

**[Report 1972] / Medical Officer of Health, Axbridge R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Axbridge (Somerset, England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1972

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/mt7xq9sf>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

III



AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1972

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

- |                   |                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B. I. DENNIS      | M.B., B.S.<br>Acting Medical Officer of Health,<br>Somerset House, Oxford Street,<br>Weston-super-Mare.<br>Tel. Weston-super-Mare 27611. |
| R. T. BARRON      | Chief Public Health Inspector.<br>Certificate of R.S.A. (Scot.)<br>Certificate of R.S.H. for Inspectors<br>of Meat and other Foods.      |
| M. E. NORTHCOMBE  | Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.<br>Certificate R.S.I./S.I.E.J.B.<br>Certificate R.S.H./Meat                                        |
| D. GRANTLEY SMITH | District Public Health Inspector.<br>Certificate of R.S.I. and<br>S.I.E.J.B.                                                             |
| G. F. SHARP       | District Public Health Inspector.<br>Diploma qualifying for appointment as a<br>Public Health Inspector.                                 |
| J. S. S. STRONG   | Technical Assistant.                                                                                                                     |



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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

Chief Public Health Inspector  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Govt.)  
Certificate of R.S.A. for Inspector  
of Meat and other Foods.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Govt.)  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Govt.)

Assistant Public Health Inspector  
Certificate of R.S.A. and  
R.S.A.

Public Health Inspector  
Diploma awarded for appointment as a  
Public Health Inspector.

Technical Assistant  
J. S. S. S.

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1972

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department in 1972.

I regret very much that your part Medical Officer of Health, Dr. McGowan, is no longer with us to do this. He was full of knowledge and set an excellent example in conscientiousness and integrity. His day-to-day work and high standards contributed a great deal to the maintenance of the Public Health of the District, as well as his wise advice to the Committees on health matters.

He would have wished to express his appreciation to Mr. Barron, the Chief Public Health Inspector and the other Inspectors for their help and co-operation during the year. He would also have asked to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and the Officers and Staff of other Departments for their advice and assistance.

As this was the last full year during which Miss Carey has worked in the office of the Department I would like to express appreciation of her work which has very much helped on the smooth running of the Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

B. I. DENNIS

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



## DEATHS

|                                | <u>Male</u>                 | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                | 248                         | 211           | 459          |
| <u>UNCORRECTED DEATH RATE:</u> | (per 1,000 population)      |               | = 11.5       |
| <u>CORRECTED DEATH RATE:</u>   | (comparability factor 0.87) |               | = 10.0       |

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 561 (312 boys and 249 girls), this being 20 births less than in 1971. Of these births 39 were illegitimate, i.e. 7% of the total. The corresponding percentage for England and Wales was 9%.

The uncorrected birth rate for 1972 was 14.1 and when the comparability factor (1.14) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 16.1 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 14.8 in 1972. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1972 was 14.8.

### BIRTH RATES

| <u>Year</u>             | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> | <u>1964</u> | <u>1965</u> | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> | <u>1969</u> | <u>1970</u> | <u>1971</u> | <u>1972</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| England & Wales         | 18.0        | 18.2        | 18.4        | 18.1        | 17.7        | 17.2        | 16.9        | 16.3        | 16.0        | 16.0        | 14.8        |
| Axbridge Rural District | 18.8        | 18.1        | 19.0        | 19.9        | 18.5        | 18.8        | 16.9        | 16.3        | 16.3        | 16.7        | 16.1        |

### STILL BIRTHS

The registered number of still births in 1972 was 10 of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 18 per 1,000 total births.

### DEATHS - ALL AGES

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 459 (248 males and 211 females). This is 1 more than in 1971 and gives an uncorrected death rate of 11.5. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 10.0 per 1,000 of total population compared with 12.1 for England and Wales as a whole.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1972.

### INFANT MORTALITY

Three children (1 boy and 2 girls) under the age of one year, died in 1972. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 5 per 1,000 live births, compared with 17 for England and Wales as a whole, of these three deaths two were due to congenital anomalies and one was due to pneumonia.

