premises. The Wick Hall tip was completed and closed early in August, after which tipping commenced in the old canal at Drayton Road. In view of the limited space available at this site negotiations were started with a view to raising the level of the Abbey Meadow.

SALVAGE

The demand for rags and metal continued and a market for a limited amount of mixed paper was found. Receipts were as follows:—

Rags	...	...	...	£90	8s.	1d.
Metal	...	...	...	£51	10s.	0d.
Paper	...	...	...	£124	10s.	4d.
				<hr/>		
				£266	8s.	5d.

The receipts for rags and metal were much the same as in 1960, but the salvage of paper (which was not done in 1960) resulted in the total being almost doubled.

MORTUARY

A major improvement was effected at the Mortuary by the provision of a three-tier refrigerator cabinet, installed at a cost of £948 7s. 0d. The Mortuary was without an attendant for several months, and at the end of the year arrangements were made with Mortuary Assistants at the Radcliffe Infirmary to attend post mortems and keep the premises and equipment in good order. The Mortuary was used on 130 occasions, 108 of them involving post mortem examinations. Similar figures in 1960 were 133 and 97 respectively.

MEAT AND FOODS

At the beginning of the year two slaughterhouses were registered, but the smaller one, belonging to Messrs. Cottrells, closed in March, 1961. Messrs. Hedges' slaughterhouses at Caldecott Farm continue and considerable extensions were started, especially in connection with cold storage facilities. The practice of slaughtering on Sundays was continued throughout the year. Inspection of all animals slaughtered was carried out and the following tables give details of the results of this work.

	No. Inspected	No. found to be affected				Whole carcasses	
		T.B.	% of total	Other Conditions	% of total	T.B.	Other Conditions
<i>Caldecott Abattoir</i>							
Steers & Heifers	2881	7	.024	636	22.075	1	3
Cows/Bulls	274	1	.036	87	31.751	—	11
Calves	454	—	—	3	.066	—	14
Sheep	11630	—	—	370	3.181	—	30
Pigs	19925	277	1.390	3297	16.547	4	96
Totals	35164	285	8.104	4393	12.492	5	154
<i>Bacon Factory</i>							
Pigs	133	3	2.255	12	9.022	—	—
Grand Total	35297	288	.815	4405	12.479	5	154

Weight of diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned:—

Meat	...	...	24,321 lbs.
Offal	...	...	26,220 lbs.

Analysis of Principal Causes of Condemnation of Carcasses

Disease	Steers & Heifers	Cows & Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Pleurisy	—	—	1	2	22	25
Abscess	—	3	1	1	13	18
Multiple Injuries	—	3	—	4	11	18
Emaciation	—	1	—	9	7	17
Oedema	1	1	2	5	4	13
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	8	10
Septicaemia	1	—	2	2	5	10
Peritonitis	1	—	1	3	4	9
Pyæmia	—	2	—	1	4	7
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	5	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	5	5
Nephritis	—	1	1	—	3	5
Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	4	5
Congestion	—	—	2	1	1	4
All other causes	—	—	3	1	4	8
Totals	4	11	14	30	100	159

(a) Routine examination of all cattle for *Cysticercus Bovis* was carried out, and in 25 cases (0.692%) cysts were found. The affected carcasses and offal were subjected to cold store treatment at East Hagbourne or Abingdon.

(b) The bulk of condemned meat and offal at the Caldecott Abattoir is disposed of in a digester and processing plant adjoining the premises. After suitable treatment a small amount of condemned meat was sent to other areas for animal feeding.

FOOD OTHER THAN FRESH MEAT

The following foodstuffs were condemned:—

366 lbs.	Confectionery	61 lbs.	Fruit and Vegetables
224 lbs.	Beef Suet	24 lbs.	Sausages
216 lbs.	Poultry	5½lbs.	Cream
181 lbs.	Fish	24 lbs.	Miscellaneous

Tinned Food
295 lbs. Meat

10 lbs. Fruit and Vegetables
8½lbs. Milk

FOOD PREMISES

The number of various types of premises and the number of visits paid to them in the course of food inspection duties were as follows:—

Type	No.	Visits	Type	No.	Visits
Abattoir	2	567	Bakeries	4	9
Butchers	13	39	Cafes & Restaurants	18	9
Grocers & General Stores	38	30	Licensed Premises	40	4
Sale or Manufacture of Preserved Food	6	12	Greengrocers	14	3
Fresh & Fried Food	5	11	Sale of Ice Cream	51	2
			Milk Distributors	2	1

MILK

During the year six samples of milk were taken in the course of delivery to or at schools in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination. All proved satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Of 19 samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, 11 were Grade I and 8 were Grade II. None were in Grades III or IV.

