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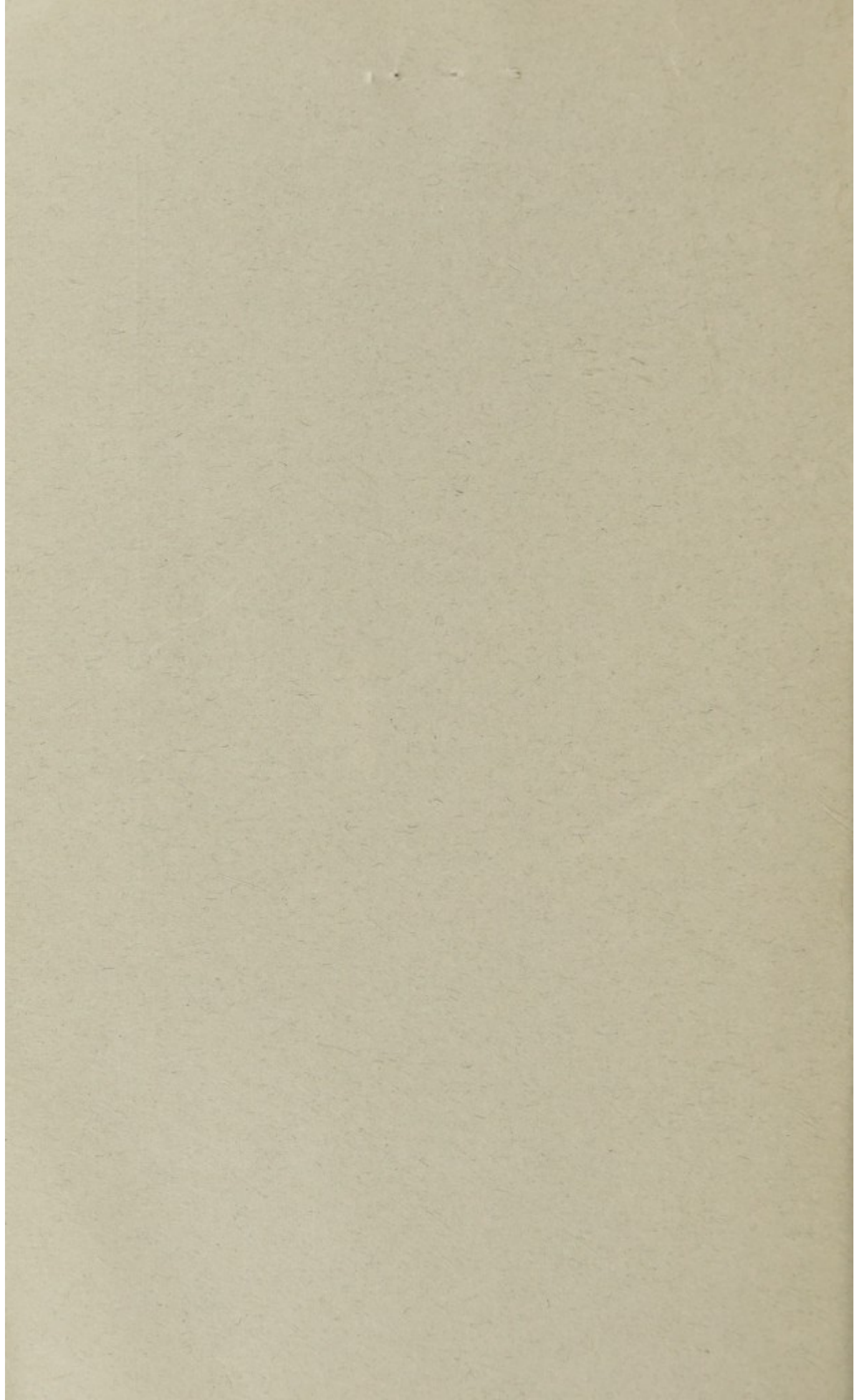
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Rural District Council of Amersham



**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
For the Year 1948

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health





Rural District Council of Amersham

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OF THE  
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T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
AMERSHAM,  
Bucks.  
September, 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Amersham Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948.

During the year the nation's health services have undergone important and widespread changes. On the same day three major Acts came into operation. The "appointed day" for the National Health Service Act, 1946, the National Insurance Act, 1946 and the National Assistance Act, 1948 was the 5th July, 1948. These Acts taken together have made radical alterations in the medico-social field. They have extended and made health insurance compulsory for the adult (16-60) population: they have abolished the remaining vestiges of the old Poor Law, and have transferred the administration of the personal hygiene services and the welfare services to the Councils of the major Local Authorities, such as the County Councils and the County Borough Councils. In the main, however, these Acts have left unimpaired the duties and responsibilities of the Sanitary Authorities in dealing with the environmental factors in public health.

