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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Housing Manager

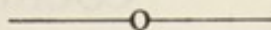
for the year

1965





# ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



## *Chairman of Council*

Councillor J. Bolton

## *Vice-Chairman of Council*

Councillor (Mrs.) C. Harckham

## **Public Health Committee**

### *Chairman*

Councillor B. P. C. Hamblin

### *Members as at 31/12/65*

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Councillor J. Bolton | Councillor (Mrs.) C. Harckham |
| „ (Mrs.) M. E. Beard | „ F. G. T. Beadle             |
| „ R. A. Carr         | „ W. R. Self                  |
| „ M. G. Warren       |                               |

### *Representatives on the Joint Slaughterhouse Committee*

Councillors (Mrs.) M. E. Beard, R. A. Carr, B. P. C. Hamblin  
and (Mrs.) C. Harckham

### *Representatives on the Alton (No. 7)*

### *District Health Sub-Committee*

Councillors Mrs. M. M. Brockes and Mrs. C. Harckham

## **Staff**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Medical Officer of Health:</i>                              | I. H. C. Morton, M.B., Ch.B.,<br>D.P.H., D.Obst. |
| <i>Chief Public Health Inspector<br/>and Housing Manager :</i> | D. M. Ling, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.,<br>M.A.P.H.I.    |
| <i>Additional Public Health<br/>Inspector:</i>                 | A. G. Merriman, M.A.P.H.I.                       |
| <i>Clerical Assistant:</i>                                     | J. J. McCarthy                                   |
| <i>Rodent Operator:</i>  | H. Thompson (Retired 7.5.65)<br>J. B. Potts      |
| <i>Aged Persons' Warden:</i>                                   | Mrs. D. Gray (Retired 29.11.65)                  |



ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
HIGH STREET, ALTON, HANTS.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for 1965, prepared according to the requirements of the Minister of Health.

Dr. A. G. Farr resigned as Medical Officer of Health and I took up the post in May.

The year has been remarkable for its lack of major events of Health importance and a low incidence of infectious disease.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness during my first year with this Council and also to Mr. Ling and the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support and help.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

I. H. C. MORTON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## **Part 1**

### **General**

There has been further progress with building on the Anstey Manor estate and the thousandth house to be built by the Council was given a ceremonial opening.

A scheme to increase the present provision for Old People's housing by building a further enclave of bungalows and wardens quarters was dropped because a survey of the town showed that there was insufficient demand for such accommodation. There is, however, scope for a residential home for the completely dependent.

Plans for the building of the new sewage disposal works are progressing slowly.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 9,820, an increase of 220 on 1964. This is much less than the increase of 390 estimated in 1964 and a good deal of much needed re-building of the town is delayed because the population is not sufficient to attract commercial enterprise. This in its turn depends on the introduction of industry or other employment to attract a bigger population.

There were no deaths of infants under one year old—a matter for congratulation to all concerned with the Ante-natal, Maternity or Child Welfare Services.

### **Infectious Diseases**

There were very few cases of notifiable infectious disease.

Fifteen cases of Measles were notified in late March and early April.

There was an outbreak of infectious vomiting in the schools during the Autumn term. In one school it was checked with remarkable success by a vigorous fresh-air regime introduced by the Headmaster.

Only one case of Food poisoning occurred.

### **Tuberculosis**

No new cases were notified during the year.

### **Venereal Diseases**

Only one case of Gonorrhoea has been reported and two of non-specific urethritis. I fear that these low figures must be treated with reserve.



## Infectious Diseases notified during the past five years

|                       | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever         | 1    | -    | -    | -    | 1    |
| Whooping Cough        | 1    | -    | 5    | 3    | -    |
| Measles               | 123  | 1    | 24   | 192  | 19   |
| Pneumonia             | 5    | 1    | 6    | -    | -    |
| Food Poisoning        | -    | 2    | -    | -    | -    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia     | -    | -    | -    | 3    | 2    |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    |

### Immunisation

The scheme remains unchanged.

Triple immunisation (against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus) and Poliomyelitis immunisation are given normally before the age of one; Smallpox vaccination between one and two; Diphtheria-Tetanus boosts at five to ten; Poliomyelitis boost at five and B.C.G. at thirteen.

The following tables are compiled from records received from local General Practitioners and Clinics of immunisations performed during 1965 :-

#### (1) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

| Date of Birth       | Diphtheria |       | Whooping Cough |       | Tetanus |       |
|---------------------|------------|-------|----------------|-------|---------|-------|
|                     | Prim.      | Bstr. | Prim.          | Bstr. | Prim.   | Bstr. |
| 1965 ... ..         | 51         | -     | 51             | -     | 51      | -     |
| 1964 ... ..         | 93         | 3     | 92             | 3     | 92      | 3     |
| 1963 ... ..         | 15         | 5     | 14             | 5     | 14      | 5     |
| 1962 ... ..         | 2          | 1     | 2              | 1     | 2       | 1     |
| 1958-61 ... ..      | 4          | 103   | 1              | 23    | 4       | 84    |
| Others under 16 ... | 1          | 82    | 1              | 7     | 1       | 23    |
| Totals ...          | 166        | 194   | 161            | 39    | 164     | 116   |