HOUSING

(1) Houses which on inspection were considered unfit for human habitation	37
(2) Houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	3
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:—	
(a) serving notices requiring execution of works	—
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	2
(4) The number of informal notices requesting execution of works	3
(5) Houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	—
(6) The number of demolition or closing orders made	2
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking not to be re-let was given	—
(8) The number of houses demolished	16

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Although the Council have shown themselves willing to give all help possible to applicants for these grants, comparatively little advantage is taken of this opportunity to improve the older type of house in the Borough.

During the year seven applications for Discretionary Grants and ten applications for Standard Grants were received and approved. As well

as considerable structural improvements these applications provided the following additional amenities:—

12 hot water systems, 7 wash-hand basins, 5 foodstores, 4 baths, 3 extensions to existing kitchens, 1 bathroom, 2 new kitchens, 1 W.C., 1 conversion to form a new dwelling and 1 miscellaneous improvement.

In addition to the above, work was started to modernise Tompkin's Almshouses in Ock Street and a scheme was approved to convert St. John's Almshouses in the Vineyard into four satisfactory units.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Flows to the Sewage Works during the year remained high despite the low rainfall. The relief pumping station at Boxhill was used in late December to avert the possible overflowing of the sewer in the Stert Valley.

WATER

No difficulties were experienced with flooding at Wooton Reservoir. The combination of below average rainfall and the building up of the ventilators to a higher level has avoided any repetition of the flooding of the service reservoir which took place in 1960.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959.

	No. Inspections		Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	3	2	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	58	34	—	—
Other premises	2	1	—	—
Totals	63	37	—	—

There were two outworkers, engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1961

General Sanitation Visits:

Refuse Collection and Disposal	135
Drainage	63
Movable Dwellings	60
Mortuary	48
Offensive Trades	38
Factories and Workplaces	37
Water Supply	31
Licensed Premises	30
Petroleum	22
Atmospheric Pollution	15
Shops	8
Pests	7
Swimming Pool	4
Miscellaneous Visits	35

Under Public Health Act:

Number of Houses Inspected	30
Number of visits to above houses	70

Under The Housing Acts:

Number of Houses Inspected	19
Number of visits to above houses	54

Improvement Grants:

Number of Visits to above houses	123
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	121

Meat and Food Inspection:

Visits to:—	
Slaughterhouses	567
Market Stalls	190
Butchers	39
Grocers	30
Visits in connection with Ice Cream Sampling	16
Food Preparing Premises	12
Fishmongers and Poulterers	11
Visits in connection with Milk Sampling	9
Restaurants	9
Bakeries	9
Licensed Premises	4
Miscellaneous Food Premises	16

Total visits during the year1,860

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid. 1961	Area in Acres	Total Dwellings (a)	Council Houses	Rateable Value (b)	Product of 1d. Rate (c)
					£	£ s.
Appleford	279	862	84	13	1423	5 18
Appleton-with-Eaton	854	2077	235	32	4862	19 17
Besselsleigh	73	906	22	2	562	2 17
Cumnor	4437	5690	1193	342	52260	229 1
Draycott Moor	499	1054	145	65	3110	13 0
Drayton	2119	2609	616	108	11248	61 8
Frilford	265	1148	67	—	3348	13 17
Fyfield & Tubney	558	2746	177	39	4750	18 18
Garford	113	1068	40	4	527	2 2
Kennington	3643	1369	968	170	34633	145 3
Kingston Bagpuize	167	1109	75	—	1332	5 5
Lyford	83	774	43	—	256	1 2
Marcham	841	2513	252	40	8850	34 16
Milton	876	1466	237	31	33894	143 18
North Hinksey	5137	1069	1383	48	57952	282 5
Radley	1907	2862	313	71	17019	69 9
St. Helen Without (d)	1664	2005	268	8	51273	200 16
South Hinksey	423	509	97	8	5195	21 3
Steventon	1267	2401	419	94	14131	58 18
Sunningwell	1046	1332	282	37	12375	51 16
Sutton Courtenay	2497	2101	764	308	51659	216 11
Wootton	2741	1523	740	239	26090	115 6
Wytham	211	1992	59	—	3077	11 3
Gas Board					794	3 6
Electricity Board					9163	38 4
Totals	31700	41185	8479	1659	409778	£1765 19
Totals for 1960	31520	41185	8214	1567	393136	£1641 7

(a) Excludes Residential Caravans

(b) at 1.4.61

(c) For year 1961/62 to nearest shilling

(d) Excludes R.A.F. Married Quarters

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The total number of new houses completed during the year was 265, showing an increase of 33 on the previous year. These properties consisted of 92 Council Houses and 173 built by Private Enterprise.