As from the 1st April, 1948 certain changes in the Council's departmental administration became operative. One of these had the effect of creating a separate and independent Public Health Department. As a result Mr. Lloyd who had been the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector and Engineer relinquished the former office, and Mr. Caudery was appointed Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I wish to thank the Officers of the Council for their ready co-operation during the year, particularly Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Caudery for their willing assistance. Finally Sir, may I thank you and your fellow Councillors for their interest in and many kindnesses to this Department.

Your obedient Servant,

T. P. EVANS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

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**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS****Medical Officer of Health**

T. P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor**

Mr. J. T. Lloyd, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
(Relinquished Position of Chief Sanitary Inspector April, 1948).

**Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector**

Mr. F. G. Caudery, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. (Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
(Appointed Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector April, 1948).

**Additional Sanitary Inspectors**

Mr. W. E. Jones, M.R.San.I. (Certified Meat and Food Inspector).

Mr. P. G. Tremain, M.S.I.A. (Certified Meat and Food Inspector).  
(Appointed February, 1948).

**Clerical Staff**

Mr. T. Ball (Chief Clerk).

**Shorthand Typist**

Miss J. B. Hartley.



## A General and Vital Statistics

### 1. Statistics and Vital Statistics

Population	...	...	...	...	40,910
Area (Acres) of District	...	...	...	...	46,233
Number of Inhabitable Houses (per Rate Book)	...	...	...	...	11,033
Rateable Value of Area	...	...	...	...	£317,917
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,185 9s.

Amersham Rural District comprises an area of about 72 square miles. It lies in the South-Eastern portion of the County of Bucks., is situate about 25 miles from London and ranges over two spurs of the Chiltern Hills.

Its characteristic physical features are its well wooded slopes and hills. Its social conditions may be described as those due to agricultural, residential and industrial factors. Until 1939, the increase in population was mainly due to its being a London dormitory, but since then there has been a steady flow of selected light industry into the neighbourhood which has absorbed a high proportion of locally available labour. Its proximity to London has also tended to give rise to the development of several well marked urban-type communities within the rural boundaries.

Despite the recent establishment of selected light industries in the district, several agencies, including the Council itself, have co-operated to preserve large tracts of woodlands for their amenity value. The provisions of the Green Belt Act and similar powers have enabled large areas of the district to be preserved for their amenity value within the Greater London Planning Region.

On the whole therefore it may be said that whilst there is a limit to the possible development, there is increasingly a tendency toward the better balance of the agricultural, industrial and residential factors in the area.

The area of the Amersham Rural District is 46,233 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for 1948 was 40,910.

The number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book at the end of 1948 was 11,033.

The rateable value of all hereditaments in the District on 31st December was £317,917 and the product of a penny rate for the financial year 1948-49 was £1,185 9s.

### 2. Births

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	16.6
Birth Rate: England and Wales	...	...	...	17.9
(a) Live Births:				
Legitimate	...	...	...	649
Illegitimate	...	...	...	31
		Males	Females	Total
		321	328	649
		19	12	31



(b) <i>Still Births:</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ... ..	8	3	11
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1
Still Rate per 1,000 total births—	17.0		
(c) Deaths from Puerperal causes ... ..			Nil
(d) Deaths of Infants under one year of age ... ..			16
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ... ..	6	9	15
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1
Deaths of Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			24.7
<i>Infant Mortality:</i> All Infants per 1,000 live births			26.3
England and Wales per 1,000 related births			34.0

### 3. Deaths

Death rate per 1,000 population ... ..			9.1
Death Rate for England and Wales ... ..			10.8
<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Heart Diseases ... ..	57	68	125
2. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ... ..	7	5	12
3. Bronchitis ... ..	9	3	12
4. Pneumonia ... ..	5	11	16
5. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	2	3
6. Cancer ... ..	35	36	71
7. Diabetes ... ..	—	3	3
8. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	16	32	48
9. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ... ..	3	3	6
10. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	—	2
11. Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	1	1	2
12. Influenza ... ..	1	—	1
13. Appendicitis ... ..	—	2	2
14. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	6	4	10
15. Nephritis ... ..	2	3	5
16. Premature Birth ... ..	2	2	4
17. Congenital malformation, Birth Injury, Infant Diseases ... ..	4	3	7
18. Suicide ... ..	3	2	5
19. Other Violent Causes ... ..	5	4	9
20. All Other Causes ... ..	17	15	32
ALL CAUSES ... ..	176	199	375

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**Birth-Rates, Civilian Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1948.**  
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
<b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—</b>				
Births:				
Live Births	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still „	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths:				
All Causes	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Small Pox	-	-	-	-
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</b>				
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis & diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
<b>Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)</b>				
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

(See also top of page 8)



## Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

	Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per Million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with sepsis	0.11	9
141 Abortion without sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.13	
142-146, 148-150, Other maternal causes	0.73	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population (b) Per 1,000 related births  
(c) In London Puerperal fever alone was 0.61.