CAUSES OF DEATH

| CAUSES OF DEATH                        | SEX | AGE GROUPS |               |                  |     |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------------|-----|------------|---------------|------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                        |     | All Ages   | Under 4 Weeks | 4 & under 1 year | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-35 | 35-45 | 45-55 | 55-65 | 65-75 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System     | M   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     |
| Other infective & Parasitic Diseases   | M   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     | -     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc. | M   | 2          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | -     | -     | 1     | -     |
|                                        | F   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus         | M   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     | -     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach            | M   | 6          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 1     | 3     | 2     |
|                                        | F   | 7          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 2     | 3     | 2     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine          | M   | 6          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | 1     | 2     | 3     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 6          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | -     | 1     | 3     | 1     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus     | M   | 14         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 2     | 12    | -     |
|                                        | F   | 6          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | 1     | 1     | 3     | 1     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Breast             | M   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 8          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | 4     | 2     | 1     | -     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus             | F   | 2          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 2     | -     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate           | M   | 9          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 3     | 6     |
| Leukaemia                              | M   | -          | -             | -                | -   | 1    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms              | M   | 14         | -             | -                | -   | 1    | -     | -     | 1     | 3     | 5     | 4     |
|                                        | F   | 12         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | -     | 1     | 4     | 5     |
| Benign and Un-specified Neoplasms      | M   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
| Diabetes Mellitus                      | M   | 6          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | -     | -     | 2     | 3     |
|                                        | F   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     |
| Other Endocrine etc. Diseases          | M   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     | -     |
| Anaemias                               | M   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     | -     |
| Mental Disorders                       | M   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 1     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | -          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
| Multiple Sclerosis                     | M   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | 1     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 2          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 2     | -     | -     |
| Other Diseases of Nervous System       | M   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 1          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | 1     |
| Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease        | M   | 2          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 1     | 1     | -     |
|                                        | F   | 2          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | 2     |
| Hypertensive Disease                   | M   | 4          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 1     | 1     | 2     |
|                                        | F   | 7          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 2     | 5     |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease                | M   | 72         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | 6     | 9     | 30    | 27    |
|                                        | F   | 44         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 4     | 10    | 30    |
| Other forms of Heart Disease           | M   | 23         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | 1     | 11    | 11    |
|                                        | F   | 19         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 2     | 17    |
| Cerebrovascular Disease                | M   | 30         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | 1     | 4     | 6     | 19    |
|                                        | F   | 42         | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | 2     | 6     | 4     | 30    |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System   | M   | 5          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | 2     | 3     |
|                                        | F   | 8          | -             | -                | -   | -    | -     | 1     | -     | -     | 2     | 5     |