A further 189 were under construction on 31st December, of which 55 were Council Houses and 134 were private.

The distribution of these houses is shown in the following table:—

Parish	<i>Council Houses</i> Completed Under Construction 31.12.61		<i>Private Enterprise</i> Completed Under Construction 31.12.61	
Appleford	—	—	—	—
Appleton-with-Eaton	—	31	4	6
Besselsleigh	—	—	—	—
Cumnor	30	4	13	15
Draycott Moor	—	4	2	—
Drayton	—	—	62	24
Frilford	—	—	1	—
Fyfield & Tubney	—	—	2	2
Garford	—	—	—	—
Kennington	—	—	10	17
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	1	2
Lyford	—	—	—	—
Marcham	—	—	4	1
Milton	—	—	5	1
North Hinksey	—	—	12	4
Radley	—	—	—	5
St. Helen Without	—	—	4	2
South Hinksey	—	—	—	5
Steventon	—	12	31	33
Sunningwell	—	4	2	2
Sutton Courtenay	—	—	14	15
Wootton	62	—	6	—
Wytham	—	—	—	—
Totals	92	55	173	134
Totals for 1960	65	62	167	91

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

The 40 prefabricated bungalows at Wootton and the 16 bungalows at Tubney continue to be used.

It was decided by the Council that the condition of the "prefabs", as revealed by close examination of their structure, did not warrant demolition, although major repairs were needed. At the end of the year 5 of these bungalows were vacant in readiness for the works to start.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Repairs and improvements to all classes of property has continued throughout the year and the following table shows the distribution of the work.

	Housing Conversions	Additional Bedrooms	New Bathrooms	New W.C's.
Appleford	—	—	—	—
Appleton	2	4	4	4
Besselsleigh	1	1	1	1
Cumnor	1	5	4	5
Draycott Moor	—	2	2	2
Drayton	—	1	1	1
Frilford	—	1	1	1
Fyfield & Tubney	1	—	—	—
Garford	—	—	—	—
Kennington	—	2	3	2
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	2	2
Lyford	—	—	2	2
Marcham	—	1	1	1
Milton	—	—	—	—
North Hinksey	2	5	2	3
Radley	1	1	1	1
St. Helen Without	—	1	1	1
South Hinksey	—	1	1	2
Steventon	—	3	7	7
Sunningwell	—	—	—	—
Sutton Courtenay	3	5	3	2
Wootton	—	—	—	1
Wytham	5	1	1	1
Totals	16	34	37	39
Figures for 1960	26	35	42	45

As a result of the economy measures announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in July, the Council resolved to suspend certain capital expenditure and as a result the issue of Discretionary Grants was suspended except on grounds of health.

Since the introduction of Standard Grants, 69 have been approved amounting to a maximum of £7,240. Of these, 36 applicants have been paid a total of £2,651 5s. 2d. Discretionary Grants, for the improvement of 30 properties, amounted to £9,480. Since 1952 Discretionary Grants to a total of £92,622, involving 304 properties, have been approved by the Council.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

A great deal of work has been carried out as a result of the new Caravan Act.

At the beginning of the year, after consultation with staff of the County Planning Department, a policy for the eventual reduction and re-siting of the caravans in the district was approved by the Council and a total of 70 sites comprising 460 caravans were licensed. Because of their unsuitable positions or site conditions, many sites were given short permission only.

In order to relocate caravans from poor sites it was agreed to provide a new municipal site, and detailed surveys were carried out on 3 areas

all in the parish of Radley. One of these, the Bigwood Holiday Camp, was approved and acquired compulsorily in October. A detailed layout of the new site which will provide tarmacadam roads and footpaths, main drainage, individual water supply, sinks and W.C's., stores, laundry facilities and a shop, was approved by the Council and tenders for this work were invited.

As a result of a petition from caravanners at Woodland Caravan Park, what is thought to be the first Compulsory Purchase Order by a Council to take over a privately owned site under the Caravan Act was confirmed by the Minister in July. A maintenance staff of three was engaged and this site of 108 caravans was being reorganised by December. A 3 inch watermain and 20 extra standpipes were provided and the roads were being resurfaced at the end of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

The weekly kerbside collection of household refuse has continued as in previous years. Once again the possibility of arranging the collection from inside the gates of houses was turned down on grounds of cost.