**B Health Services***1. Hospital Services*

The Amersham Rural District is situated within the area of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The Board has delegated management responsibilities of hospitals in this area to High Wycombe and District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day to day administration to two "House Committees." One House Committee is responsible for the Amersham General Hospital, the Chesham Hospital and The Stone Maternity Hospital. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital.

*2. Laboratory Facilities*

The Public Health Laboratory Service, organized and administered by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health since 1939, will continue to be administered on a peace time basis on behalf of the Ministry of Health, for an initial period of five years after the appointed day of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of Infectious Disease.

The Regional Public Health Laboratory is situated at Walton Street, Oxford, and in general, undertakes free of charge, the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc.

The chemical examination of water and sewage effluent is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

*3. Ambulance Facilities**(a) Infectious Disease Ambulances*

Each of the four Infectious Disease Hospitals in the County will continue to maintain its own ambulance, and it is proposed that they should be used solely for this type of work.

*(b) Ambulance Services*

The Bucks County Council will provide an ambulance service for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order



of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. One ambulance will be stationed at Amersham.

(c) *Hospital Car Cases*

In addition to the ambulances mentioned above, the County Council will also be responsible for the provision of hospital sitting-case cars.

4. *Midwifery and Home Nursing Service*

NATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA

<i>Districts Served</i>	<i>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurse.</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Amersham Amersham Common Chesham Bois Coleshill Winchmore Hill	Miss B. Bywater, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. Miss M. R. Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 7 First Avenue, Amersham.	Amersham 374
Chalfont St. Giles Seer Green Jordans	Miss M. C. Bott, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Bay Cottage, Chalfont St. Giles. *Miss H. E. Carey, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., c/o Mrs. Throssel, Sorret, Mill Lane, Chalfont St. Giles	Chal. St. G. 413 Chal. St. G. 455
Chalfont St. Peter	*Miss B. E. Turner, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. and *Miss A. E. Stanley, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., "Strathlene", Lower Road, Chalfont St. Peter.	Gerr. X 2559
Lee Common The Lee Chartridge Swan Bottom	Mrs. V. Woodward, S.C.M., Church Cottage, The Lee, Gt. Missenden.	The Lee 213
Ashley Green Whelpley Hill Ley Hill Lye Green Latimer	Miss M. Bly, S.R.N., S.C.M., Nurse's Cottage, Ley Hill, Chesham.	Chesham 238
Holmer Green Penn Street Penn Knotty Green Tylers Green	Miss H. Peck, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 63 Wycombe End, Beaconsfield. (Temp.)	Beaconsfield 824 (Temp.)
Little Missenden Great Missenden Little Kingshill Hyde Heath	Miss F. Parker, S.C.M., Nurse's Cottage Rignall Road, Gt. Missenden.	Gt. Miss. 71



<i>Districts Served</i>	<i>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurse.</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Hawridge St. Leonards Buckland Common Cholesbury	} Mrs. R. Coles, S.C.M., Sandpit Hill, Buckland Com- mon, Tring.	Cholesbury 269
Prestwood Gt. Kingshill Spurlands End Heath End	} *Miss H. M. E. Coulson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Nurse's Cottage, Prestwood, Gt. Missenden.	Gt. Miss. 209

\*These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

#### *Infectious Diseases*

The above District Nurses do not attend infectious cases, those cases that cannot be properly nursed by relatives, or properly isolated, are sent into the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

#### *5. Clinic and Treatment Centres*

There are 13 Infant Welfare Centres—namely at Amersham-on-the-Hill; Whielden Street, Amersham; Chalfont St. Giles; Chalfont St. Peter; Chartridge (Lee Common); Winchmore Hill; Great Missenden; Little Chalfont; Hillside Rd., Chorley Wood; Holmer Green; Tylers Green; Seer Green and Cholesbury.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at most of the above Infant Welfare Centres.

#### *School Clinics*

At Chesham (Germain Street) Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopaedic (not restricted to children of school age). At Chalfont St. Peter, Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose and Throat at the Cottage Hospital.

Patients are also sent to the Orthopaedic Clinics at Aylesbury and at Chesham.

HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT ARE AS  
FOLLOWS :

#### *Hospitals*

*For Non-infectious Diseases :*

(a) Within the District :—

Chalfont St. Peter Cottage Hospital.

Beds 36, Men 10, Women 14, Children 5, Private 7.  
Massage and Electrical treatment are carried out  
and there is a fully equipped X-ray apparatus.