| CAUSES OF DEATH<br>(contd.)                 | SEX | Under 4 weeks |            |                   |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|---------------|------------|-------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                             |     | All<br>Ages   | 4<br>Weeks | & under<br>1 year | 1- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65- | 75- |
| Influenza                                   | M   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   |
|                                             | F   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   |
| Pneumonia                                   | M   | 8             | -          | 1                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 3   | 3   |
|                                             | F   | 8             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 3   | 4   |
| Bronchitis and<br>Emphysema                 | M   | 10            | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   | 3   | 5   |
|                                             | F   | 6             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 2   |     |
| Asthma                                      | M   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | 1  | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|                                             | F   | -             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Other Diseases of<br>Respiratory System     | M   | 4             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 2   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   |
| Peptic Ulcer                                | M   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
| Intestinal Obstruction<br>& Hernia          | M   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
| Cirrhosis of<br>Liver                       | M   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|                                             | F   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Other Diseases of<br>Digestive System       | M   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | 3             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | 1   | 1   |     |
| Nephritis and<br>Nephrosis                  | M   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -   |
|                                             | F   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   |
| Other Diseases,<br>Genito-Urinary<br>System | M   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   |
| Diseases of Skin,<br>Subcutaneous Tissue    | M   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1   |
| Diseases of Musculo-<br>Skeletal System     | M   | -             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|                                             | F   | 4             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1   | 2   |
| Congenital<br>Anomalies                     | M   | 1             | -          | 1                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
|                                             | F   | 3             | 2          | -                 | -  | 1  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Symptoms & Ill<br>Defined Conditions        | M   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | 1             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
| Motor Vehicle<br>Accidents                  | M   | 5             | -          | -                 | -  | 2  | 2   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | -             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| All other<br>Accidents                      | M   | 4             | -          | -                 | 1  | -  | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1   |
|                                             | F   | -             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Suicide and Self-<br>Inflicted Injuries     | M   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | 1   | -   | -   |
|                                             | F   | 2             | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 2   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| <b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES:</b>                    | M   | 248           | -          | 1                 | 2  | 4  | 4   | 3   | 5   | 10  | 30  | 92  | 97  |
|                                             | F   | 211           | 2          | -                 | -  | 1  | -   | 2   | 2   | 13  | 23  | 48  | 120 |
| <b>FINAL TOTAL:</b>                         |     | 459           | 2          | 1                 | 2  | 5  | 4   | 5   | 7   | 23  | 53  | 140 | 217 |

**INQUESTS ON RESIDENTS**

| <u>Causes of Death</u>                             | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Child<br/>(all<br/>male)</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <b><u>Accidents</u></b>                            |              |                |                                 |              |
| Pedal Cyclists                                     | -            | -              | 2                               | 2            |
| Car Accident                                       | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| Farm Tractor                                       | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| Electrocution<br>from overhead wires               | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| Suffocation at home.                               | -            | -              | 1                               | 1            |
| <u>Self Neglect at Home</u>                        | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| <b><u>Suicide</u></b>                              |              |                |                                 |              |
| Barbiturate                                        | -            | 2              | -                               | 2            |
| Falling off a cliff                                | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| Hanging                                            | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| CO. Fumes from car                                 | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| <b><u>Open Verdict</u></b>                         |              |                |                                 |              |
| Road Accident<br>Cause of death<br>not ascertained | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
|                                                    | 1            | -              | -                               | 1            |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <u>9</u>     | <u>2</u>       | <u>3</u>                        | <u>14</u>    |

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The following Table shows the notifications of infectious diseases in the District during the year:-

| <u>DISEASE</u>                    | <u>Total Cases notified</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Measles                           | 56                          |
| Dysentery                         | -                           |
| Scarlet Fever                     | 26                          |
| Whooping Cough                    | 3                           |
| Infective Jaundice                | 5                           |
| Tuberculosis (a) Respiratory      | 1                           |
| (b) Meninges & C.N.S.             | -                           |
| (c) Other forms                   | -                           |
| Diphtheria                        | -                           |
| Tetanus                           | 1                           |
| Acute Meningitis                  | 2                           |
| Acute Encephalitis (a) Infective  | -                           |
| (b) Post Infectious               | -                           |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum             | -                           |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (a) Paralytic | -                           |
| (b) Non-paralytic                 | -                           |
| Leptospirosis                     | -                           |
| Paratyphoid Fever                 | -                           |
| Typhoid Fever                     | 1                           |
| Food Poisoning                    | -                           |
| Malaria                           | -                           |
| Leprosy                           | -                           |

## LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The County Council, as the Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision of a number of personal Health Services, mainly connected with maternity and child welfare, the School Health Service and mental health.

Child Health Clinics are held in twelve Villages in the District.

## WATER SUPPLIES

No shortage of water supplies was reported from any part of the District in 1973.

Every Parish has a piped main water supply and 13,330 houses are supplied directly in this way by the Bristol Waterworks Company. However although every parish has a main water supply, not every house can be supplied directly from the mains and there are still 86 houses in the District relying on other sources. Two are supplied from a main water standpipe, fifty four depend on wells, twenty on springs and ten depend on collected rain water. During the year a piped supply was substituted for 1 well supply.