#### (2) Poliomyelitis

| Date of Birth       | ORAL          |                   | SALK          |                   |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                     | Primary Doses | Reinforcing Doses | Primary Doses | Reinforcing Doses |
| 1965 ... ..         | 18            | -                 | -             | -                 |
| 1964 ... ..         | 90            | -                 | 1             | -                 |
| 1963 ... ..         | 26            | 1                 | 2             | -                 |
| 1962 ... ..         | 7             | -                 | -             | -                 |
| 1958-61 ... ..      | 9             | 139               | 1             | -                 |
| Others under 16 ... | 1             | 15                | -             | -                 |
| Totals ...          | 151           | 155               | 4             | -                 |



### **(3) Smallpox**

|  |        |     |
|--|--------|-----|
| Primary Vaccination of children under two  | ...    | 108 |
| Primary Vaccination of children other ages | ...    | 18  |
| Re-Vaccination—all ages                    | ... .. | 29  |

### **(4) Tuberculosis (B.C.G.)**

No B.C.G. Vaccination was done during the year.

### **Immunisation State of the Town**

All babies born in 1965 would obviously not have finished their courses of immunisation by 31st December but those born in 1964 should have received their Triple Antigen and Poliomyelitis by then.

There were 178 births in the urban district in 1964. By 31st December, 1965, 174 children of 1964 had been immunised against Diphtheria (either alone or with a combination of Antigen). Allowing for some moves of families into or out of the town, this is a very satisfactory proportion. Only 106 had completed their Poliomyelitis course. (Since 31st December, 1965, 19 more cards have been received).

As 28 children of 1963 and 7 of 1962 received their primary Poliomyelitis vaccinations in 1965, it is evident that there is a considerable delay in this programme.

### **Water Supply**

Is from the Mid-Wessex Water Company and is satisfactory. Natural fluoride is less than one part per million and although the Urban District Council has endorsed artificial fluoridation, opposition from elsewhere has prevented its introduction.

### **Sewerage**

Plans for the new works have been prepared. Negotiations on land acquisition and other questions are in progress.

### **Swimming Bath**

The bath had a very successful season. Samples of the water showed a good standard of purity and no incidents were reported suggesting any transmissions of infection.

### **The Elderly**

A Meals on Wheels service was started by the W.V.S. during the year to supply two cooked meals per week at a charge of 1s. 6d. per meal. 1,943 meals were served.

As well as supplying meals, this service provides a very useful regular contact with the recipients and ensures that other needs are brought to notice when they arise.

The Warden accomodation remained full but a survey



designed to support the building of a second group of bungalows failed to reveal enough suitable applicants.

### **Road Accidents**

The A31 road traverses the town and at peak hours in the holiday season traffic is very heavy.

There was only one fatal accident during the year but 22 people were seriously injured.

The main causes, for which I am indebted to the Hampshire Constabulary, were all avoidable faults of driving :-

Driving too fast for prevailing conditions.

Overtaking improperly.

Stopping suddenly.

Following too closely.

Turning right carelessly.

**Home Accidents** (The figures are kindly provided by the Records Department of the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital).

There were 170 home accidents which needed hospital attention. Only two patients were under a year old—one fall and one swallowing an object.

There were 32 other accidents to children under five years, most of them due to causes suggesting lack of supervision, falls, cuts, burns and swallowing objects; but, gratifyingly, only one case of swallowing pills.

There were only six patients over 70, four of them, however, had falls of varying severity.

Rusty nails seem to be a notable hazard in the town. 13 people (all ages) trod on them and two more injured their hands.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948**

There were no cases requiring action under this Act.

## **PROVISIONS OF GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

### **Devolution of Functions**

The No. 7 (Alton) District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council covers the Alton Urban and Rural Districts.

### **Ambulance Facilities**

The Ambulance Service is administered by the County Council.

Applications for ambulances are made as under :-

Weekdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Postal Application

{ To Aldershot  
Ambulance Station  
(Tel. Ald. 22244)



|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Weekdays, 6 p.m.-8 a.m.          | { To Central<br>Ambulance Centre,<br>Winchester.<br>(Tel. 61644). |
| Weekends Saturday-Monday, 8 a.m. |   |
| Public Holidays all day          |   |

### **Child Welfare**

A Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. at the Inwood Health Clinic at the rear of the Assembly Rooms, Alton.

### **Welfare Foods**

Foods are distributed at the Inwood Clinic on :-

Tuesdays 2-4 p.m.

Fridays 3-4.15 p.m.

Owing to lack of demand the Friday session may be stopped.

### **Ante-Natal**

A clinic is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at Alton General Hospital.

A Relaxation Class is held at the Inwood Clinic every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.

### **Health Visiting**

The Health Visitors for Alton are :-

Mrs. J. E. Morrow, 13 Whitedown, Alton.

Tel. Alton 2097.

Miss D. McKenzie, c/o East Worldham Manor.

Tel. East Worldham 3191.

They are based at the Inwood Clinic.

### **Midwifery and Home Nursing**

The Nurse Midwives for Alton are :-

Mrs. M. A. Staples, S.R.N.,  
 S.C.M., 1 Pond Cottages,  
 Chawton.

Tel. Alton 2379.

Attached to the practice of  
 the Drs. Larcombe and  
 Shortt.

Miss E. J. Howton, S.R.N.,  
 S.C.M., Q.M., 14 Elm-  
 wood Close, Alton.

Tel. Alton 3165.

Available for all other duties  
 in Alton Town.