There is also a General Hospital at St. Marys', Whielden Street, Amersham.

(b) Outside the District :—

(i) Chesham Cottage Hospital.

Beds 22, Men 8, Women 7, Children 5, and 2 private  
wards.



There are facilities for X-ray examinations.  
 Massage and Electrical treatment in Chesham.

- (ii) Royal Bucks County Hospital at Aylesbury.
- (iii) The War Memorial Hospital at High Wycombe.

As the District is only about 25 miles from London, patients are frequently sent to one or other of the London Hospitals.

*For Infectious Diseases.* (Other than Small Pox or Tuberculosis)

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

*Tuberculosis.*

The Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common Reading.

The Colony for Epileptics at Chalfont St. Peter is also within the District.

### **C. Infectious Diseases**

#### *1. Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases*

During the year 448 notifications of Infectious Diseases were received.

Thirty-four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. 20 of the patients were removed to Isolation Hospital as conditions at home were unfavourable for isolation. The cases were distributed throughout the district as follows:—

Chalfont St. Peter 12, Little Missenden 5, Amersham 4, Chartridge 4, Great Missenden 3, Seer Green 2, Latimer 2, Cholesbury 1, Penn 1.

One hundred and fifty-eight cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year as compared with 97 the previous year. 5 cases occurred in January, 19 in February, 14 in March, 8 in April, 16 in May, 13 in June, 14 in July, 18 in August, Nil in September, 5 in October, 17 in November and 29 in December. The cases were distributed throughout the district as follows:—

Amersham 36, Great Missenden 27, Chalfont St. Giles 22, Chalfont St. Peter 22, Little Missenden 14, Chesham Bois 9, Penn 8, The Lee 7, Chartridge 5, Seer Green 4, Latimer 2 and Ashley Green 2.

Two hundred cases of Measles were notified during the year as compared with 465 cases during the previous year. There were no deaths from the disease. 2 cases occurred in January, 1 case in February, 6 in March, 82 in April, 76 in May, 8 in June, 4 in July, 3 in August, 1 in September, 4 in October, Nil in November and 13 in December. The cases were distributed throughout the district as follows:—



Chalfont St. Peter 153, Amersham 13, Chalfont St. Giles 9, Seer Green 7, Cholesbury-cum-St.-Leonards 5, Penn, 4 Chesham Bois 3, Jordans 3, Great Missenden 2 and Chartridge 1.

Six cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, 4 cases at Chalfont St. Peter, 1 at Chalfont St. Giles and 1 at Little Missenden.

One case of Polioencephalitis occurred at Chalfont St. Peter and I regret to say that the patient died.

Six cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year, 3 cases occurred at Amersham, 2 cases at Chalfont St. Peter and 1 case at Holmer Green.

Two cases of Paratyphoid Fever, 1 case occurred at Amersham and 1 case at Chalfont St. Peter.

Two cases of Erysipelas, 1 case at Amersham and 1 case at Chalfont St. Peter.

One case of Cerebro Spinal Fever occurred at Amersham and I regret to say that the patient died.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 1 case occurred at Amersham and 1 case at Chalfont St. Peter.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred at Holmer Green.

AGES	MEASLES		WHOOPIING COUGH	
	No. of cases notified	Deaths	No. of cases notified	Deaths
Under 1 year	2		9	
1 year	17		11	
2 years	7		13	
3 years	25		4	
4 years	21		20	
5 years	100		81	
10 years	7		5	
15 years	5		.	
20 years	6		3	
35 years	.		1	
45 years	.		1	
65 years and over	.		.	
TOTALS ..	200		158	

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**  
 Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases and number of cases removed to hospital during the year 1948.

DISEASE	Total Cases at all ages	Cases Notified											Total Cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths.	
		Under 1	Years												
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65			65 and over
Scarlet Fever	34	-	1	2	3	15	9	1	1	1	-	-	-	21	-
Whooping Cough	158	9	11	14	20	81	5	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	200	2	17	25	21	100	7	5	6	-	-	-	-	6	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	6	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	6	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	6	-
Polioencephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS . . . . .	413	12	29	42	45	202	21	8	14	3	6	-	-	40	2



*Tuberculosis*

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

**TUBERCULOSIS**  
*New cases and Mortality during 1948*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
5	1	1	2	3	.	.	.	.
15	.	4	.	1	.	.	.	.
25	4	5	1	.	.	1	.	.
35	2	1	1	1	1	2	.	.
45	3	.	.	.	1	.	1	.
55	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
65 and over	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY  
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948**

**D Sanitary Circumstances of the Area**

The work of the Inspectors during the year was of a general nature, and from the summary of the visits carried out, it will be seen that a considerable portion of the time was spent on housing. It was again necessary to spend a lot of time in connection with maintenance of sub-standard property. The housing situation, although showing some slight improvement, was not such as to enable much progress to be made toward the clearance of those properties in connection with which

demolition orders were served just prior to and during the early part of the war. We shall continue to look forward to the time when more positive action becomes practicable. Owners of cottage property become more and more reluctant to carry out repairs owing to the continuing increase in the cost of labour and materials for which there is no provision for increasing the rents.