At the end of December, a new Shelvoke & Drewry 18 cu. yd. compression refuse vehicle was delivered to replace the old Dennis side loader which had given sterling service for 14 years.

Refuse Disposal

By the beginning of the year, it was becoming increasingly obvious that the Farmoor tip could not be used for very much longer, as Oxford City was pressing the Council to find an alternative site for tipping. An agreement was entered into with the owners to tip on a low-lying piece of land in Black Horse Lane, Cothill, and work commenced there in April.

Later in the year, land reclamation was carried out near the railway bridge at Radley and at the rear of the Council's Lamborough Hill estate. This work was carried out expeditiously and the Radley Parish Council sent a letter expressing its appreciation for the manner in which the tipping was carried out.

Many people have unhappy memories of the abominable methods of crude tipping and have doubts about tipping being carried out near residential development, but such controlled tips show that their fears of rat infested, perpetually smouldering rubbish dumps are groundless. Obviously this method is, of necessity, rather more costly, but the increase in cost is more than offset by the lack of nuisance caused.

Litter Bins

More than 100 hundred litter bins are provided throughout the District. This figure includes 12 provided by an advertising firm in return for advertising facilities. The majority of bins in the district, however, are of the converted oil drum type which have been found so successful that an order has been received from the Berkshire County Council to provide 18 at lay-bys along the new Western By-Pass.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(a) Works on new sewerage schemes proceeded through the year, and details of progress are shown below.

Appleton and Cumnor

After proceeding smoothly throughout the year, by the end of December the laying of sewers and laterals, together with the construction of the disposal works, had been completed.

Marcham

Due to various difficulties, it was not possible to complete this scheme before the end of the year.

Radley

Work on the main drainage of the Radley Village and Sugworth Crescent areas began during April, and by the end of the year most of the lengths of sewer and one pumping station were completed.

(b) Tenders were invited for three more schemes and details are shown below:—

Appleford and Milton

The tender of J. Murphy & Sons Ltd., of London, was accepted for these two extensions to the Southern Parishes main drainage scheme.

Farmoor

Tenders for this scheme were invited before the end of the year.

Wootton Road Extension — Stage 3

The tender of Willmet Bros. Ltd., of Isleworth, Middlesex, was accepted for this scheme, which takes in the Old Boars Hill, Henwood and Dry Sandford areas.

WATER

Water is obtained in bulk from the Oxford City Water Department, who supply the Northern part of the District, and from the Thames Valley Water Board, who supply the Southern parishes, the Council acting as their agents.

There were no complaints about the quality of the supply during the year, but from time to time the poor water pressure in certain of the Southern parishes meant that some properties have been without water during periods of peak demand. It is hoped, however, that a new 6 inch main laid during the year will solve this problem.

33 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis during the year and the following tables show details of the Public Health Laboratory's findings:—

PUBLIC SUPPLY

No. of Samples	Probable No. of Organisms per 100 ml.		Remarks
	Coliform Bacilli	B. coli (Type 1)	
22	0	0	Bacteriologically satisfactory.
2	1	0	Slight contamination with coliform organisms.

It will be seen that almost all of the samples taken from the Public Supply were consistently satisfactory. The two samples which showed very slight evidence of contamination were taken from the same tap, the second a week after the first, and a satisfactory result was obtained after the pipes were flushed by the Thames Valley Water Board.

Wells and Pumps

Unfortunately, the same satisfactory state of affairs did not obtain with regard to 9 samples of well water. All of these showed varying degrees of contamination — 7 of them contaminated with organisms showing that drainage effluent had mingled with the drinking water. All the wells from which samples were taken were shallow ones and the results show clearly how suspect is such a source of domestic supply.

In all cases the owners and occupiers were notified of the result and advised to boil all drinking water.