### **Home Help Service**

Home helps are available for the following types of care :-

When the housewife is sick.

When a new baby is expected.

When several members of the household are sick.

For the elderly and infirm.



Application is made to the Divisional Organiser at the Town Hall, Petersfield (Tel. Petersfield 771) accompanied by a medical certificate.

During the year, nine Home Helps were employed.

36 new cases were taken on—10 maternity, 18 elderly and eight others.

32 cases were removed from the list.

### **Laboratory Service**

Bacteriological examinations of clinical material, water, milk and food are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

Chemical analyses of water, milk, sewage etc., are done by arrangement with the Public Analyst, Southampton.

I would like to thank the respective Directors for their ready advice and assistance.

### **School Health Service**

Clinics are held as follows :-

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Orthopaedic              | Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital   |
| Ear, nose and throat     | Alton General Hospital  |
| Ophthalmic and orthoptic | Alton General Hospital  |
| Audiology                | Health Clinics at Basingstoke,<br>Winchester and Aldershot            |
| Child Guidance           | Health Clinics at Winchester<br>and Aldershot                         |
| Speech Therapy           | Inwood Clinic, Alton (In abeyance due to resignation of<br>Therapist) |
| Dental                   | At schools and at Dental Treatment Clinic, Alton.                     |

### **Tuberculosis**

Clinics are held at Aldershot, Basingstoke and Winchester.

### **Mass X-ray**

Regular visits are made by the Southampton Mass X-ray Unit.

### **Venereal Diseases**

Clinics are held at Aldershot and Winchester.

### **Area Welfare Officer**

Mr. W. Pepper, 14 King George Avenue, Petersfield (Tel. Petersfield 1199) and 94 Normandy Street, Alton (Tel. Alton 3853).

### **Area Mental Welfare Officer**

Mr. A. C. Wood, Manor Park House, Aldershot (Tel. Aldershot 20395).

## Part II

### (STATISTICS)

#### General Statistics.

|   |     |     |     |                    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Area in Acres   | ... | ... | ... | 4,085              |
| Rateable value (at 1st April, 1966)                     |     |     |     | £439,019           |
| Sum represented by a 1d. rate (1965-66)                 |     |     |     | £1,775 (estimated) |
| Population (mid 1965)                                   | ... | ... | ... | 9,820              |
| Number of Rateable Dwellings<br>(as at 1st April, 1966) |     |     | ... | 3,146              |

#### Medical Statistics.

##### Live Births

|  |     |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 181  |
| Rate per 1,000 population  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18.4 |
| „ adjusted by Registrar-General's<br>comparability factor (0.97) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17.9 |
| Rate for England and Wales                                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18.0 |
| Illegitimate as a percentage of total                            |     |     |     |     | 7.2  |

##### Still Births

|                                       |     |     |     |     |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number (all legitimate)               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3    |
| Rate per 1,000 births, live and still |     |     |     |     | 16.3 |

|                                     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Total Births, live and still</b> | ... | ... | ... | ... | 184 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

##### Infant Mortality Rates

There were no deaths of infants under  
1 year of age.

|   |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Perinatal (still births plus deaths<br>under 1 week per 1,000 of all<br>births) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16.3 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|

##### Deaths

|   |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 77   |
| Rate per 1,000 population   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7.84 |
| Rate adjusted by Registrar-General's<br>comparability factor (0.96) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7.5  |
| Rate for England and Wales  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.5 |

##### Maternal Mortality (including abortion).

|        |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|



## Causes of Death.

|    | Diseases                                      | Male | Female | Total |
|----|---|------|--------|-------|
| 1  | Tuberculosis Respiratory ... ..               | 1    | -      | 1     |
| 11 | Malignant neoplasm lung etc. ..               | 6    | 2      | 8     |
| 13 | Malignant neoplasm uterus ..                  | -    | 1      | 1     |
| 14 | Malignant and lymphatic<br>neoplasm—other ... | 4    | 2      | 6     |
| 15 | Leukaemia ... ..                              | -    | 1      | 1     |
| 17 | Vascular lesions of nervous system            | 5    | 11     | 16    |
| 18 | Coronary disease, angina ... ..               | 10   | 7      | 17    |
| 19 | Hypertension with heart disease ...           | 1    | 2      | 3     |
| 20 | Other heart disease ... ..                    | 4    | 4      | 8     |
| 21 | Other circulatory diseases ... ..             | 3    | 1      | 4     |
| 24 | Bronchitis ... ..                             | 3    | -      | 3     |
| 25 | Other respiratory diseases ... ..             | 1    | -      | 1     |
| 27 | Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea            | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| 32 | Other defined and<br>ill-defined diseases ... | 2    | 2      | 4     |
| 33 | Motor Vehicle accidents ... ..                | 1    | -      | 1     |
| 34 | All other accidents ... ..                    | 1    | -      | 1     |
|    | All causes ... ..                             | 43   | 34     | 77    |

## Deaths according to ages.

| Age Groups | Under 1 | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-35 | 35-45 | 45-55 | 55-65 | 65-75 | 75-85 | 85-95 | 95 + |
|------------|---------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Male       | -       | -   | -    | 1     | -     | -     | 6     | 6     | 11    | 10    | 9     | -    |
| Female     | -       | -   | 1    | -     | -     | -     | 1     | 7     | 8     | 6     | 10    | 1    |
| Total      | -       | -   | 1    | 1     | -     | -     | 7     | 13    | 19    | 16    | 19    | 1    |

## Tuberculosis (new cases for the past 5 years).

|               | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pulmonary     |      |      |      |      |      |
| Male          | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Female        | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Non-Pulmonary |      |      |      |      |      |
| Male          | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Female        | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| Total         | 1    | 3    | 0    | 1    | 0    |



## **ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector/Housing Manager for the year ended 31st December, 1965**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1965 on the sanitary circumstances of the district.