The number of moveable dwelling shows no decrease, but very little trouble was experienced in connection with this part of the Department's work.

Overflowing cesspools continue to prove a source of trouble and nuisance, the only remedy for which is the provision of main drainage, particularly to the more densely populated parts of the district which are not already sewered.

Details are given in the report of further extensions of the water mains which have been carried out during the year, and only a few isolated premises are now without this essential service. The Council has, I feel, proudly accepted and discharged its obligations under the provisions of the Water Act, 1945.

#### *Water Supply*

Samples of the water were taken from the public mains of each of the four Statutory Water Undertakings operating in the area, and submitted for chemical analysis, and in each case the report of the Analyst was satisfactory. Copies of four typical analytical reports are given in the appendix to this report.

During the year, the following extensions of the water mains were carried out:—

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Approx. length of extension in yards</i>
Beamond End	Little Missenden	100
Hog Lane, Holmer Green	Little Missenden	390
Penfold Lane, Holmer Green	Little Missenden	270
Keepers Lane, Hyde Heath	Little Missenden	330
Heath End—Spurlands End	Great Missenden	1840
Magpie Lane, Coleshill	Coleshill	90
Fagnall Lane, Winchmore Hill	Coleshill and Penn	300
London Road, Chalfont St. Giles	Chalfont St. Peter	500
Penn Street	Penn	112
The Vale, Chesham	Ashley Green & Cholesbury - cum- St. Leonards	3350
Jasons Hill, Ley Hill	Latimer	500



All the above extensions were carried out at the Council's expense and the method of payment was by means of a non-returnable contribution. The total cost to the Council amounted to £5,496 1s. 1d.

Approximately 50 houses were connected to the main along the routes of the above extensions.

Negotiations were also commenced for an extension of 243 yards at Ramscoat Lane, Bellingdon, in the Parish of Chart-ride.

Thirty-two samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination, as follows:—

<i>Source of Supply</i>		
<i>Rainwater</i>	<i>Bore</i>	<i>Public Mains</i>
21	6	5

The reports of the Bacteriologist on thirteen of the samples were satisfactory, and the reports on the other nineteen cases indicated contamination in varying degrees. Appropriate action was taken in these cases, including the service of ten Statutory Notices.

During the year eleven Statutory Notices to provide a piped supply of water, were complied with, four of which were outstanding at 31st December, 1947.

The owner of five cottages failed to comply with a notice to provide a supply of water in pipes, and the Council exercised its powers of carrying out the work, and an amount equivalent to £20 per cottage was recovered from the owner.

#### *Sanitary Inspections of the Area*

The following is a summary of Sanitary Inspector's visits during the year:—

<i>Nature of Inspection or Visit</i>	<i>No.</i>
<b>GENERAL SANITATION</b>	
Water Supply (including sampling) ... ..	210
Drainage ... ..	233
Stables and Piggeries ... ..	25
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	86
Factories ... ..	54
Refuse Collection: Refuse Disposal ... ..	5
Public Conveniences ... ..	2
Theatres and Places of Entertainment ... ..	1
Schools ... ..	3
Sewage Disposal ... ..	2
Miscellaneous ... ..	256
<i>Informal Notices</i>	<i>Statutory Notices</i>
<i>Served 95</i>	<i>Served 7</i>
<i>Complied with 85</i>	<i>Complied with 8</i>
	<i>(including one served in 1947)</i>



## HOUSING

No. of Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ...	144
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ..	357
No. of Houses inspected under Housing Acts ... ..	124
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ..	132
No. of Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	5
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ..	4
No. of Houses inspected for Vermin ... ..	9
Re-visits paid to above Houses ... ..	17
Visits in connection with Rural Housing Survey ...	233
Miscellaneous ... ..	234

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease ... ..	52
Visits re Disinfection ... ..	46
Miscellaneous ... ..	20

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Meat Inspection Visits to Slaughterhouses ... ..	230
<i>Visits to:—</i>	
Butchers ... ..	91
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	2
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..	15
Grocers ... ..	59
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ... ..	1
Cowsheds ... ..	184
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	21
Ice-cream premises ... ..	15
Food Preparing premises ... ..	20
Restaurants ... ..	4
Bakehouses ... ..	5
Visits in connection with Milk sampling ... ..	17
Miscellaneous Food visits ... ..	54

