

[Report 1968] / Medical Officer of Health, Amesbury R.D.C.

Contributors

Amesbury (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1968

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/agwkcy7>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Rural District of Amesbury

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the




MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1968



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28805264>

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE (as at December, 1968)

Chairman: Councillor A. L. Mousley

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G. A. Pitt, D.F.C.

Councillor H. W. Annetts, M.B.E.
Councillor G. W. Burden
Councillor Rev. F. G. Chamberlain
Councillor W. C. Channon
Councillor Mrs. M. J. Crook
Councillor E. J. Maffey

Councillor D. D. Mussell
Councillor A. L. Newman
(Chairman of the Council)
Councillor H. E. Richardson
Councillor E. A. W. Walter
Councillor A. S. Whatley

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F. D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Clerk (M.O.H. Office):

Miss G. M. Boswell

Council Offices, 1 The Green, Marlborough

Tel.: 2487 and 2118

Chief Public Health Inspector:

I. L. Fisher, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Meat and Food Inspector

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. Wilkinson, C.S.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

A. M. Hallett

Rodent Operator:

G. B. Oldham

Clerk (R.D.C. Office):

Mrs. P. Taylor

Public Health Department, The Council Offices,

Redworth House, Amesbury, Salisbury, Wilts.

Telephone Nos.: Amesbury 3255-6

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough, and the Rural Districts of Marlborough and Ramsbury, and Pewsey. These combined districts have a population of 71,880 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee, the East Wilts United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Committee, to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.

RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

East Wilts United Districts (M.O.H.) Office,

1 The Green,

Marlborough.

Telephone: Marlborough 2487 and 2118.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1968, which is compiled on similar lines as last year to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I am grateful to Mr. Fisher, the Chief Public Health Inspector for his report which is again included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, the County Medical Officer for supplying me with details of vaccination procedures carried out.

The district though primarily concerned with agriculture is also of great importance, in that, it accommodates a number of military establishments in which a significant proportion of the population find their employment. The very pleasant town of Amesbury, situated on the River Avon, in spite of the near proximity of Salisbury is an increasingly important shopping centre for the surrounding area. The district is important from the communication point of view, as in addition to other link roads it is traversed by the A303 London to Exeter trunk road. It has a considerable attraction for visitors and contains many examples of archaeological and architectural interest, including the prehistoric Stonehenge, while part of the Avon valley which lies between Amesbury and Salisbury is amongst the most beautiful stretches of river scenery to be found anywhere.

During the year the general health has given no cause for anxiety, and this is reflected in the vital statistics based on figures supplied by the Registrar-General. The population of the district has continued its tendency to rise, and shows an increase of just over 1,000, mainly due to new development, since the natural increase, excess of births over deaths is only 456.

The numbers of deaths again show a decrease, but the birth rate is virtually unchanged, giving a rate which is well above that for England and Wales. Although the actual numbers of infant deaths are relatively small, they are again higher than last year, and in recent years have unfortunately consistently given a rate which is above the national average. Of the seventeen infant deaths which occurred there were ten where the father was a serviceman in one of the branches of the Ministry of Defence. There were twenty-one deaths of cancer in males, and of these six were due to cancer of the lung, the youngest of whom was forty-five years of age. In contrast there were only nine deaths from cancer in women, and none were due to cancer of the lung. Thirty-four deaths occurred as a result of coronary heart disease,

and of these twenty-two, or over half, were males. Deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis together total twenty, with fifteen of these in males. In all these diseases I make no apology for again reminding the general public that the cigarette smoking habit is an important factor, and it is no statistical accident that there should be a predominance of male deaths from these causes. There are few people left in this country now who are not aware that lung cancer is a direct result in almost nine cases out of ten of cigarette smoking, but the knowledge of the serious part it plays in the production of disability as a result of chronic bronchitis and heart disease is less well known, even though these two diseases cause more deaths and constitute a greater hazard to physical well-being than lung cancer. Coronary heart disease often kills quickly, but in many instances as in the case of chronic bronchitis results in disability which is prolonged and severe. I was therefore disappointed when the Council decided to remove the "No Smoking" notice from the public rooms in the Council offices, since I feel that anything, no matter how small, that can be done to influence the general public on this matter is of value.

As far as infectious diseases are concerned both measles and dysentery were prevalent. The number of cases of measles was about the same as last year, and would almost certainly have been considerably greater if vaccination had not been started under County Council arrangements. One has reason to believe that in the future this will be another disease which will cease to occur in epidemic form when more children become protected. Dysentery occurred in two separate outbreaks in the Bulford Camp area, with fifty-one cases in January and February, and forty-five in June, July and August. In both instances the disease was dealt with on conventional lines of control, and I have no doubt that this is the right policy in these semi-closed communities. I am very grateful indeed for the co-operation we received from the staff of the Army Families Medical Centre, and particularly from Dr. Allan, which made the task much easier for the Health Department.