The following table gives details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies:—

Parish	<i>Oxford City Water Undertaking</i>		
	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied with main water	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by standpipe
Appleton	235	168	—
Besselsleigh	22	22	—
Cumnor	1193	1151	—
Draycott Moor	145	131	—
Frilford	67	60	—
Fyfield & Tubney	177	132	—
Garford	40	34	—
Kennington	968	965	—
Kingston Bagpuize	75	55	—
Marcham	252	180	—
North Hinksey	1383	1375	—
Radley	313	286	—
St. Helen Without	268*	263*	—
South Hinksey	97	97	—
Sunningwell	282	262	—
Wootton	740	682	—
Wytham	59	31	—
Totals	6316	5894	—
* R.A.F. Married Quarters not included.			
	<i>Thames Valley Water Board</i>		
Appleford	84	46	—
Drayton	616	579	21
Lyford	43	14	—
Milton	237	202	15
Steventon	419	342	39
Sutton Courtenay	764	725	5
Totals	2163	1908	80
Grand Totals	8479	7802	80

FOOD PREMISES

There were 152 food premises in the area, comprising the following types of business:—

Grocery & General Stores	64	Cafes	4
Public Houses	49	Bakehouses	4
Confectionery	13	Fishmongers	2
Butchers	9	Off Licenses	2
Greengrocery	5		

Of these premises, 74 are registered under the provisions of Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream, 5 for the manufacture of sausages and 3 for the cooking of hams and other foodstuffs.

FOOD HAWKERS

Seven Food Hawkers are registered under the provisions of Section 122 of the Berkshire County Council Act, 1953. The trades are as follows:—

Bakers 2; Butchers 2; General Provisions 2; Greengrocer 1.

Visits were paid to the appropriate premises and all were found satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The licensing of Milk Dealers has now passed to the County and in future it will not be a function of this Authority.

During the year, 18 samples of Pasteurised milk were taken from schools in the area. All passed the Phosphatase Test satisfactorily and 15 the Methylene Blue Test. Three samples did not reach the required standard for keeping quality (Methylene Blue Test) but "follow-up" samples proved satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Seventy-four premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream, mainly pre-packed. Visits were paid to these premises during the year and, in the main, these were found to be satisfactory.

Until recently, samples of ice-cream for bacteriological analysis were taken by the County Council. However, this authority has now taken over the task and 9 routine samples of ice-cream were taken during the year. The results of these samples are shown below:—

No. of Samples	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Comments
5	I	Failed to reduce in 4 hrs.	Highly satisfactory
2	II	" " " " 2½-4 "	Satisfactory
2	III	" " " " ½-2 "	Doubtful
—	IV	" " " " 0 "	Unsatisfactory

UNSOUND FOOD

During the year 11 lbs. of Pork Shoulder were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown the meat to be unfit for human consumption.

DISEASE OF ANIMALS ACT (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957

Sixteen visits were paid to the 2 premises licensed in the District. They were considered satisfactory and continued to be licensed.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises are registered under the Act, but one private house from which pet birds were being sold was inspected during the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The above Act came into force at the end of 1960 and makes "noise or vibration which is a nuisance" a statutory nuisance for the purpose of Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year, 19 visits were paid as a result of complaints—mainly about nearby business premises or "chimes" operated from ice-cream vehicles. These vehicles are permitted to attract custom by the use of loudspeakers, chimes, etc., but only between the hours of 12 noon and 7 p.m.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts 1928 and 1936

Sixty-three premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum in the area. Most petrol is stored in underground tanks which are tested under a 10 lb. pressure and 80 visits were paid during the year in connection with the testing of new tanks.

Petrol is a highly dangerous spirit and its handling always presents hazards, but two new requirements for old tanks and electric installations should give additional safeguards to the operators and to the general public:—

- (a) From 1st January, 1961, all electrically operated petrol pumps were required to be examined by an approved contractor on the roll of the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contractors, and certified "flameproof" to the Group II Standard of the Ministry of Fuel and Power in accordance with British Standards Nos. 229 and 889.
- (b) All underground tanks more than 20 years old must be tested and found satisfactory before 1st January, 1962, and work was being carried out on this at the end of the year.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Sanitary Conveniences on Farms

Thirty-five farms in the area were visited during the year under the provisions of the above Act. Arrangements were found satisfactory and no notices were served.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1959

The Rodent Officer deals with all complaints regarding rodent infestations. Private houses are treated free, but trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus establishment charges.

Regular treatments are carried out at sewerage works, refuse tips and to Council sewers. Warfarin is used in all premises, as it is the poison less likely to injure children and domestic animals. A mould inhibitor is mixed with the bait for the treatment of sewers.

The following table shows the work during the year:—

During the year a total of 2,724 inspections were made at 2,045 properties (Dwelling Houses 1,919, Agricultural Property 83, Council Property 23 and Business Premises 20). 708 treatments were carried out and 1,342 dead rats and mice were recovered.