## GAME ACT, 1931

No. of Game Licences renewed ... ..	8
No. of Game Licences issued ... ..	3

## PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936

No. of Licences renewed ... ..	90
No. of New Licences issued ... ..	6
No. of Licences transferred ... ..	2
No. of Visits made ... ..	12

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

No. of Factories on register at end of year ... ..	122
No. of visits and inspections ... ..	48
No. of defects found ... ..	7
No. of defects remedied ... ..	5



## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

No. of Slaughterman's Licences renewed	...	...	0
No. of new Licences issued	...	...	3

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

No. of premises visited	...	...	...	3751
No. of premises treated	...	...	...	260
No. of rats picked up from poisoning	...	...	...	697

## PUBLIC CLEANSING AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The services have been reasonably maintained throughout the year and the position is improving as regards plant and labour. Two new Cesspool Emptying Vehicles are on order and are to be delivered early in the New Year.

During the year, one new Cesspool Emptying vehicle was delivered and one new Refuse Collection vehicle, making a total of eight Cesspool Emptying vehicles and six Refuse Collection vehicles in operation. Two further Refuse Collection vehicles are on order and when these are delivered it will enable the period between refuse collections, which is at present fortnightly, to be considerably shortened.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year, twenty-six houses were connected to the sewer in the Parishes of Amersham, Chesham Bois and Little Missenden.

The only parts of the district which at present have a main drainage system are Amersham, Chesham Bois, Great Missenden and Little Missenden. The remainder of the district depends upon cesspool drainage.

Samples of Sewage Effluent were taken periodically for analysis.

**E Inspection and Supervision of Food***Milk Supply*

The number of cowkeepers and wholesale producers of milk on the register at 31st December, 1948 was 157 and the number of retail purveyors of milk on the register at 31st December, 1948 was 60.

The Inspectors were not quite so active in this branch of the Department's work, but a considerable number of visits were made to cowsheds where, over a period, it has been found that the methods have not been as good as we desire. No serious contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order were found, but we have continued to give advice where it was considered necessary or desirable in the interests of the milk consumer.

In the case of two farms, notices were served under the Milk



and Dairies Order, 1926, requiring the provision of a sufficient and suitable supply of wholesome water.

Nineteen samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, as follows:—

<i>Heat Treated</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)</i>	<i>Ungraded</i>
1	6	1	11

Of these, eighteen were satisfactory and one sample of the ungraded milk was considered unsatisfactory.

Twelve samples of ungraded milk were submitted to the Whey Agglutination Test for the isolation of *Brucella Abortus* in connection with a suspected case of Undulant Fever.

#### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 and 1946

During the year twenty-two licences were issued under the above Orders, as follows:—

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Dealer's Bottling Licence</i>	<i>Dealer's Retail- ing Licence</i>	<i>Supplementary Licence</i>
Tuberculin Tested	2	13	3
Pasteurised ...	—	2	2

Twenty-one of the above licences were renewals and one was a new licence.

At the end of the year, there were sixty-two licensed producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk and ten licensed producers of Accredited milk. These licences are, of course, issued by the County Council and that authority is responsible for ascertaining that the conditions of the licences are being complied with.

#### **E Inspection of Meat and Other Foods**

The main activity of the Department in connection with the inspection of meat, was the regular and systematic inspection of pig carcasses at the Prestwood Slaughterhouse. It will be seen from the table below that a total of 9,770 pigs were slaughtered during the year, and the total amount of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouse was 3 tons 17 cwt. 0 qtrs. 16 lb.

In addition to the above, a considerable number of pig carcasses were inspected at premises other than the slaughterhouse, and although these were not intended for sale for human consumption, it has been the practice of the Department to invite the owners to give us an opportunity of inspecting them. A small amount of diseased and unfit food was found in connection with these visits to private premises, and the advice which is given to the owner of the carcass regarding the disposal of diseased meat, is invariably acted upon. The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected at the Prestwood Slaughterhouse, and the number of carcasses or parts thereof condemned:





Shredded Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Wheat Flakes	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Dried Egg	...	...	...	...	...	3	”
Pickled Cabbage	...	...	...	...	...	17	jars
Pickled Gherkins	...	...	...	...	...	9	”
Pickled Cucumber	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Pickled Onions	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Mixed Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	80	”
Spanish Olives	...	...	...	...	...	3	”
Honey	...	...	...	...	...	16	”
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	14	”
Lemon Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	4	”
Cherries	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Olives	...	...	...	...	...	5	bottles
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	9	”
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	21	”
<i>Tinned Goods</i>							
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	195	tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	271	”
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1139	”
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	544	”
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	20	”
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	70	”
Tomato Ketchup	...	...	...	...	...	3	”
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	6	”
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	41	”
Golden Corn	...	...	...	...	...	2	”
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	3	”
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	3	”
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...	63	”
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	33	”
Baked Beans	...	...	...	...	...	18	”
Meat and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	3	”
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Choco-malt	...	...	...	...	...	2	”
Fruit Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Processed Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	1	”
Sweepfat	...	...	...	...	...	1	”