Immunisation figures for the first time for some years have shown a tendency to drop, and only 74 per cent of the children born in 1967 had been immunised at the end of 1968 against tetanus, whooping cough and diphtheria, as against 90 per cent in the previous year. It could be that all the children who are vaccinated are not being shown in the returns to the County Medical Officer, but this could not account for such a comparatively sharp decline. Parents of children are notified when the appropriate vaccination is due, and I exhort all of them to ensure that their children receive the protection that they should have.

For the second consecutive year anthrax was notified in a farm animal (in 1967 there were three cases) and there is no doubt that the most likely source of infection in all these instances was contaminated concentrated animal feeding stuffs. Prophylactic measures were taken by arranging for supervision of contacts, but the use of antibiotics in the absence of any symptoms I feel is not warranted, and was not advised.

During the year infective jaundice became notifiable, and I am very glad that this step has been taken, particularly since there are now positive short term measures available to minimise dissemination of this disease, which in recent years seems to have become perhaps more invasive and is quite often, particularly in adults, a serious matter. Other expected alterations were made to the list of notifiable diseases, but I was sorry that brucellosis was not added to the list, and I should also like to see human salmonella infections made notifiable, and infections in animals notifiable by the veterinary surgeon concerned.

No cases of food poisoning were notified to me during the year, although two salmonella infections came to light through information from the Public Health Laboratory Service, which were not directly connected with food.

Housing conditions are reasonably good, although I am concerned, as was the Chief Public Health Inspector, that there has been some curtailment, albeit temporary, in the building programme for council accommodation. The waiting list is showing no signs of declining in length, and there is a particularly pressing need for smaller accommodation for the elderly person. I should very much like to see a full-scale grouped accommodation flatlet scheme in the parish of Amesbury before too long, in addition to the existing bungalow schemes at Shrewton and Durrington. This type of accommodation has so much to commend it, particularly flatlets which can be built more easily close to a community centre, since they make more economical use of ground than bungalows. Both provide, I believe, the best way of ensuring that old people can retain their independence for as long as possible. One sometimes hears criticism that this is an expensive way of housing old people, largely on the grounds of the extra cost of the provision of community services and the cost of employing and housing a resident warden. It should, however, be remembered that this type of accommodation can often free under-occupied larger accommodation for a young growing family, and when it is not available there is a greater pressure placed on the over-long waiting list for Part III accommodation which is, of course, even more expensive. Many of the housing problems which we have to deal with have a financial angle, and I do not feel that sufficient insight is always shown to housing authorities in respect of the rent arrears problem. Unless rent arrears are kept in check, and "rent guarantees" are not a satisfactory answer, this can become an epidemic disease. At present eviction, though rarely used, is the ultimate sanction, and all are agreed where children are concerned that this is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. It seems to me that where there are substantial arrears some procedure for obtaining an Order making an "attachment on earnings" should be available to housing authorities. The rehabilitation of "families with problems" is difficult enough, without the addition of a further adverse factor, insecurity as a result of the fear of eviction. The management of the waiting list is in the competent hands of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Selections are made by him as a result of points awarded, including medical points, in accordance with the scheme approved by the Council. My only criticism of this scheme is that

the residential period is too long, but this is understandable in a district where there are nearly 400 residential caravans on permanent licensed sites. As I have said on many occasions, there is too much complacency about residential caravans, since they do not in general provide adequate accommodation in which to rear children, and a great many of our housing problems which have arisen during the year have been related to caravan dwelling.

I am very grateful for the hard work Mr. Fisher and his staff continually undertake in supervising food hygiene generally in the area, which has a large and varied number of catering establishments.

I would like again to express my thanks to all those voluntary workers concerned in running the meals on wheels service under conditions which I know can often be difficult. I should, however, like to see the service extended to include more of the district, and it may be that the Council should consider in the future the possibility of providing transport to achieve this end. This is again a service which enables old people to retain their independence by providing, what I have termed before, a nutritional safety net.

The water supply throughout the district is satisfactory. So far no part-time suitably qualified medical adviser has, I understand, been appointed to the staff of the South Wilts Water Board.

Refuse collection is the responsibility of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. This is a weekly and still a kerbside collection. Economy is the only recommendation for this unhygienic noisy method, which causes various degrees of difficulties for the aged and frail, and which means bins, and frequently other "containers," with or without lids standing close to the highway, often for many hours, before or after collection in all weathers including wind. As soon as finance permits it should be replaced by a disposable sack collection from the premises.

Efforts were made in conjunction with all the other constituent councils of the South Wilts Water Board area to persuade the County Council to implement fluoridation in view of the substantial benefits to the dental health of the rising generation which it will afford. Delay means loss in whole or in part for ever of such benefits for children under the age of ten years. The reasons for this delay is difficult to understand in view of the overwhelming evidence for its efficiency and safety, and since it is relatively cheap in comparison with the enormous cost of dental treatment.

