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Book

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1961

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Barrister at Law

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Constituted May, 1961)

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Councillor P. W. Jones (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor M. W. Buckingham (Mayor)
Councillor D. T. Bates
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Councillor J. T. Blyth
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Councillor H. W. Poole
Councillor Mrs. Stanley
Councillor N. Thompson

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Eric W. J. Miller, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (from 1/9/61)

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss V. Slingsbury
Mrs. N. Doyle

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

AND

JOHN HALL

OF

OXFORD

AND

JOHN HALL

OF

OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIAR'S CROFT,"
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

June, 1962.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

In presenting this Annual Report I must of necessity be brief as I was not in office during the year under review. I have, however, studied the statistics and compared them with previous years, and it would appear that in spite of the great influx of people from other parts of the United Kingdom and elsewhere, the general trend towards better health in the Borough has been maintained.

Next year I hope to change the form of the Report to include more comment on general health matters and services provided.

It gives me pleasure to pay tribute to the work of my predecessor, Dr. Sims-Roberts, who was Medical Officer of Health of the Borough for 23 years, and to wish him a long and happy retirement.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PRINGLE,

B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	3,588 acres
Population (estimated mid-1961)	27,040
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1961 according to Rate Books)	7,946
Rateable Value	£490,008
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,035

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:—

	1960			1961		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	237	209	446	268	254	522
Illegitimate	15	11	26	10	13	23
Rate per 1,000 population	19.34			20.16		
Rate (corrected)	16.83			16.93		
Rate for England and Wales	17.1			17.4		
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)	5.5			4.22		

Still Births:—

	1960			1961		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5	6	6	12
Illegitimate	—	2	2	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	14.61			21.54		

DEATHS

	1960			1961		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	124	105	229	135	109	244
Rate per 1,000 population	9.38			9.02		
Standardised Rate	10.79			11.18		
Rate for England and Wales	11.5			12.0		

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	1960			1961		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	4	6	10	3	2	5
Illegitimate	1	—	1	—	1	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

	1960	1961
All infants per 1,000 live births	23.31	11.01
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.42	9.58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	38.46	43.48
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	21.7	21.4

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

			1960			1961		
			M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	..	4	4	8	2	2	4
Illegitimate	..	..	1	—	1		1	1

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	..	19.07	1961	9.17
--	----	-------	------	------

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age:—

			1960			1961		
			M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	..	4	4	8	2	2	4
Illegitimate	..	..	1	—	1	—	1	1

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	19.07	1961	9.17
--	----	-------	------	------

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	33.40	1961	30.52
---	----	-------	------	-------

Maternal Mortality:—

Number of deaths (including abortion)	..	Nil	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	—	—

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

								M.	F.
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	15
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	13
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	10
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1

	M.	F
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	11
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	3	—
	—	—
	135	109
	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

During the year the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals have provided accommodation for surgical and medical cases, whilst the Isolation Hospital continued to admit persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital also provided accommodation for paraplegic cases.

The above hospitals situated in the Borough are administered by the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee, who are responsible to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Routine samples of milk, water and ice cream and other specimens requiring pathological examination are submitted to the above. When necessary, the services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised.

Ambulance Services

Sixteen Ambulance Service vehicles, comprising eleven ambulances and five dual purpose vehicles, are stationed in Buckingham Road for use in town and surrounding districts.

The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments. All casualty cases are dealt with at the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Pebble Lane, Quarrendon Estate, Southcourt and Limes Avenue, which are controlled by the Bucks County Council.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The Bucks County Council control the vaccination of children against this disease, providing clinics for immunisation and vaccine for the use of medical practitioners.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation

As the Local Health Authority, defined in the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Bucks County Council control the immunisation of children against these diseases.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases

The Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee administer a clinic held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital for the treatment of the above diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total notifications received			Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1960	1961		1960	1961
		Male	Female		
Measles	—	279	276	—	2
Whooping Cough	13	2	1	—	—
Dysentery	19	8	—	4	1
Scarlet Fever	22	6	9	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	6	1	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	5	4	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis, paralytic	—	2	1	—	3

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year with Analysis under Age Groups

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age unknown	Totals
Measles	12	114	146	274	4	—	5	—	—	—	555
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	1	—	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	8
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	9	3	1	1	—	—	—	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	6
Food Poisoning	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Poliomyelitis, paralytic	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
<i>Age Groups</i>				
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	1	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	— (2)	— (2)	—	—
25—	1 (3)	1	—	—
35—	— (1)	— (1)	—	—
45—	— (1)	— (1)	—	—
55—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1 (1)	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
Total	3 (8)	2 (4)	—	—

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts, and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Report of survey carried out at H.M. Prison, Aylesbury,
on 31st August, 1961

Summary of Work				Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	101	1	102
No. recalled for large films	..	..	..	7	1	8
No. recalled for clinical examination	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	59	1	60
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	42	—	42

Summary of newly discovered significant cases of tuberculosis

Group				No. Examined	Active P.T.	Rate per Thousand	Inactive P.T.	Rate per Thousand
Prisoners	..	..	..	64	—	—	—	—
Staff	..	..	..	37	—	—	—	—
General Public	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—
Total				102	—	—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Dancers End, New Ground and Hawridge, which are on the Chiltern Hills.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town. All samples were satisfactory.