## F Housing

This branch of the Department's work entailed the usual large number of inspections. It was disappointing, but unavoidable, to see yet another year go by without being able to rid the district of at least some of the worst of the cottages which were condemned as unfit as long ago as 1938 and 1939. Demolition Orders were served in connection with two cottages which were literally collapsing. Some progress has also been



made as a result of the Council adopting a policy of prohibiting the re-letting of unfit cottages which become vacant, but which cannot be demolished until the tenants of adjoining cottages have been rehoused. I am convinced that this is a wise step and hope that the policy will be continued.

Two Statutory Notices were served and the work was duly carried out.

Some further progress has been made in connection with the Housing Survey, particularly in the Parishes of Great Missenden and Amersham, but owing to more urgent matters requiring attention, the progress made has not been considerable.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Council has continued to show a sympathetic attitude toward applications for licences to erect, station and use moveable dwellings, particularly in cases where the applicant has no permanent dwelling to which he can go, and sees little prospect of finding more permanent accommodation. Out of a total of fifty-nine licences current at 30th June, 1948, fifty-two were renewed and a total of fifty-four new licences were approved. The large number of new licences was in part due to the activity of the Inspectors in locating a number which had been in the district for some time but which had not been previously licensed.

Only one complaint was received in connection with moveable dwellings, and this was not of a serious nature.

### VERMINOUS PREMISES

A number of different types of premises were disinfested during the year, and in most cases a 5 per cent. solution of D.D.T. was used. Gammexane Smoke Generators, Thermatox Blocks and D.D.T. Powder were also used with considerable success. The above were used against fleas, bed bugs, flies, spider beetle, cock-roaches, etc.

**G Factories Act, 1937** (*See Table page 23*).

### PART VIII OF THE ACT OUT WORK (Sections 110 and 111)

The number of Outworkers notified in accordance with Section 110(i) (c) was forty-three. They were engaged in Brush Making (37); Confectionery (3); Lace, lace curtain and nets (1) and wearing apparel (2).

(Signed) T. P. EVANS

*Medical Officer of Health.*

September, 1948



G Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Number of			M/c line No.
			Inspectors	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	8	5	2	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	2	114	48	5	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	1	-	-	3
TOTAL	...	123	54	7	-	...

2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	2	1	-	-	-	9
(a) insufficient	10	4	3	-	-	-	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	60	7	5	-	-	-	60
TOTAL	...	7	5	-	-	-	...



## APPENDIX I

Borough of Southwark,

Public Analyst's Department,

Health Services Department,

Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.81

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the  
AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of water from water supplied by Bucks Water Board.

Appearance and Colour	...	...	Clear and colourless
Reaction (pH)	...	...	7.8
Free Chlorine	...	...	nil
			Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	...	...	19.3
Loss on ignition	...	...	2.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	1.5
Free Ammonia	...	...	0.0002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0002
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.70
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	nil
Hardness (Temporary)	...	...	10.5
Hardness (Permanent)	...	...	2.0
Hardness (Total)	...	...	12.5
Metals (Lead, Copper and Zinc)	...	...	not found

For these results I am of opinion that this water is chemically of high purity and suitable for drinking.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,  
Public Analyst.

## APPENDIX II

Borough of Southwark,

Public Analyst's Department,

Health Services Department,

Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.74

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the  
AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sample of water from main. Water supplied by Amersham,

Beaconsfield and District Water Co.

Appearance and Colour	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	0.012 parts per million Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	...	...	...	34.6
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	4.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	1.6
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0010
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.42
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	nil
Hardness (Temporary)	...	...	...	24.6
Hardness (Permanent)	...	...	...	2.3
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	26.9
Metals (Lead, Copper and Zinc)	...	...	...	not found

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high chemical purity and suitable for drinking.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,  
Public Analyst.



## APPENDIX III

Borough of Southwark,

Public Analyst's Department,

Health Services Department,

Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.75

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the  
AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Sample of water from water supplied by the Rickmansworth  
and Uxbridge Valley Water Co.

Appearance and Colour	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Free Chlorine	...	...	1.08	parts per million Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	...	...	...	34.5
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	4.8
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	1.5
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0028
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0004
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.45
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	nil
Hardness (Temporary)	...	...	...	24.4
Hardness (Permanent)	...	...	...	2.3
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	26.7
Metals (Lead, Copper and Zinc)	...	...	...	not found

From these results I am of opinion that this water is of high  
chemical purity and suitable for drinking.

(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,  
Public Analyst.