Bacteriological and chemical sampling of public supplies is carried out by the Bristol Waterworks Company, but some individual sampling is also done by the Council's Public Health Department. The result of such sampling are given in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1 a) During the year work was completed on:-

|                            |   |         |
|----------------------------|---|---------|
| Mark Sewerage Scheme       | : | £26,000 |
| Axbridge connections, etc. | : | £4,000  |
| Wedmore connections etc.   | : | £2,000  |
| Hill Lea Gardens.          | : | £800    |

b) In progress:

Brent Area Sewerage Scheme - Phase 1

Current Contract : £249,208 - Completion 1974

(A further £145,000 is anticipated for contributions to Burnham U.D.C. and Bridgewater R.D.C. in connection with this Phase and Phase 2).

2, Future Proposals (in order of priority)

- a) Caravan Club Sewer, Berrow (under construction) - £3,000
- b) Kewstoke/Congresbury Sewage Disposal Scheme - £530,000  
submitted to D.O.E. - January, 1973
- c) Cheddar Valley Sewage Disposal Scheme - Phase 1 - £561,500 - 1974/76
- d) Wrington Surface Water - £8,000 - 1974/75
- e) Wrington - West Hay Road - Sewer Extension - £4,000 - 1974/75
- f) Brent Area Sewerage - Phase 2 - Cost not yet estimated
- g) Cheddar Valley Sewage Disposal Scheme - Phase 2 - £301,500 - 1976/78



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1972

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Year 1972:-

HOUSING

Progress continues to be made in dealing with sub-standard houses, but if the Government's objective of the elimination of all unfit houses within 10 years is to be achieved, whilst in the same period every family is to have available all the standard amenities, then an accelerated programme will be required.

During the year 27 houses were made fit and 4 demolished.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of enquiries continues to run at a high level, and during the year 64 applications were approved for works to full discretionary grant standard and 17 approved for the installation of standard amenities.

This means that £376,937 has been paid towards the improvement of 1,147 dwellings since the Grant scheme began, and in 20 years 18.6% of the existing houses in the District have benefited from an Improvement Grant.

STATUTORY ACTION

In only 2 cases throughout the year was this necessary, 1 Closing Order being made and 1 Undertaking accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit.

7 applications for Qualification Certificates were received of which 4 were granted.

During 1972 there were no cases of statutory overcrowding on the Register.

CARAVANS and CAMPING

Licensed caravan sites (more than 1 van) now number 7 residential and 69 holiday, with permitted numbers respectively of 420 and 3,322 vans. There are 9 licensed tented sites (325 tents), 18 exempted sites (54 vans) and 29 unlicensed sites (390 tents, 98 vans).

At the height of the holiday season the caravan parks and camping sites therefore house some 15,000 people, a very significant increase in the population of the District. It was again noted that demand for transit caravan pitches still exceeds the supply.

FOOD CONTROL

Routine inspections of all types of food premises were carried out during the year with a view to continued improvement in the standards of storage, display, handling etc.

There was a satisfactory response to the informal approach of the Inspectors, and no statutory proceedings were instituted.

Particulars of the various types of food premises in the District are given below:-

| <u>Food Premises in Area</u><br><u>(excluding registered</u><br><u>dairy premises)</u>                                                                                                                                                                | <u>No. of</u><br><u>Premises</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>A. <u>Food Manufacturing Premises</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                  |
| Edible Fat Refinery                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1                                |
| Cheese Straw Factory                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1                                |
| Cheese Factories                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2                                |
| Bakers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 7                                |
| Pickle Factory                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1                                |
| <b>B. <u>Wholesalers</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                  |
| Greengrocers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                                |
| Dairy Produce                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4                                |
| Confectioners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1                                |
| Grocers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 2                                |
| Cheese Depot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                                |
| <b>C. <u>Retail Shops</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                  |
| Grocers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 119                              |
| Confectioners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 52                               |
| Butchers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 24                               |
| Fishmongers & Greengrocers<br>(combined)                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3                                |
| Greengrocers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 30                               |
| Dairies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 2                                |
| <b>D. <u>Catering Premises (including</u></b><br><b><u>School Meals and Licensed</u></b><br><b><u>Premises)</u></b>                                                                                                                                   |                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 208                              |
| <b>E. <u>Premises registered under the</u></b><br><b><u>provisions of Sec. 16 of the</u></b><br><b><u>Food &amp; Drugs Act, 1955 (excluding</u></b><br><b><u>premises used for the Manufacture</u></b><br><b><u>Storage and Sale of Ice Cream</u></b> |                                  |
| Sausage making                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 12                               |
| Fish Frying                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6                                |