I am pleased that work has begun at last on the provision of main drainage for the parishes of the Bourne Valley.

I should like to express my thanks to members of the council, and particularly those members of the Public Health Committee for the very great deal of support which they have given me during the year. I am also grateful to the officers of the Council for their helpfulness and consideration, and particularly Mr. Fisher and his staff for the very hard work which they have

put in during a busy year. I should like also to thank Dr. Lishman, who acts as my deputy, for his ready help and advice. I am very grateful to Dr. Wormald and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory, for their continued co-operation, so often at very short notice. Finally I should like to thank my clerical assistant, Miss Boswell, not only for the conscientious way she has carried out her work during the year, but also for her valued assistance with this report.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	63,455
Number of Parishes	17
Population, Registrar-General's mid-year estimate ...	29,770
Number of inhabited houses, flats and bungalows ...	5,344
Number of houses, flats and bungalows owned by the Council	1,586
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1968	£1,065,595
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)	£4,385

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	301	285	586
Illegitimate	18	16	34
Totals	319	301	620
Live birth rate per 1,000 population			20.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...			5.5
Stillbirths—Legitimate	6	0	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	6	0	6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...			10.0
Total live and stillbirths	325	301	626
DEATHS	95	66	161
Death rate per 1,000 population			5.4
Infant deaths under one year—Legitimate	11	6	17
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	11	6	17
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			27.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			29.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			nil
Neonatal deaths (under four weeks)—Legitimate	6	4	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	6	4	10
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live births ...			16.0
Early neonatal deaths (under one week)—Legitimate ...	6	3	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	6	3	9
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...			14.5
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ...			24.0
Maternal mortality (including abortion)			nil
Maternal mortality rate			nil

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Infant deaths ...	19	14	15	14	17
Infant mortality rate ...	29.27	22.65	25.3	23.0	27.0

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1968

<i>Cause of death</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
B18	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—	1
B19 (1)	Malignant neoplasms—stomach ...	—	1	1
B19 (2)	Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus ...	6	—	6
B19 (3)	Malignant neoplasm—breast ...	—	2	2
B19 (4)	Malignant neoplasm—uterus ...	—	3	3
B19 (5)	Leukaemia ...	1	—	1
B19 (6)	Other malignant neoplasms, etc. ...	14	3	17
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	1	—	1
B46 (2)	Other diseases of blood, etc. ...	—	1	1
B46 (4)	Other diseases of nervous system, etc. ...	1	—	1
B27	Hypertensive disease ...	2	1	3
B28	Ischaemic heart disease ...	22	12	34
B29	Other forms of heart disease ...	3	6	9
B30	Cerebrovascular disease ...	8	10	18
B46 (5)	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	1	4	5
B32	Pneumonia ...	10	4	14
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema ...	5	1	6
B33 (2)	Asthma ...	1	1	2
B46 (6)	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	2	3
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	—	1
B46 (7)	Other diseases of digestive system ...	—	2	2
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	1	1
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
B46 (8)	Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	—	1	1
B46 (10)	Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	2	1	3
B42	Congenital anomalies ...	4	2	6
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	2	—	2
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	—	3	3
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions ...	—	1	1
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	—	3
BE48	All other accidents ...	2	—	2
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	3	2	5
BE50	All other external causes ...	—	2	2
Total all causes ...		95	66	161

Comparison with England and Wales

	<i>per 1,000 population</i>		<i>per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>per 1,000 Total Births</i>
	<i>Live Births (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Death Rate (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>	<i>Stillbirths</i>
Amesbury Rural District	19.4	9.0	27.0	10.0
England and Wales	16.9	11.9	18.0	14.0

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

General Practitioners:

Dr. R. C. P. Aldridge, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	}	Fovant House, Amesbury.
Dr. D. G. Twyman, M.B.		Tel.: Amesbury 3294.
Dr. B. Batten, M.B.	}	62 Salisbury Street, Amesbury.
Dr. D. T. Smith, M.D.		Tel.: Amesbury 3249.
Dr. D. R. Clarke, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.		Garden Ground, Durrington.
		Tel.: Durrington Walls 221.
Dr. R. J. B. H. Jones, M.B., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.	}	Pinckney's Farm House, Durrington.
Dr. D. Leaney, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.		Tel.: Durrington Walls 378.
Dr. J. A. Pattillo, M.B.		Springbourne, Shrewton.
		Tel.: Shrewton 259.

Hospitals:

Newbridge Hospital, Odstock Road. Tel.: Salisbury 3879.

Odstock Hospital. Tel.: Salisbury 5111.

Old Manor Hospital, Wilton Road. Tel.: Salisbury 3216.

Salisbury General Infirmary. Tel.: Salisbury 27181.