INFESTATION

At the beginning of the year, the Department took over the task of dealing with insect infestations from the Rodent Officer. During the year, visits were paid to 99 premises and a total of 110 wasps' nests were destroyed. In most cases, a small charge was made for this service.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 50 premises on the Council's Factory Register consisting of:—

- (a) **Factories Without Power:** Joinery 3 and Dressmaking 1.
- (b) **Factories With Power:** Motor vehicle repair 14, Agricultural Engineering 5, Engineering 5, Saw Mills 4, Bakehouses 4, Laundries 3, Electrical Engineering 3, and one each of the following: Grist, Carpentry, Plant Repairs, Metal Work, Veterinary Products, Plastics, Seed Mixing and Asphalt.
- (c) **Other Premises:** Building Operations 10.

Thirty-five inspections were made during the year and the 2 contraventions found were remedied. None of the above are large factories and most employ only a few persons.

There were 3 names on the August lists of outworkers and visits to the premises showed conditions to be satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK, 1961

Number of Visits made	1364
„ „ Complaints received	114
„ „ Informal Notices served	65
„ „ Statutory Notices served	Nil
„ „ Prosecutions	Nil

Matters in relation to which visits were made:—

Housing Act

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act.....	489
Refuse Disposal	91
Moveable Dwellings	84
Petroleum Acts	80
Drainage	63
Water Supplies	48
Housing Defects	41
Water Courses	30
Refuse Collection	26
Noise Abatement Act	19
Disease of Animals Act (Waste Foods Order)	19
Accumulation of Refuse	15
Sanitary Accommodation	7
Filthy Premises	5
Miscellaneous	54

Food and Drugs Act

Food Hygiene Regulations	127
Shops Act (Section 38)	106
Grocers	70
Ice-Cream Premises	19
Food Inspection	13
Bakers and Confectioners	11
Street Vendors and Vans	10
Butchers	6
Licensed Houses	5
Miscellaneous	13

Samples taken

Water (Mains)	24
„ (Wells)	9
Milk	20
Ice Cream	9

Factories Act

Agriculture Act (San. Cons. on Farms)	35
Factories and Workshops	35
Outworkers	4
Bakehouses	2
Laundries	2

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Pop. Census 1961	Area in Acres	Total Dwellings	Council Houses 31.12.61	Product Rateable of Value 1d. Rate		
					(a)	(b)	
					£	£	s.
Ashbury	624	5609	172	36	3860	15	9
Baulking	122	1580	39	—	494	1	19
Bourton	272	1260	82	6	1776	7	2
Buckland	540	4505	184	—	3768	14	4
Buscot	248	2887	71	—	2343	9	9
Charney Bassett	195	1209	71	—	972	3	15
Coleshill	224	2014	74	—	725	2	17
Compton Beauchamp	72	1812	36	—	593	2	9
Eaton Hastings	110	1570	35	—	444	1	14
Faringdon	3388	3547	1085	299	36294	146	0
Fernham	151	1016	57	8	1251	5	1
Great Coxwell	195	1435	83	12	1162	4	11
Hatford	107	993	30	—	609	2	9
Hinton Waldrist	232	2016	80	14	1104	4	7
Kingston Lisle	280	2040	77	12	1797	7	5
Little Coxwell	183	887	70	—	1325	5	5
Littleworth	217	2350	78	—	1248	5	1
Longcot	337	1894	106 (c)	12	1414	5	11
Longworth	774	2291	221	45	4614	18	7
Pusey	98	1040	32	—	635	2	10
Shellingford	168	1761	56	2	1057	4	4
Shrivenham	2019	2695	505 (d)	83	30495	125	10
Stanford-in-the-Vale	909	2927	292	70	5788	22	19
Uffington	581	2929	193	54	3156	12	8
Watchfield	1823	1517	502 (e)	70	21975	90	1
Woolstone	81	1942	46	—	517	2	3
South Western Gas Board	—	—	—	—	1362	5	8
Southern Electricity Board	—	—	—	—	3067	12	15
Totals	13950	55726	4277	723	133845	£540	13
Totals for 1960	13850	55726	4090	701	130865	£530	18

(a) as at 31.3.61.

(b) to nearest shilling.

(c) includes 11 Military Married Quarters.

(d) includes 82 Military Married Quarters.

(e) includes 347 Military Married Quarters.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 187. These consisted of 22 Council Houses, 102 built by Private Enterprise and 63 War Department.

A further 81 were under construction on the 31st December, 1961, and these consisted of 14 Council Houses and 67 Private Houses.