UNSOUND FOOD

4 complaints of mould in food were investigated, and advice on stock-rotation given to shopkeepers.

In the list below of unsound food surrendered for safe disposal, the bulk of the canned and other foods are goods found damaged on delivery to the large wholesale grocery depot in the District :-

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Canned foods            | - 13 cwt. 84 lbs. |
| Canned meats            | - 1 cwt. 35 "     |
| Meat at retail premises | - 1 " 79 "        |
| Frozen foods            | - " 44 "          |
| Other foods             | - 3 " 17 "        |

## MEAT

The 2 private slaughterhouses in the District continued in operation, and necessary structural repairs and re-decoration were achieved. All food animals killed were inspected by Public Health Inspectors for fitness for human consumption, and the following table gives details:-

|                                                                | Cattle<br>excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Number killed                                                  | 96                          | -    | Nil    | 310   | 207  |
| Number inspected                                               | 96                          | -    | -      | 310   | 207  |
| <u>All diseases:</u>                                           |                             |      |        |       |      |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                      | -                           | -    | -      | -     | -    |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was condemned         | 12                          | -    | -      | 11    | 14   |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease | 12.5%                       | -    | -      | 3.5%  | 6.7% |
| Weight of meat condemned<br>(in lbs.)                          | 139                         | -    | -      | 64    | 84   |

## ICE CREAM

There is 1 registered Manufacturer of Ice Cream (complete cold mix process) and 189 premises registered for storage and sale.

6 samples of soft Ice Cream were sent for bacteriological examination.

## MILK

There are 5 registered Dairies and 116 premises registered for the distribution of Milk.

The Medical Officer of Health served 2 notices under the Milk and Dairies Regulations requiring the pasteurisation of untreated supplies from cattle infected with *Brucella Abortus*.

## WATER

Each of the sources of chlorinated mains supply to the District was regularly examined for bacterial purity, and all 49 samples were satisfactory. The County Analyst reported after chemical analysis that all supplies were free from plumbo-solvency and other harmful contamination.

18 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private premises not receiving a supply from the public mains; 2 of these samples proved to be unsatisfactory.

### REFUSE COLLECTION and DISPOSAL

Following work study by the Somerset County Council Management Services Unit, an incentive bonus scheme of payment for the direct labour employees was introduced early in the year. There were savings in both staff and vehicles, but these were offset to some extent by large increases in the numbers of bins put out for collection throughout the District.

Disposal of ordinary household refuse is to the controlled tip at Axbridge, whilst bulky refuse is tipped in the Banwell Quarry.

|                                                                 |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Number of Refuse Vehicles in operation                          | 6 (+ 2 stand-by)<br>1 for bulky refuse |
| Estimated amount of refuse collected during the year            | 12,725 Tons                            |
| Total amount of salvaged material disposed of during the year:- |                                        |
|                                                                 | Cwts. Qrs. £. p.                       |
| (a) Non-ferrous Metals                                          | 10 - 40. 00                            |
| (b) Rags                                                        | 18 2 14. 25                            |
| (c) Batteries                                                   | - - 12. 00                             |

### CIVIC AMENITIES ACT

A car-breaker, operating on a lease in part of Banwell Quarry, is contracted to remove and dispose of cars abandoned in the District. 30 vehicles were dealt with in this way, but the legal formalities associated with the actual abandonment and the tracing of owners tend to make it a long drawn-out procedure.