Public Health Laboratory:

Odstock Hospital, Salisbury (Dr. P. Wormald, M.A., M.D.).

Tel.: Salisbury 6020.

County Council Health Department Services:

(a) **Ambulance Facilities:** Ambulance Control Centre, Odstock Road, Salisbury. Tel.: Salisbury 22488/9.

(b) **District Nurse/Midwives:**

Miss E. Barnard,
21 Lynchetts Road, Amesbury. Tel.: Amesbury 3110.

Mrs. G. D. Beaven,
83 Countess Road, Amesbury. Tel.: Amesbury 2058.

Miss L. D. Browning,
35 Meads Road, Durrington. Tel.: Durrington Walls 297.

Mrs. A. Marriott,
Kitchener Road, Amesbury. Tel.: Amesbury 2263.

Miss M. Phillips, Nurse's Bungalow, Birdlymes Estate, Porton. Tel.: Idmiston 270.

Mrs. Q. M. Withers,
Lady Close, Shrewton. Tel.: Shrewton 277.

(c) **Health Visitors:** attached to General Practitioners:

Miss I. W. Sanders,
5 The Croft,
Milston, Durrington.
Tel.: Durrington Walls 500

Dr. Aldridge, Amesbury
Dr. Twyman, Amesbury
Dr. Clarke, Durrington

Mrs. K. W. Ridgeway,
The Vicarage, Figheldean.
Tel.: Netheravon 326

Dr. Batten, Amesbury
Dr. Smith, Amesbury

Mrs. M. F. Cummins,
1 Belle Vue Road, Salisbury.

Dr. Jones, Durrington

Miss J. E. Ford,
64 Shrewton Road, Chitterne.
Tel.: Codford St. Mary 204

Dr. Pattillo, Shrewton

(d) **Clinics:** Maternity and Child Welfare:

Amesbury: Methodist Church Hall.

First and third Tuesdays of each month, 2.30-4 p.m.

Bulford (Camp): Infant Welfare Centre.

Every Tuesday, 2-4 p.m.

Bulford (Village), The W.I. Hall.

Second and fourth Thursdays of each month, 2-4 p.m.

Durrington: The Caxton Hall.

Second and fourth Thursday of each month, 2-4 p.m.

Larkhill, Whinyates Road.

Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 2-4 p.m.

Porton/Idmiston: Parish Memorial Hall.

Fourth Wednesday of each month, 2-4 p.m.

(e) **Chiropody Service:** This is mainly a domiciliary service.

(f) **Mental Welfare Officer:** Mental Health Centre, Salt Lane, Salisbury.

Tel.: Salisbury 27551.

County Council Welfare Department:

Mr. R. A. Whines, Meyrick Close, Combe Road, Salisbury. Tel.: Salisbury 27043.

County Council Children's Department:

The Area Children's Officer, Fire Station, Salt Lane, Salisbury. Tel.: Salisbury 27551.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1968

Disease	Total cases all ages	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of total cases in age groups										Age unknown			
				Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44		45-64	65+	
Acute encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	96	...	...	3	8	5	12	14	22	8	3	15	6	...	...	...	...
Infective jaundice ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leprosy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leptospirosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	138	...	...	5	9	15	29	25	50	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tetanus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	241	4	—	8	17	20	42	39	73	14	4	16	7	—	1	—	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION STATISTICS, 1968

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Measles Immunisation

<i>Year of birth</i>		1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1959-63	1953-58	Others under 16
Primary immunisations completed during 1968	Diph.	234	224	1	4	6	22	—	—
	Wh/c.	222	211	1	1	3	6	—	—
	Tet.	234	224	1	4	6	25	18	6
	M'sles	1	55	44	37	47	197	83	—
Reinforcing injections administered during 1968	Diph.	—	111	183	3	11	334	6	—
	Wh/c.	—	34	74	1	3	49	2	—
	Tet.	—	111	183	3	13	354	31	11

Smallpox Vaccination

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Months</i>				<i>Years</i>		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	—	—	—	—	—	52	20
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	—	—	3	22

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

<i>Age Group</i>	2nd inj.	3rd inj.	4th inj.	3 oral doses	2 orals after 2 inj.	4th oral after 3 inj. or 3 oral
1968	—	—	—	209	—	—
1967	—	—	—	275	—	85
1966	—	—	—	1	—	125
1965	—	—	—	6	—	5
1964	—	—	—	11	—	5
1959-63	—	—	—	43	—	244
1953-58	—	—	—	4	—	13
Others und. 16	—	—	—	1	—	2
Others over 16	—	—	—	14	—	16
Totals	—	—	—	564	—	495

AMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the Year 1968

Redworth House,
Amesbury,
Salisbury,
Wilts.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twentieth annual report on the work carried out by the Public Health Inspector's Department during the year 1968, which has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 2/69. Reference is also made in the report to the public health services operated in the district by the Council, and which are under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Council, and particularly those members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, for the support given to me during the year, and also to my colleagues in other departments for their help so willingly given at all times on matters of mutual interest.