The Housing Act, 1964 received serious consideration and a survey of the 'New Town' area was made and will be the subject of more detailed reports for next year, by which time an Improvement Area will be defined and declared and the compulsory possession of bathrooms will commence.

Mr. H. Thompson, Rodent Operator left to emigrate to Australia where he is engaged in a similar occupation.

Mr. Merriman, Additional Public Health Inspector, indicated at the end of the year that he too will be leaving but to go into industry, and the best wishes of the Council go with him in his new venture.

I wish to record my thanks to Dr. Morton, who succeeded Dr. Farr in May, and am grateful for the support of the Staff of the Public Health Department.

DUDLEY M. LING,  
Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.

## **SECTION I**

### **Sanitary Circumstances**

#### **Public Health Acts.**

##### **Complaints.**

The number and nature of complaints received during 1965 varied little from the previous year, but the number of requests for the destruction of rodents and insects increased as greater efforts were made to make the public aware of the facilities being made available by the department.

A greater number of complaints were dealt with in the office concerning condensation and it was a continued source of amazement to find the amount of misunderstanding concerning the cause and cure of this phenomenon and the wild assumptions as to the cause by people who normally think rationally and their reluctance to accept the fact that sometimes the cure is quite simple.

It has been found over the years that this is a growing problem relative to living standards, and whilst the atmosphere in houses is kept warm little is being done to warm the walls of houses, and where insufficient ventilation exists, condensation occurs, quickly followed by the growth of mould.



The use of expanded polystyrene on external walls helps to reduce the condensation of moist warm air and has proved most effective.

For information, I have listed below those complaints recorded and subsequently investigated.

|                            |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Accumulations              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Atmospheric Pollution      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   |
| Dirty Dwellings            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Drainage                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   |
| Food                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10  |
| Noise                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Pests (other than rodents) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16  |
| Rats and Mice              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 89  |
| Sanitary Defects           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15  |
| Smells                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   |
| Total                      |     |     |     |     | 159 |

### **Drainage**

Work progressed on the new sewage works during the year. The need for its completion and operation becomes more pressing as time passes because of the overloading of the old works, and the risk of causing pollution to the River Wey.

### **Public Conveniences**

Little progress has been made in improving the temporary facilities set-up for annual events in the town. Once again may I say I think the answer can be found with mobile accommodation and I hope that money will be available to purchase a unit in the not too distant future.

A few complaints were received concerning the permanent conveniences, but in my view the standard is good and in many respects better than the national standard, and the complaints referred to the misuse by the members of the public rather than mismanagement by the Council.

### **Water Supplies**

The Mid-Wessex Water Company continued to supply a high quality water and no complaints were received.

### **Swimming Pool**

The Anstey open air pool had another successful season and the samples taken confirmed the correct functioning of the plant. The possibility of heating the water is now under discussion and if this is carried out it should make the pool even more attractive and for a longer season.

### **Inspections and Notices**

A total of 523 inspections of various kinds were carried out concerning general Sanitary matters. Many letters and informal notices were sent and the work was carried out without statutory



action in most cases. Three statutory notices were served on resistant owners for sanitary defects to houses.

Inspection figures for housing, food and drugs matters, rodent control, etc., appear later in this report.

### **Factories Act**

All the factories on the register were inspected during the year and generally the standard of sanitary accommodation was found to be good. Difficulty was found in some instances where factory and office employees shared the same facilities as the numerical standards applicable to both types of employees differ. It is hoped that the standards for factory employees will soon be brought into line with those for shops and offices.

**Premises, Inspections, Outwork, etc.**—See Appendix, Table 1.

### **Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act**

The number of premises on the register at the end of the year was 179 of which about one third were given general inspections during the year. Standards varied a great deal and conditions were sometimes very poor in older type premises where maintenance and progress had been overlooked. A great deal of work was requested and is slowly being carried out.

One of the more regrettable exemptions to the general provisions of the Act is that which allows shops where perishable foods are retailed to be exempt from the heating requirements. It is ironical to observe a section of shop employees deprived of heating during cold weather to satisfy a trade which operates quite well for 3—4 months of the year with an outside atmospheric temperature well above the statutory requirement of 61° F.

**Premises, Employees, Inspections**—See Appendix, Table 2

**Pet Animals Act, Game Dealers, Metal Dealers**—See Appendix, Table 3.

## **SECTION II**

### **Housing Circumstances**

#### **Housing Acts.**

The slum clearance programme has been completed and in future representations will only be made on individual houses as necessary. Seven houses represented in 1964 were demolished last year and three houses were restored to fitness and undertakings cancelled.—See Appendix, Table 4.

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964 an area of 87 houses was surveyed and it was found 39 were without the standard amenities. They are all capable of being brought up to the full standard at reasonable expense and it has been decided to proceed with compulsory improvement.