### CLEAN AIR ACT

Garden bonfires continue to be a source of conflict between neighbours, but the smoke is usually an annoyance rather than a statutory nuisance. In 1 case of smoke from the burning of trade refuse, informal notice resulted in the provision of a smokeless incinerator.

1 application for the approval of chimney height was dealt with.

### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

5 complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year, 3 being confirmed and remedied following informal action.

The barking of dogs can be a problem in an area with 6 animal boarding establishments. Unmuffled pneumatic drills and compressors also gave rise to complaints, but the Statutory Undertakings, whilst exempt from proceedings under the Act, are usually co-operative.

The following is a copy of the report submitted to the Council of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1934.

RODENT CONTROL

A slight drop in the number of complaints allowed the survey work to be stepped up with farm and business premises etc. being inspected as possible sources of infestation. Where appropriate, block treatments were carried out, and to date there is no suggestion of Warfarin resistance within the District.

|                                                                                              | <u>NON</u><br><u>AGRICULTURAL</u> | <u>AGRICULTURAL</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Total number of premises (including nearby properties) inspected following notifications  | 601                               | 40                  |
| Number infested by (1) Rats                                                                  | 201                               | 30                  |
| (2) Mice                                                                                     | 28                                | 21                  |
| B. Total number of properties inspected for rats and mice for reason other than notification | 641                               | 224                 |
| Number infested by (1) Rats                                                                  | 55                                | 72                  |
| (2) Mice                                                                                     | 21                                | 5                   |
| C. Number of sewage systems test baited                                                      |                                   | 22                  |
| Number of sewerage systems needing treatment and treated for rat infestation                 |                                   | 1                   |
| D. Number of Council owned properties (excluding Council Houses) treated for rat infestation |                                   | 12                  |
| Number of treatments of Council owned properties for rat infestation                         |                                   | 21                  |
| E. Number of premises treated by Council's rodent operator:                                  |                                   |                     |
| (a) For rat infestation                                                                      | 329                               | 14                  |
| (b) For rat and mouse infestation                                                            | 5                                 | 2                   |
| (c) For mouse infestation                                                                    | 45                                | -                   |

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a copy of the report submitted to the Minister of Labour for the year ending 31st December, 1972:-

A. Registration and General Inspections

| Class of Premises                                    | No. of premises registered during Year | Total No. of registered premises at end of Year | No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during Year |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Offices                                              | 3                                      | 76                                              | 28                                                                   |
| Retail Shops                                         | 4                                      | 132                                             | 74                                                                   |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses                          | -                                      | 9                                               | 4                                                                    |
| Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens | 1                                      | 54                                              | 35                                                                   |
| Fuel Storage Depots                                  | -                                      | -                                               | -                                                                    |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                       | <b>8</b>                               | <b>271</b>                                      | <b>141</b>                                                           |

B. Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises

155

C. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Offices                                    | 575 |
| Retail Shops                               | 327 |
| Wholesale Departments, Warehouses          | 53  |
| Catering establishments open to the public | 250 |
| Canteens                                   | 18  |
| Fuel Storage Depots                        | -   |

**TOTAL:** 1,227 Males: 527  
Females: 700

D. Exemption (relating to all classes of premises) Space, Temperature, Sanitary Conveniences, Washing Facilities

|                                                                 |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| No. of exemptions current at 31.12.72                           | Nil |
| No. of exemptions granted or extended during year               | Nil |
| No. of applications refused or exemptions withdrawn during year | Nil |
| No. of cases where employees opposed application                | Nil |
| No. of Appeals to Court made                                    | Nil |
| No. of Appeals to Court allowed                                 | Nil |

E. Prosecutions

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in the Year Nil

F. Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act

4

Number of other Staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act Nil

ACCIDENTS

All 5 accidents notified during the year were of a minor nature, 2 being investigated and informal advice given.