## APPENDIX IV

Borough of Southwark,

Public Analyst's Department,

Health Services Department,

Walworth Road, S.E.17.

M.76

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received from the  
AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Sample of water from water supplied by Berkhamsted Water  
Co.

Appearance and Colour	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	0.006 parts per million Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	...	...	...	33.1
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	5.1
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	1.6
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0002
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.47
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	...	...	...	0.01
Hardness (Temporary)	...	...	...	22.6
Hardness (Permanent)	...	...	...	2.8
Hardness (Total)	...	...	...	25.4

Metals (Lead, Copper and Zinc):

Lead and Copper—not found. Zinc—Trace.

The water contains *a trace of Zinc* (possibly derived from a storage tank) but is otherwise of high chemical purity and suitable for drinking.

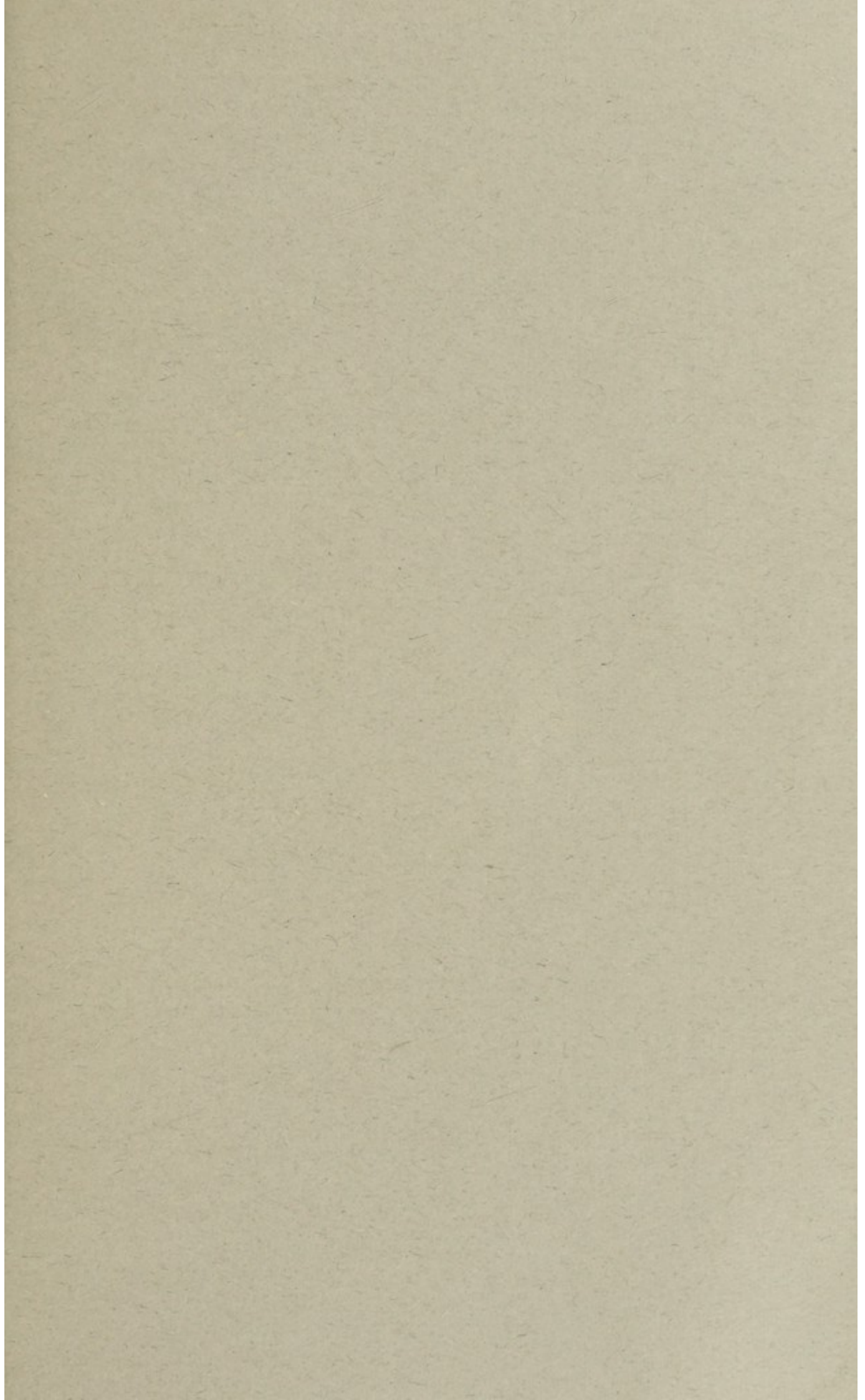
(Signed) D. H. BUTTON,  
Public Analyst.



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