The distribution of these houses is shown by the following table:—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Construction 31.12.61	Completed	Under Construction 31.12.61
Ashbury	—	—	—	2
Bourton	—	6	—	—
Buckland	—	—	—	2
Charney Bassett	—	—	8	1
Coleshill	—	—	1	—
Compton Beauchamp	—	—	4	2
Faringdon	17	1	14	18
Fernham	—	—	1	2
Great Coxwell	—	—	4	1
Hatford	—	—	1	1
Kingston Lisle	—	—	2	—
Little Coxwell	—	—	3	—
Littleworth	—	—	1	—
Longcot	—	—	11	2
Longworth	5	7	3	—
Shrivenham	—	—	43	36
Stanford-in-the-Vale	—	—	1	—
Uffington	—	—	8	—
Watchfield	—	—	54	—
Woolstone	—	—	6	—
Totals	22	14	165	67
Totals for 1960	—	30	47	86

RENTS

Maximum rents which are based on the Gross Value for rating purposes range in the case of pre-war houses from 15/7d. to 22/11d., and for post-war houses from 22/0d. to 34/10d. Tenants, however, receive rebates which may amount to 11/8d. for pre-war houses or 19/7d. for post-war houses. These rebates may reduce the rents to minimum figures between 8/0d. and 11/3d. for pre-war houses and between 12/9d. and 15/3d. for post-war houses. All these figures remain the same as they were in 1960.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The following shows the distribution of 40 Caravans (24 less than in 1960) licensed in individual parishes, for varying periods, under the above Act:—

Parish	Site	Caravans	Parish	Site	Caravans
Buckland	1	5	Shrivenham	3	21
Faringdon	4	5	Stanford-in-the-Vale	3	3
Hatford	1	1	Uffington	1	1
Longworth	1	1	Watchfield	2	2
Littleworth	1	1			

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

The Refuse Collection Service was maintained throughout the year with a vehicle of 18 cub. yd. capacity and a team of four men. Refuse is collected from the kerbside, weekly in the parish of Faringdon and fortnightly in the remainder of the district.

The quantity to be collected continues to increase and this is noticeable even in the villages where no new development has taken place. As a result it has been necessary for overtime to be worked.

Tipping has continued at Stanford-in-the-Vale, the tip being used also by Wantage R.D.C. for the disposal of approximately half the refuse collected from their district.

Proposals to purchase a 'Tracked Dozer/Loader' which were approved at the beginning of the year were postponed for eighteen months, and meanwhile refuse on the tip has been handled by a Bray Shovel. Only part-time labour has been employed on tip dressing, but it is becoming apparent that this will have to be reviewed in the near future.

A certain amount of Waste Paper was salvaged during the year, the receipts amounted to £96 10s. 0d. compared with £113 1s. 0d. during 1960.

WATER

Quantity

Despite drought conditions during early summer there was no shortage of water and no restrictions were imposed on the use of water.

New Connections

The number of new connections made to water mains during the year was 86.

Piped Water Supplies

With the extension of the water mains to Woolstone in 1960 there remained no village in the Rural District without public piped water supplies. The scheme to extend the supply to the Downs, completing the circuit to Woolstone, remains under consideration.

DETAILS OF DWELLINGS RECEIVING WATER FROM PIPED SUPPLIES EITHER PUBLIC MAIN OR OTHER SOURCE

Parish	Dwellings	Inside the House	Standpipes
Ashbury	172	165	5
Baulking	39	39	—
Bourton	82	81	1
Buckland	184	183	—
Buscot	71	68	6
Charney Bassett	71	71	—
Coleshill	74	70	4
Compton Beauchamp	36	36	—
Eaton Hastings	35	31	4
Faringdon	1085	1079	4
Fernham	57	53	4
Great Coxwell	83	82	—
Hatford	30	27	3
Hinton Waldrist	80	79	13
Kington Lisle	77	76	1
Little Coxwell	70	66	4
Littleworth	78	77	—
Longcot	106	103	3
Longworth	221	194	8
Pusey	32	29	3
Shellingford	56	56	—
Shrivenham	505	505	—
Stanford-in-the-Vale	292	267	20
Uffington	193	183	10
Watchfield	502	502	—
Woolstone	46	36	10
Totals	4277 (4090)	4158 (3936)	103 (108)

Routine sampling of all piped supplies was carried out during the year and the highly satisfactory results of the bacteriological examinations are shown in the following table. Where supplies are chlorinated all samples were taken after such treatment.