I am very grateful to Dr. Steede for his helpfulness and consideration in all matters relating to the work of the department, and to once again record my appreciation of the staff of the Public Health Department without whose willing co-operation and efforts it would not have been possible to deal with the work which has been performed during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. L. FISHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

July, 1969.

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE AREA

Number and Nature of Visits or Inspections during 1968

GENERAL SANITATION

Number of Inspections re Water Supply	...	...	...	54
Number of Inspections re Drainage of Property	...	...	...	858
Number of Inspections re Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	14
Number of Inspections re Caravan Sites	...	...	...	123
Number of Inspections under Factories Act	...	...	...	39
Number of Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	17
Number of Inspections re Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	6
Number of Inspections under Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections under Animal Boarding Establishments Act	...	...	...	8
Number of Inspections under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	121
Number of Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	101
Number of Inspections of Schools	...	...	...	12
Number of Inspections under Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	...	...	...	27
Number of Inspections under Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	4
Number of Inspections under Clean Air Act	...	...	...	20
Number of Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	140
Number of Visits re Sampling of Water Supplies	...	...	...	126
Number of Visits re Sampling of Sewage Effluent	...	...	...	14

HOUSING

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Act	...	...	42	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (re-inspections)	...	...	52	
			—	94
Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	80	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (re-inspections)	...	...	477	
			—	557
Number of Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	256
Number of Houses inspected re Verminous Conditions	...	...	5	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (re-inspections)	...	...	4	
			—	9
Number of Property Owners/Agents and Builders Interviewed	...	...	...	209

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Visits in cases of Notifiable Disease	497
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

Number of Visits to Poultry Packing Station	...	...	...	90
Number of Visits to Knackers Yard	...	...	...	11
Number of Visits to Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	11
Number of Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	28
Number of Visits to Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	28
Number of Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	60
Number of Visits to Fishmongers	...	...	...	3
Number of Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	3
Number of Visits to Grocers	...	...	...	75
Number of Visits to Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	16
Number of Visits to Street Vendors	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	19
				<hr/> 3,458 <hr/>

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Routine inspections were made of factories for the purpose of provisions as to health, and showed that the requirements of Section 7 of the Act were in the main being complied with. Any contraventions noted were dealt with by verbal notice at the time of inspection, and were found, on re-inspection, to have been remedied.

The following list shows the numbers and types of factories in the district:

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	7
Engineering, including Garages	...	...	24
Electricity Generating	...	...	1
Joinery, Woodworking	...	...	13
Testing of Flow Meters	...	...	1
Milk Pasteurising	...	...	1
Laundering and Dry Cleaning	...	...	3
Corn Milling	...	...	1
Manufacture of Explosives	...	...	2
Vehicle Painting	...	...	2
Tailoring	...	...	1
Aircraft Testing	...	...	1
Instrument Repairs	...	...	1
Fibreglass and Resin Moulding	...	...	2
Cine Film Camera Testing	...	...	1
Cinematograph Film Manufacture	...	...	1
Oil Gas	...	...	1
Radio and Electric Equipment Repairs	...	...	2
Upholstery and Furniture Repairs	...	...	1
Packing of Plastic Products	...	...	1
Poultry Processing	...	...	1
Knackers Yards	...	...	1
			<hr/>
			69
			<hr/>

The amount of outwork carried on in the district is very small and inspections were made of any premises in respect of which notification was received. In no case was it found necessary to take any action.

HOUSING

The general standard of housing accommodation in the district is generally satisfactory as a result of a steady programme of inspection of houses over the years followed by action to secure works of repair and when necessary the closure or demolition of unfit properties. Whilst the individual unfit house, suitable only for demolition, will inevitably occur from time to time, I feel it can be safely said that there is no slum clearance problem in the district.

Whilst the number of houses which were improved with grant aid was the lowest for a number of years, much valuable work has been done in this field since grants first became available in 1949, and since that time 460 houses have been brought up to the required standard through the Discretionary and Standard Grant schemes. It is anticipated that more applications for grants will be received during 1969, from property owners in the Bourne Valley when the new Sewerage Scheme becomes available for use. Further applications may also be expected when the Bill before Parliament, which will increase the amounts of grants which can be paid, becomes law.

During the year four properties were improved under the Discretionary Grant Scheme, and grants amounting to £1,111 5s. were paid in respect of these works. Only three properties were provided with the prescribed standard amenities, and the grants paid totalled £559 18s. 6d.

Whilst the demand for Council owned accommodation showed no signs of decreasing it is unfortunate that the only properties which the Council had under construction during the year were nine bungalows at Bulford, six being completed and the remaining three being under construction at the end of the year. The absence of any major house building programme became increasingly noticeable during the year as the number of houses becoming available for allocation as a result of the occurrence of casual vacancies was insufficient to meet the demands of applicants, including ex-service personnel for whom it is the Council's policy to provide housing accommodation on a proportionate basis to allocations of tenancies made to civilian applicants.