## **Rent Acts**

Work continued mainly in an advisory capacity concerning rents, repairs, tenancy agreements and evictions. Fortunately the new Rent Act has clarified the position regarding security of tenure.

One certificate of disrepair was issued under the 1957 Act and the owner chose the rather unusual step of accepting a reduced rent in place of doing the repairs.

## **Moveable Dwellings**

The two licenced caravan sites remained without any addition to the number of vans. The sites are of good standard and were both re-licenced at the end of the year.

No trouble was experienced during the year for unauthorised vans and the annual invasion by hop pickers passed without any problems.

## **Inspections**

A total of 550 inspections of various kinds were carried out concerning housing during the year.

## **Council House Management**

### **Allocations**

The Council continued to afford assistance to industry in the town by allocating 18 dwellings to key workers coming into the area.

Mutual exchanges are permitted and during the year four families from outside the Urban area were transferred in. One council tenant exchanged with a tenant in privately owned accommodation.

All allocations were made by the Housing Selection Committee, being a Sub-Committee of the Housing Committee and composing three Councillors.

## **Repairs**

The Conditions of Tenancy were revised and certain repairs were made the responsibility of tenants as from 5th April, 1965. The Council continued to be responsible for External Painting, Structural Defects, Carcase wiring defects and fencing, whilst the tenants became responsible for all other maintenance and repairs.

The elderly and infirm are exempt from the conditions and in addition every assistance is given to periodical redecoration of dwellings and the cleaning of gardens.

## **Special Housing for aged persons**

The Aged Persons Wardens Area continued to provide a very worth while service, with 21 dwellings under full warden supervision.



## SECTION III

### Supervision of Food and Food Premises

#### Milk

Although no milk is treated in the town all the milk sold is either pasteur or sterilized. There are three distributors and eleven licenced retail shops. No complaints were received during the year.

#### Ice Cream

No problems arose from the sale of ice cream from 49 registered premises, but the standard of the mobile vendors was still far from good.

#### Food Complaints

Only three complaints concerning food were received and one case only resulted in legal action.

(1) **Metal in sausage.** On examination the sausage was found to contain what appeared to be a label tag of the type used on carcase sides of beef. Unfortunately the object had ended up in someone's mouth and the consequences could have been serious.

The complaint was passed on to the Hampshire County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority and in the resulting court proceedings the company, G. Brazil & Co. Ltd., pleaded guilty and were fined £20, plus £7.7.0 costs.

(2) **Suspect Meat** Great alarm was caused when a school kitchen worker had a rash appear on her arms whilst preparing some boneless New Zealand mutton. Further suspicion was placed on the meat by the doctor who attended the woman at the hospital, but normal meat inspection applied to the mutton did not reveal any obvious cause. A chemical sample was taken and the remainder of the meat destroyed. The analyst's result proved no contamination so the rash remained a mystery and was attributed to allergy.

#### Report of the Chief Sampling Officer concerning samples obtained in the Alton Urban District during the year 1965/66

1 During the year ended the 31st March, 1966, 30 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Alton Urban District Council.

2 **Milk Samples.** Twenty samples of milk, eight being of Channel Islands, were procured and all were satisfactory.

3 **Miscellaneous Samples.** Ten samples of articles other than milk were taken, four being unsatisfactory as follows :-



A sample of Lemon Curd was satisfactory with regard to its fat and egg content but included only 48 per cent of soluble solids instead of the minimum of 65 per cent required under the appropriate Food Standards Order. The matter was referred to the manufacturer, who had been packing the product for only a short time and appeared to be genuinely unaware of the Standard. He was operating on a small scale and ceased further production of the Lemon Curd as soon as the complaint was brought to his notice and undertook to have some tests made before he sold any more. In the circumstances, legal action was not considered necessary and the matter was dealt with by a warning.

Following a complaint concerning alleged contamination of the contents of a packet of Porage Oats, analysis confirmed the presence of numerous small live and dead grain beetles. The packet was obviously old stock but it was not discovered where it had been retained beyond its proper shelf life. Inquires were made from the retailer who had sold the offending article, his wholesaler, the manufacturer and another retailer with whom a few packets of the product had been exchanged but it could not be established who was responsible for the seriously contaminated condition of the oats. The retailer, of course, was automatically involved by the fact that he had sold the packet but the particular circumstances hardly seemed to warrant proceedings being taken against him as it was reasonably certain that he had only received the packet a few days before he made the sale. Legal action was not taken in connection with this case but there is no doubt that the inquiries served a useful purpose in helping to ensure that the stock keeping methods employed by the various firms affected were checked in order to avoid any recurrence. No similar complaints involving any of the parties were known but in the event of a repetition, action would doubtless be necessary irrespective of whether or not actual cause could be proved.

A sample of Lime Juice Cordial was the subject of minor complaint in that the label on the bottle depicted oranges whereas these were not present. It is obviously important that, in general, labels of food are not likely to indicate the presence of articles which are not included but, in this particular case, the matter was not of great significance. The query was referred to the manufacturer in order to make sure that the labels used by him were free from complaint.

Proceedings have been instituted in connection with a consumer complaint alleging the presence of a piece of metal in a loaf of bread but the case has not yet been completed. The result will, therefore, be included in the next report.