Supply	No. of Samples	Ministry of Health's Grading			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Ashdown Park	15	15	—	—	—
Folly Hill	14	14	—	—	—
Thames Valley Water Board	6	6	—	—	—
Totals	35	35	—	—	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewerage schemes for both Longcot and Great Coxwell were well advanced and are now in operation.

The village schemes for Stanford-in-the-Vale and Buscot both received Ministry approval and work at Stanford-in-the-Vale is well under way.

An Inquiry into the village scheme of Watchfield and the acquisition by the Council of the W.D. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works at Shrivenham was the subject of a Ministry Inquiry in December, and it is hoped that these works will be acquired by the Council.

Further schemes for Buckland and Longworth were well advanced during the year. These are to be followed by schemes for the villages of Coleshill and Charney Bassett and the re-sewering of Faringdon.

MILK

(1) *Milk and Dairies Regulations*

Two Dairies and seven distributors are registered in the district.

(2) *Milk (Special Designation) Regulations*

Nine Dealers were licensed to retail designated milk, there being eight 'Dealer's (Pre-packed)' Licenses and one 'Dealer's (Pasteuriser's)' License—all expiring on 31st December, 1965.

MEAT

There is one small privately owned Slaughterhouse in Faringdon where cattle and sheep are slaughtered for local retail trade.

The owners carried out the necessary works so as to make the premises comply with the 'Construction Regulations'. The appointed day for this district was 1st April, 1961.

The following is a list of carcasses inspected and meat found to be unfit for human consumption:—

	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs
No. Inspected	114	101	30	952
All diseases except T.B.:				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	10	3	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than T.B.	8.77	2.97	—	0.52
Tuberculosis only:	No meat was found infected with T.B.			

OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption.

53 lbs. Imported Rump and Loin	12 lbs. Beef (Salted)
42 lbs. Coley Fillets	9 lbs. Pork Griskin (Salted)
37 lbs. Gammon Hams	6 lbs. Corned Beef
18 lbs. Cured Smoked Haddock	

FOOD PREMISES

The following list shows the number of food premises in the district set out in accordance with the type of business carried on. The majority of the shops are of the small village general stores type, staffed by the proprietor and members of his family.

Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	51
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	...	46
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	10
Butchers	...	...	...	...	8
Cafes	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Frying Establishments	...	...	...	...	2
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	1

Forty-five of these premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and 1 for the manufacture of this product.

Two of the Butchers' Shops and 2 of the Grocers are registered for the sale and manufacture of preserved food.

The general standard of hygiene was found to be satisfactory. Details of inspections made at the various types of premises are set out in the table at the end of this report.

HOUSING

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Closing Orders Determined	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	2

One undertaking was accepted not to re-let until the Council are satisfied that the house has been rendered fit for human habitation.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Eight applications for discretionary improvement grants under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, were approved by the Council. Altogether work under the scheme was completed to 22 properties during the year.

It should be noted, however, that because of the national economic situation the Council suspended Improvement Grants with effect from September, 1961.

Thirty-five applications for Standard Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, were approved and work under the scheme was completed to 17 properties during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Control service continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. The Council employ a Rodent Operator, who, while he carries out certain other duties in the Public Health Department, is primarily employed on Rodent Control Work.

During the year treatments for rats and mice were carried out at 301 Domestic Premises and 108 Agricultural and Business Premises.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959

Premises	<i>Inspections</i>		No. of written Notices	Pros-secutions
	No. on Register	Inspections made		
Factories without mechanical power	6	1	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	42	22	—	—
Total	48	23	—	—

Cases in which defects were found — Nil

There was one outworker in the district employed on manufacture of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING THE YEAR 1961

Number of Visits made	1243
" " Complaints received	58
" " Defects or nuisances discovered	23
" " Notices served (Informal)	11
" " Notices served (Statutory)	Nil
" " Prosecutions	Nil

Miscellaneous matters in relation to which visits were made:—

Council House Applications	201
Refuse Disposal	189
Refuse Collection	91
Petroleum Storage	86
Sewerage	84
Slaughterhouses	78
Rodent Control	64
Number of Water Samples taken for examination	54
Other Food Premises	47
Caravans, etc.	36
Housing Act	36
Improvement Grants	35
Cafes and Inns	31
Water Supplies	30
Butchers' Shops	27
Factories and Workplaces	23
Schools	16
Mortuary	13
Nuisances	10
Bakehouses	10
Food Stalls and Vehicles	10
Shops (Other than Food)	10
Dairies	9
Milk Supplies	8
Unclean Houses	7
Miscellaneous Visits	29