The number of houses allocated to the Council as their building programme for 1968 was 24, and by the end of the year work has been commenced on the ten houses and four bungalows on the Peacock's Nurseries Site at Durrington and the four houses and two bungalows at Winterbourne Stoke. Due to unforeseen circumstances it was not possible to commence the erection of the four bungalows at Woodford and these will, therefore, have to be transferred to the 1969 programme.

The Council has continued its search for further land on which to erect further dwellings in the various parts of the district and whilst further negotiations took place on the acquisition of the land to the east of Holders Road, Amesbury, these had not been resolved at the end of the year. The delay in the provision of bungalow accommodation at Figheldean is also to be regretted as a number of these are required for slum clearance purposes. Negotiations with the Ministry of Defence for the purchase of two sites at Bulford are expected to be satisfactorily completed.

Layout plans prepared by the Council's Architects showed that twenty dwellings, ten houses and ten bungalows can be erected on the various infilling sites at Durrington, and the possibility of acquiring similar sites on housing estates in other parishes in the district is being explored.

A close perusal of the applicants on the Housing List showed there is an increasing demand for bungalow type accommodation, not only for applicants on the General List, but for existing tenants of Council houses. Many of this latter class of applicant have occupied their houses since they were first built and are now living alone. The transfer of these aged tenants to bungalows would release houses for younger families who would occupy them to their best advantage.

The Council's two grouped dwelling units at Durrington and Shrewton have operated satisfactorily during the year and the minimal number of vacancies occurring indicate the benefits gained by the occupants of these dwellings.

The district continues to attract private enterprise building and during the year 126 dwellings were completed, whilst a further 117 were under construction.

The following table shows the action taken during the year by the department under the Housing and Public Health Acts:

(i) Inspection of housing defects under Public Health Act	...	42
(ii) Inspection for housing defects under Housing Acts	...	80
(iii) Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	13
(iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	79
(v) Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of information action	...	48

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 12, Housing Act, 1957

(i) Number of dwellings where Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	Nil
(ii) Number of dwellings made fit after service of formal Notices		
(a) By owners	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Act

(i) Number of dwellings where Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	1
(ii) Number of dwellings made fit after service of formal Notices		
(a) By owners	...	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

C. Proceedings under section 16, Housing Act, 1957

(i) Number of Demolition Orders made	...	11
(ii) Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	...	*17
(iii) Number of Undertakings accepted	...	Nil
(iv) Number of Undertakings completed	...	1

D. Proceedings under section 42, 43, 46 and 48 Housing Act, 1957

(i) Number of houses in Clearance Area upon which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) Number of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) Number of houses in Clearance Area which have been retained as temporary accommodation	...	...	...	...	Nil

E. Proceedings under section 17, 18 and 27, Housing Act, 1957, and section 26, Housing Act, 1961

(i) Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Number of dwellings closed as a result of Closing Orders or Undertakings by owners	...	...	...	...	1
(iii) Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

F. Proceedings under section 76, Housing Act, 1957

(i) Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year	...	...	...	...	Nil

*Includes two houses formerly the subject of Undertakings not to let and four houses which were demolished by Owners in anticipation of Demolition Orders.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's Rodent Service has worked smoothly during the year, due to the early notification by the public whenever they became aware of rats and/or mice resorting to their properties, and in no small way to the energetic measures taken by farmers to deal with infestations on their lands and premises, and to whom the advice of the Council's Rodent Operator/Inspector is always made readily available. Apart from carrying out treatment work, the systematic survey of the district has continued.

The following table sets out the work carried out by the Rodent Operator/Inspector during the year:

<i>Properties other than Sewers</i>	<i>Type of Property</i>	
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
1. Number of properties in district	5215	129
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	179	1
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	174	1
(ii) Mice	1	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1062	51
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	27	22
(ii) Mice	—	—

The sewers in the district area were test-baited and no evidence of infestation was indicated.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the district, which is mainly controlled by the South Wilts Water Board, has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. The policy of taking regular samples of water from the Board's supply has been continued and during the year 72 samples were taken of water abstracted from the boreholes at Newton Tony and Shrewton and submitted for bacteriological examination. Copies of the Pathologist's reports on these samples are forwarded to the Engineer of the Water Board, with whom contact is made should an unsatisfactory report be received.