A further complaint, which did not call for analysis of the article, concerned a sausage which contained a piece of metal—



thought to be a part of a staple. Proceedings were taken against the manufacturer and these resulted in a fine of £20 being imposed, together with £7.7.0. costs.

**4 General.** The usual attention was paid to the labelling and descriptions of food and drugs in accordance with the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act. No complaints of consequence arose within the District.

### **Food Poisoning**

Only one case was notified concerning a woman working at one of the breweries and whose husband worked at a wholesale butchers. The whole family were investigated and specimen taken. The laboratory, however, failed to isolate a causative organism and the case responded to treatment.

### **Food Hygiene**

Some 129 premises, stalls and other traders are covered by the hygiene regulations and a total of 544 inspections (excluding meat inspections) were carried out. Many written and verbal notices were issued but no legal proceedings were necessary.

Details of voluntary surrender of unsound food—See Appendix Table VII.

Details of premises—See Appendix Table VIII.

### **Alton Market**

The five food stalls on the market remained constant throughout the year without change of occupiers. With the exception of one greengrocer the standard was good. The one exception had to be constantly reminded of his responsibilities concerning food quality, cleanliness and disposal of waste. At one time it was necessary to report his smoking offences to the Council and it decided not to prosecute, but a written warning was given and notice of immediate suspension from the market for one month if the regulations were contravened again. Since that time an improvement has taken place.

The sale of poultry, rabbits and game continued in the auction room and by persistent condemnation of poor quality and diseased specimen the standard has greatly improved.

### **Meat Inspection**

The one licenced slaughterhouse in Kent Lane was operational throughout the year and a total of 15,153 animals were slaughtered and inspected.

519 visits were made on meat inspection duties and £620.18.0 was collected in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations.

Licences were issued to eight Slaughtermen, but only two are regularly engaged in the occupation.



Carcases inspected and condemned—See Appendix Table IX  
Diseases for which whole carcases and organs were condemned—See Appendix Table X.

Diseases for which organs and part carcases were condemned—See Appendix Table XI.

## **SECTION IV**

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Atmospheric Pollution.**

There were no problems with black smoke from industrial installations during the year, but occasional complaints regarding volumes of lighter smoke were soon abated following verbal approach to the Companies concerned.

Bonfires continued to cause a good deal of low level pollution especially from the yards of shop premises. Encouragement was given for waste paper and boxes to be collected by a commercial concern whenever possible but the collections became intermittent particularly where the yield was low. Where burning was unavoidable, advice was given on efficient incineration with the aim of quick disposal and the avoidance of smells from smouldering.

Several recent installations were discovered in factories of small heating units, usually oil fired, under half million B.T.U.S. per hour, but with flue outlets of only 15'—20' 0" or so. Notification under the Clean Air Act was insisted upon and an attempt was made to set a minimum chimney height of 30' 0", but where the installation takes place in an existing building no plans are required to be submitted and there is no other legal control over the outlet height because of the size of installation and the type of fuel used. Success was achieved in one new premises where the approval of the plans was held up, but in the older buildings persuasion had no effect. It is regrettable that there is no legal control on these small plants, for on factory estates of the type found in most small towns a good many small installations all discharging SO<sub>2</sub> at low level must surely be as great a health hazard as one very large works over which the law exercises quite stringent control.

An informal approach was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government regarding the possible creating of a smoke control area at Wooteys Farm. This is a 64 acre farm area owned by the Council and about to be developed with houses for sale within the next five years. The Ministry, however, were not anxious for the Council to proceed because of the national policy of dealing with "black areas" first and because the scheme did not form part of a comprehensive plan to cover the whole town. My own view is still that the scheme would have started making the town atmospheric pollution conscious ready for further control and I regret that such an opportunity should pass by.



## Pest Control

Following on from 1964, once again no statutory action was necessary under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949. This was due to the very good co-operation of the owners of property with the Pest Control Officer.

A new Pest Control Officer started work in June, still on a part-time basis, and the improvement started last year was carried even further so as to give a first class and efficient service. The total number of treatments rose to 285 which also shows the public are reporting rodent activity far quicker.

Another 10% treatment of the sewers was carried out in December and the resulting survey gave evidence of two of the older branch systems reasonably infested. They were dealt with.

The total number of visits carried out by the Officer also rose to 1,110 and these included rats, mice, moles, wasps, pigeons, fleas and rabbits. Six visits of an advisory nature were also necessary for flies, spiders and ants, and one where squirrels were suspected in a roof and it was necessary to have a large number of tiles removed to gain entry. The result was unfortunately negative. Rabbits, which are not actually the Council's responsibility but that of the Ministry of Agriculture, are becoming a great nuisance in the Urban Area. At present they are confined, in isolated pockets, to four areas and I am hoping the measures undertaken by the Pest Control Officer and Mr. Liddeard of the Ministry will eradicate them.

Once again Councillor Carr and I attended the North Hants Rodent Control Committee quarterly meetings where many new ideas, including new poisons, were discussed. Our Officer also attended the Officers Annual Conference in Farnborough which was very instructive and enabled frank discussions with the Ministry in many problems.