FACTORIES ACT

Prescribed particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions of health

| <u>Premises</u>                                                                                                      | <u>Number on<br/>Register</u> | <u>Inspections</u> | <u>Number of:</u>          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                                                                                      |                               |                    | <u>Written<br/>Notices</u> |
| (i) Factories in which sections<br>1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be en-<br>forced by Local Authorities                          | 3                             | 1                  | Nil                        |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i)<br>in which Section 7 is enforced<br>by the Local Authority                       | 88                            | 63                 | Nil                        |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section<br>7 is enforced by the Local<br>Authority (enclosing<br>Outworkers' Premises) | 8                             | 4                  | Nil                        |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                                                       | 99                            | 68                 | Nil                        |

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

|                                                                                   | <u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u> |                 |                          |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                                                   | <u>Found</u>                                       | <u>Remedied</u> | <u>Referred :</u>        |                          |
|                                                                                   |                                                    |                 | <u>To H.M.<br/>Insp.</u> | <u>By H.M.<br/>Insp.</u> |
| Want of Cleanliness (S1)                                                          | -                                                  | -               | -                        | -                        |
| Overcrowding (S2)                                                                 | -                                                  | -               | -                        | -                        |
| Unreasonable temperature (S3)                                                     | -                                                  | -               | -                        | -                        |
| Inadequate ventilation (S4)                                                       | -                                                  | -               | -                        | -                        |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)                                               | -                                                  | -               | -                        | -                        |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S7)                                                        |                                                    |                 |                          |                          |
| (a) Insufficient                                                                  | 1                                                  | 1               | -                        | 1                        |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective                                                       | 2                                                  | 2               | -                        | -                        |
| (c) Not separate for sexes                                                        | -                                                  | -               | -                        | -                        |
| Other offences against the Act<br>(not including offences<br>relating to Outwork) | -                                                  | -               | -                        | -                        |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                    | 3                                                  | 3               | -                        | 1                        |

PART VIII of the Act (Outwork Sections 133 & 134)

|                              | <u>No. of out-<br/>workers in<br/>August list<br/>required by<br/>Sec.133(i)(Ic)</u> | <u>No of cases<br/>of default in<br/>sending lists<br/>to the Council</u> | <u>No. of prose-<br/>cutions for<br/>failure to<br/>supply lists</u> | <u>No. of instances<br/>of work in un-<br/>wholesome<br/>premises</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wig making                   | 1                                                                                    | Nil                                                                       | Nil                                                                  | Nil                                                                   |
| Dressing Dolls               | 23                                                                                   | Nil                                                                       | Nil                                                                  | Nil                                                                   |
| Glove making                 | 1                                                                                    | Nil                                                                       | Nil                                                                  | Nil                                                                   |
| False Eyelashes              | 2                                                                                    | Nil                                                                       | Nil                                                                  | Nil                                                                   |
| All other<br>Classifications | Nil                                                                                  | Nil                                                                       | Nil                                                                  | Nil                                                                   |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>               | 27                                                                                   | Nil                                                                       | Nil                                                                  | Nil                                                                   |

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY OR UNDER THE  
SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Number of visits paid in connection with:

|                                           |       |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Improvement Grants                        | 1,471 |
| Housing Survey, repairs etc.              | 538   |
| Refuse collection service                 | 309   |
| Infested premises                         | 22    |
| Caravan and camping Sites                 | 482   |
| Food premises and catering establishments | 982   |
| Ice-Cream premises                        | 27    |
| Milk and Dairies                          | 27    |
| Water supplies                            | 10    |
| Swimming Baths                            | 45    |
| Infectious diseases and food poisoning    | 36    |
| Nuisances and complaints                  | 611   |
| Drainage systems                          | 57    |
| Swill-boiling plants                      | 17    |
| Abandoned cars                            | 60    |

Total number of inspections and re-inspections  
carried out ..... 4,829

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support, and the Medical Officer of Health, the other Chief Officers of the Council and all the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,  
Your obedient servant,

R. T. BARRON

Chief Public Health Inspector.