One sample of each of these sources of supply was submitted for chemical examination and a copy of each report is given below:

Newton Tony

Physical Characters	...	...	...	Crystal clear, colourless: no deposit	
Chemical	...	...	...	...	Parts per million
Reaction	...	...	...	...	Alkaline pH 7.4
Saline and free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.01
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in three hours at 37 °C.	...	...	...	...	0.2
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	20
Nitrates (nitric nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	4.35
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	227
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	136
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	91
Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrates (nitrous nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Fluoride	...	...	...	...	0.08
Opinion: Satisfactory					

Shrewton

Physical Characters	...	...	...	Crystal clear, colourless: no deposit	
Chemical	...	...	...	...	Parts per million
Reaction	...	...	...	...	Alkaline pH 7.6
Saline and free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.01
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in three hours at 37 °C.	...	...	...	...	0.2
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	18.5
Nitrates (nitric nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	3.4
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	232
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	160
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	71.5
Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrates (nitrous nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Fluoride	...	...	...	...	0.03
Opinion: Satisfactory					

Other Supplies

The undermentioned parishes obtain a supply of water from undertakings not owned by the Council:

Cholderton (Cholderton Water Board).

Tilshead and Figheldean (supplies taken in bulk from the Ministry of Defence (Army)).

Samples of water taken regularly from each of the above supplies have been found to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

Samples of water taken during the year of the water supply to a private estate showed that this supply was not up to the standard normally required. The owners were contacted and following the execution of work to exclude obvious sources of contamination, subsequent samples revealed the water to be of satisfactory quality.

The following table gives details of the estimated number of dwelling houses and caravans and the estimated population in each parish supplied from public water mains. This table does not take into account Service personnel and their families and premises occupied by them, nor does it include properties obtaining piped water from private supplies.

There are no public standpipes in the district.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Estimated Total Population</i>	<i>Estimated number of Dwelling Houses and Caravans connected direct to Public Piped Water Supplies</i>	<i>Estimated popu- lation supplied from Public Water Mains direct to Houses and Caravans</i>
Allington	480	133	445
Amesbury	4,760	1,220	4,720
Bulford	2,260	622	2,260
Cholderton	207	67	207*
Durnford	420	83	343
Durrington	3,470	905	3,450
Figheledean	875	244	835
Idmiston	2,350	587	2,260
Milston	250	82	250*
Newton Tony	380	90	330
Orcheston	304	97	284
Shrewton	1,550	430	1,470
Tilshead	317	95	317*
Wilsford-cum-Lake	150	8	20
Winterbourne	2,155	555	1,855
Winterbourne Stoke	210	53	200
Woodford	460	122	310
Total	20,598	5,393	19,556

*Includes population supplied from mains owned by Cholderton Water Company or by Government Departments.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work on Stage I of the sewerage scheme to serve parishes in the Bourne Valley proceeded throughout the year and it is anticipated that the system will become available for use in the late summer or early autumn of 1969. The Council also instructed their consulting engineers to prepare details of Stage II of this scheme to serve the parishes of Allington and Newton Tony and to submit same to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Whilst a public inquiry was held into the Council's proposals for sewerage the parish of Tilshead, the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was still awaited at the end of the year. The need for this sewerage scheme cannot be over-emphasised due to the many problems experienced in satisfactorily disposing of the effluent from existing septic tank drainage systems, and to facilitate the modernisation of a number of dwellings to which it is not considered possible to provide other satisfactory means of drainage.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The circumstances of the milk supply afforded to the district have remained unchanged throughout the year. Whilst most of the parishes obtain a supply of pasteurised milk either from establishments at Amesbury or Salisbury, there is still a demand in three or four parishes for milk retailed under the special designation "Untreated."

Samples of milk have been taken regularly from all the registered distributors in the district, including producer/retailers. A total of 155 samples of milk were submitted for statutory tests during the year. A further 21 samples submitted for biological examination were also tested for *Brucella* and these together with 30 churn samples submitted for Milk Ring Test proved negative.

The following table shows the number of samples submitted for each examination, together with the results:

<i>Untreated Milk</i>			<i>Biological Examination</i>			<i>Heat Treated Milk</i>		
<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>
59	54	5	21	21	—	Bottles	71	2
						Cartons	25	6

When unsatisfactory reports were received in respect of samples of raw milk, the producers were interviewed and advised on methods to ensure cleanliness in production, and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

During the year 51 samples of bottle washings were submitted for tests, of which 47 were found to be satisfactory. Following the receipt of unsatisfactory reports, further visits were made to ascertain the cause and to re-sample.

There is only one Registered Dairy in the district. The number of Registered Milk Distributors and Dealers licensed to sell milk under special designations is as follows:

Registered Milk Distributors in District	...	...	21
Dealers Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk (pre-packed)	...	...	19
Dealers Licensed to sell Untreated Milk	...	...	5
Dealers Licensed to sell Ultra Heat Treated Milk	...	...	2

Slaughterhouses, etc.

There are no slaughter houses in the district, all fresh meat being obtained from the abattoir in the city of Salisbury.