# APPENDIX

## TABLE I

Factories Act, 1961

### Registered Premises and Inspections.

| Premises<br>(1)  | Number<br>on<br>Register<br>(2) | Number of          |                           |                                |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  |                                 | Inspections<br>(3) | Written<br>Notices<br>(4) | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted<br>(5) |
| (i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities ... ..                   | -                               | -                  | -                         | -                              |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..                    | 45                              | 46                 | 2                         | -                              |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... .. | -                               | -                  | -                         | -                              |
| Total...   | 45                              | 46                 | 2                         | -                              |

### Cases in which Defects were found.

| Particulars<br>(1)  | Number of cases in which defects were found |                 |   |                  | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted<br>(6) |
|---|---|-----------------|---|------------------|--|
|   | Found<br>(2)                                | Remedied<br>(3) | Referred<br>To H.M. By H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(4) | Inspector<br>(5) |  |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..  | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..   | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3)  | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4)  | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..   | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)   |   |                 |   |                  |  |
| (a) Insufficient ... ..   | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective   | 4   | 2               | -   | -                | -  |
| (c) Not separate for sexes  | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... .. | -   | -               | -   | -                | -  |
| Total...  | 4   | 2               | -   | -                | -  |

### Outwork.

| Nature of Work<br>(1) | Section 133  |  |  | Section 134   |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                       | No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c)<br>(2) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council<br>(3) | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists<br>(4) | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises<br>(5) | Notices served<br>(6) | Prosecutions<br>(7) |
| Total...              | -  | -  | -  | -   | -                     | -                   |

**TABLE II**

**Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act**

| Class of Premises                          | No. of prem. regd. during the year | Total no. of regd. prem. at end of year | No. of persons employed | No. of regd. prem. receiving a general inspection during year | No. of visits of all kinds to regd. premises |
|--|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|--|
| Offices                                    | 4                                  | 56                                      | 315                     | 16  | 117  |
| Retail Shops                               | 12                                 | 100                                     | 468                     | 34  |  |
| Wholesale Shops                            |                                    |   |                         |   |  |
| Warehouses                                 | 1                                  | 9                                       | 16                      | 2   |  |
| Catering Establishments open to the public |                                    |   |                         |   |  |
| Canteens                                   | nil                                | 13                                      | 85                      | 9   |  |
| Fuel Storage Depots                        | nil                                | 1                                       | 1                       | nil   |  |
| <b>Totals</b>                              | <b>17</b>                          | <b>179</b>                              | <b>885</b>              | <b>61</b>   |  |

**TABLE III**

**Pet Animals Act, 1951**

**Licence Holders, 1965.**

|                                  |     |                    |
|----------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| M. A. Rose & Son (Farnham), Ltd. | ... | 23, Market Street. |
| Messrs. Martin & Stratford       | ... | Alton Market.      |

**Local Government Act, 1894**

**Game Dealers Licence Holders, 1965**

|                            |     |  |
|----------------------------|-----|--|
| Mr. W. W. Saint            | ... | Highmead Bungalow,<br>Old Odiham Road. |
| Messrs. Martin & Stratford | ... | Alton Market.                          |
| Messrs. P. L. Mortara      | ... | 64, High Street.                       |
| Mr. K. Reed                | ... | 4, Normandy Street.                    |
| Mr. G. Ware                | ... | 29, Market Street.                     |
| Joyce & Lucas Ltd.         | ... | 110, High Street.                      |
|                            | ... | 13, High Street.                       |
| Mr. W. Morgan              | ... | 18/20 Market Street.                   |

**Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964**

**Registered Metal Dealers Premises.**

|              |     |                                 |
|--------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| Mr. F. Lee   | ... | Mill Lane.                      |
| Mr. H. Davis | ... | Mount Pleasant Road.            |
| Mr. C. Gale  | ... | 1, Cut Pound,<br>Tanhouse Lane. |



**TABLE IV****Housing Acts.**

|   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| Unfit Houses Demolished                     |       |   |
| Mount Pleasant Road 66-77 (incl.)           |       | 7 |
| Houses on which undertakings were cancelled |       |   |
| Church Street                               | 39    | 1 |
| Cut Pound                                   | 1 & 2 | 2 |
| Cut Pound                                   | 3 & 4 | 2 |

**TABLE V****Council Dwellings Allocation.**

| Allocations             |    | Source of Accommodation |    |
|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| From Waiting List       | 32 | New Dwellings           | 32 |
| For Key Workers         | 18 | Vacancies               | 21 |
| For Staff               | 3  | Tenancy Transfers and   |    |
| Exchanges and Transfers | 35 | Exchanges               | 35 |
| Total                   | 88 | Total                   | 88 |

**TABLE VI****Council Garage Allocation—106****TABLE VII****Voluntary Surrender of Unsound Food.**

|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |          |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|
| Meat (other than at Slaughterhouse) |  |  |  |  |  | 114 lbs. |
| Bacon                               |  |  |  |  |  | 7 lbs.   |
| Turkeys                             |  |  |  |  |  | 11       |
| Chickens                            |  |  |  |  |  | 117      |
| Rabbits                             |  |  |  |  |  | 20       |
| Ducks                               |  |  |  |  |  | 3        |
| Fish                                |  |  |  |  |  | 146 lbs. |
| Frozen Foods                        |  |  |  |  |  | 247 pks. |
| Cream                               |  |  |  |  |  | 1 ctn.   |
| Canned Food                         |  |  |  |  |  | 391 lbs. |



**TABLE VIII**

**Food Premises.**

|                  |    |                  |    |                  |   |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|---|
| Caterers ...     | 13 | Canteens ...     | 2  | Egg Stations ... | 1 |
| Butchers ...     | 11 | School Canteens  | 6  | Market Stalls    | 5 |
| Fishmongers ...  | 3  | Breweries ...    | 3  | Food Auction     |   |
| Grocers ...      | 29 | Hotels ...       | 7  | Rooms ...        | 1 |
| Greengrocers ... | 10 | Public Houses    | 13 | Confectioners    | 7 |
| Bakehouses ...   | 2  | Off Licences ... | 5  | Chemists ...     | 3 |
| Breadshops ...   | 3  | Slaughterhouses  | 1  | Mobile Traders   | 4 |

**TABLE IX**

**Animal Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.**

|   | Cattle | Calves | Sheep | Pigs  |
|---|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Number Killed and Inspected ...   | 1413   | 702    | 5672  | 7366  |
| <b>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci :</b>  |        |        |       |       |
| Whole carcase condemned ...   | 6      | 9      | 5     | 48    |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...                                      | 305    | -      | 218   | 497   |
| Percentage of the number inspected infected with diseases other than T.B. or Cysticerci ... | 22.0%  | 1.28%  | 3.9%  | 7.4%  |
| <b>Tuberculosis only :</b>  |        |        |       |       |
| Whole carcasses condemned ...   | -      | -      | -     | -     |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...                                      | -      | -      | -     | 42    |
| Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B. ...                                   | -      | -      | -     | 0.57% |
| <b>Cysticercosis :</b>  |        |        |       |       |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...                                      | 6      | -      | -     | -     |
| Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration ...                                       | 3      | -      | -     | -     |
| Generalised and totally condemned ...   | -      | -      | -     | -     |



TABLE X

**Animal Diseases for which Whole Carcasses and Organs were  
Condemned.**

| Disease             | Cattle | Calves | Sheep | Pigs | Total |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|-------|
| Anaemia ...         | -      | -      | -     | 4    | 4     |
| Abscesses ...       | -      | -      | -     | 2    | 2     |
| Emaciation ...      | 2      | -      | 2     | 2    | 6     |
| Fever ...           | 1      | -      | 1     | 2    | 4     |
| Injury ...          | 2      | -      | -     | 5    | 7     |
| Oedema ...          | -      | 1      | 2     | 7    | 10    |
| Pyæmia ...          | -      | 2      | -     | 16   | 18    |
| Septicæmia ...      | 1      | 5      | -     | 8    | 14    |
| Septic Pleuresy ... | -      | 1      | -     | -    | 1     |
| Uraemia ...         | -      | -      | -     | 2    | 2     |
|                     | 6      | 9      | 5     | 48   | 68    |

TABLE XI

**Animal Diseases for which Organs and Part Carcasses were  
Condemned.**

| Disease                  | Cattle | Calves | Sheep | Pigs | Total |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|-------|
| <b>Heads :</b>           |        |        |       |      |       |
| Actino Bacillosis ...    | 6      | -      | -     | -    | 6     |
| Abscess ...              | 2      | -      | -     | 29   | 31    |
| Tuberculosis ...         | -      | -      | -     | 42   | 42    |
| <b>Lungs :</b>           |        |        |       |      |       |
| Abscesses ...            | 7      | -      | -     | -    | 7     |
| Ascarides ...            | -      | -      | -     | 115  | 115   |
| Congestion ...           | 1      | -      | -     | 7    | 8     |
| Emphysema ...            | 2      | -      | -     | 2    | 4     |
| Pleuresy ...             | 3      | -      | 2     | 156  | 161   |
| Pneumonia ...            | 7      | -      | -     | 67   | 74    |
| Strongylus rufescens ... | -      | -      | 83    | -    | 83    |
| <b>Hearts :</b>          |        |        |       |      |       |
| Cysticercosis ...        | 6      | -      | -     | -    | 6     |
| Pericarditis ...         | 11     | -      | 6     | 159  | 176   |
| <b>Livers :</b>          |        |        |       |      |       |
| Abscesses ...            | 60     | -      | -     | -    | 60    |
| Ascarides ...            | -      | -      | -     | 323  | 323   |
| B. Necrosis ...          | -      | -      | 36    | -    | 36    |
| C. Angioma ...           | 65     | -      | -     | -    | 65    |
| Distomatosis ...         | 173    | -      | 155   | -    | 328   |
| Fatty Degeneration ...   | 3      | -      | -     | -    | 3     |
| Hydatid Cysts ...        | -      | -      | 10    | -    | 10    |
| Peritonitis ...          | 4      | -      | 6     | 142  | 152   |
| <b>Kidneys :</b>         |        |        |       |      |       |
| Abscesses ...            | 3      | -      | -     | 4    | 7     |
| Nephritis ...            | 2      | -      | -     | 40   | 42    |
| <b>Udders :</b>          |        |        |       |      |       |
| Mastitis ...             | -      | -      | -     | 1    | 1     |
| <b>Part Carcasses :</b>  |        |        |       |      |       |
| Abscesses ...            | 1      | -      | -     | 10   | 11    |
| Arthritis ...            | -      | -      | -     | 21   | 21    |
| Bruising ...             | 5      | -      | -     | 2    | 7     |
| Calloused ...            | 2      | -      | -     | -    | 2     |
| Injury ...               | 8      | -      | 2     | 14   | 24    |







C. Mills & Co., Printers, Alton