There is one small factory in the district where poultry is slaughtered, mainly for delivery to the London market. It is a modern building, fully equipped with up-to-date machinery. Poultry is collected from the breeding farms each day, and is electrically stunned before being slaughtered, de-feathered and placed on the line system for finishing before being cooled. A "spotter" system of inspection is employed and any carcasses showing signs of disease or abnormality are retained for inspection by a member of the department. Adequate facilities exist for the cleaning of crates before they are used for new collections. During the year the throughput at this factory amounted to 474,511 birds, of which 1.5 per cent, weighing 6 tons 12 cwt. 98 lbs., were rejected as being unfit for human consumption.

There is one knackers yard in the district, which is also licensed for the slaughter of horses, and regular inspections made of this premises have not revealed any matters in respect of which it has been necessary to take any action.

Food Premises

The general standard of premises in the district at which food is handled, stored or prepared has been maintained at a satisfactory level. Over the last few years there has been a tendency for the larger food shops to convert to the self-service system and when this has been done advantage has been taken to effect many improvements, particularly to the parts of the premises where the food is handled and wrapped before being placed on display.

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of licensed premises engaging in food handling and attention is being given to these premises to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Inspections have been made of food vehicles plying within the district and the conditions under which these vehicles are operated and maintained have been found to be generally satisfactory.

<i>No. and Type of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16</i>	<i>No. of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies</i>	<i>No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19</i>
Hotels and Licensed Premises ... 39	39	39	39
Grocers ... 48	48	48	48
Bakers ... 7	7	7	7
Butchers ... 10	10	10	10
Cafes and Restaurants ... 9	9	9	9
Confectioners ... 15	15	15	15
Greengrocers ... 5	5	5	5
Fish Fryers ... 3	3	3	3
Fishmongers ... 4	4	4	4
Total ... 140	140	140	140

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Three complaints concerning food which had been sold in contravention of the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act were made to the department during the year. One case was referred for action to an adjoining authority in whose district the food had been purchased, and the remaining two were brought to the notice of the Council. In one case involving mould growth in two loaves of bread, the Council after considering all the evidence, resolved to send a warning letter to the manufacturers. In the second case, which concerned the presence of a foreign body in an article of food, it was resolved to institute legal proceedings against the manufacturers and these were pending at the end of the year.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and routine inspection of the premises registered for the storage and/or sale of ice-cream have shown that the requirements of the Regulations are being complied with.

The number and types of food premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows:

Storage and/or Sale of Ice-Cream	...	86
Sausage Making	...	4

Meat and Other Food Condemned during 1968

The quantity of meat and other foods condemned during 1968 as being unfit for human consumption is given below:

Salmon	12½ lbs.	Chicken	50½ lbs.
Peeled Prawns	15 lbs.	Duck	5½ lbs.
Scampi	3½ lbs.	Pheasants	2 lbs.
Cod	76 lbs.	Braised Beef	15 pkts.
Skate	3 lbs.	Rissoles	8 pkts.
Plaice	7 lbs.	Faggots	2 pkts.
Bream	6 lbs.	Steaklets	3 pkts.
Bloaters	7 lbs.	Chickens	4 pkts.
River Trout	5 lbs.	Chicken Pies	3 pkts.
Halibut	5½ lbs.	Beef Curry	8 pkts.
Herring Roes	6 lbs.	Dinner for one	3 pkts.
Fish Cakes	61 pkts.	Potato Croquettes	2 pkts.
Haddock Fillets	14 pkts.	Cheeseburgers	4 pkts.
Smoked Salmon	20 pkts.	Pastry	18 pkts.
Fish Fingers	5 pkts.	Assorted Ice-cream	106 blocks
Potted Shrimps	7 pkts.		
Jellied Eels	29 pkts.		

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

Regular inspections have been made during the year of the nine premises licensed by the Council for the boiling of waste foods and in no case was any action found to be necessary.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Registration

During the year 19 new registrations were made. Of these 14 were changes of ownership and 3 of the remaining 5 were premises brought back into registration after changes in circumstances. The remaining 2 were premises to which the Act had not previously applied.

Inspection. Most of the inspections were made to newly registered premises although a number of re-inspections were carried out at other premises, most of which continued to comply with the provisions of the Act.

A fall in the number of persons employed was noted, the reason being the transfer to the H.M. Factory Inspectorate of a number of N.A.A.F.I. premises which were previously registered with this authority.

In the absence of any regulations regarding ventilation in special classes of premises, difficulty has been experienced in advising occupiers of ladies' hairdressing salons of the need for constant ventilation of the parts of the premises where hair lacquer is frequently used. The presence of windows which can be opened have to be accepted as a compliance with the Act and in this respect specific regulations concerning ventilation of this type of premises would be of great assistance.

In general the occupiers of registered premises accept the provisions of the Act as being necessary for the welfare of their employees.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	29	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	10	—	—
Total ...	66	39	—	—

2—Cases in which *Defects* were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (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 ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

(Sections 133 and 134)

NIL RETURN