Twenty samples were taken by this Department from domestic sources in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination. Four, taken from an area of the town where new development is in progress, proved to be unsatisfactory, and it was thought contamination might have occurred during connection of new branches to the main. The matter was reported to the Bucks Water Board who took appropriate action, and subsequent samples taken from the same district proved that the water was suitable for domestic and drinking purposes.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the main supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Drainage and Sewerage

The sewerage system of the Borough is partially on the totally separate system with surface water from streets and buildings being discharged to water courses (all post-war development is on this system) and partially on the combined system where all surface water discharged into the sewers is treated at the Sewage Disposal Works.

Schemes have been prepared for the separate surface water drainage of several areas now drained on the combined system. The schemes for the conversion of the west central area of the town, and Buckingham Street, Willow Road, and Fleet Street areas have been completed, and the scheme for the conversion of Spencer Road, Queens Park, Victoria Park, Manor Park and Chiltern Street areas is in progress. Work on the remaining area between Cambridge Street and Park Street is scheduled to be carried out during 1962/63.

Sewage Disposal Works

Work started on the construction of a new Sewage Disposal Works in July, 1959 on land north of the Bear Brook at its junction with the River Thame. It is expected that the Works will be in operation during the summer of 1962.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is carried out completely by controlled tipping, which is giving very satisfactory results. Salvage collection is made before and after tipping of the refuse.

The collection of refuse is done by modern dustless loading types of vehicles and both this service and that of street cleansing continues to be operated in an efficient manner. The maintenance of sufficient labour for this work is still difficult, particularly for the cleansing of streets.

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool.

Fifty-one samples of water were taken for chlorine content during the summer months.

During the summer a request was received from the Detention Centre, Bierton Road, Aylesbury, for samples of the swimming pool water used by the boys to be taken to ensure that conditions were satisfactory. Two such samples were taken during the season, and the condition of the pool was satisfactory on each occasion.

Slipper Baths

Attendances at the Slipper Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street, amounted to a total of 3,913 during the year. The total for 1960 was 3,735.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Two reports of bug infestation were received during the year. In one case it was found that two adjoining properties were infested, the main source of infestation being one room in the house adjacent to that from which the original complaint was received. In the second case, no evidence of bed bug infestation could be found.

Schools

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall

January	2.29 ins.	July	1.94 ins.
February	2.46 ins.	August	1.92 ins.
March	.17 ins.	September	2.42 ins.
April	2.79 ins.	October	3.22 ins.
May	.82 ins.	November	1.57 ins.
June	1.28 ins.	December	2.99 ins.
Total rainfall for the year	.. .. .		23.87 ins.
Average for the past 56 years	.. .. .		24.39 ins.

(Figures supplied by Mr. G. B. Hannay, Borough Engineer and Surveyor).

Mr. Hannay stated that rain fell on 152 days during the year, compared with 198 days in 1960.

The highest daily recordings occurred on 12th July (1.15 ins) and 12th June (1.02 ins).

The figures for April are the highest for the past twenty year period. Similarly, the March figures are the lowest and the May figures the third lowest for the same period.

For the 36 days from 7th May until 11th June rainfall was recorded on only two days, 1st June (.11 ins.) and 7th June (.02 ins.).

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

Messrs. Nesmilk Ltd., were licensed by the Bucks County Council to pasteurise milk in the Borough. Pasteurisation was carried out on a large scale in H.T.S.T. type plant. Pasteurisation at these premises ceased in October.

The Bucks County Council carried out sampling of this milk at the plant to ensure that it was being efficiently heat treated.

In view of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, routine sampling of milk by the Department was not undertaken during the year. Following complaints from a doctor concerning cases of diarrhoea and sickness thought to be due to the milk supply, however, seven samples were taken in June, when it was found that the milk supplied from two farms was not up to the standard required. The matter was referred to the Milk Production Officer and two further samples taken in August proved to be satisfactory, indicating that the action taken had had the desired effect.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	4,144	265	390	12,654	3,538
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned.	2	4	—	9	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,162	18	5	66	318
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	28.09 %	8.30 %	1.28 %	0.59 %	9.04 %
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned.	1	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	17	15	—	—	50
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	0.43 %	6.79 %	—	—	1.41 %
Cysticercus Bovis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	27	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration.	27	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned.	—	—	—	—	—

Fourteen licences were issued to slaughtermen during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and work-places.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health

	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power	21	—	—
Factories with mechanical power			

2. Defects found—Nil

Outwork in unwholesome premises

There are eight outworkers' premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIARS' CROFT,"
OXFORD ROAD,
AYLESBURY.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1961. The figures in brackets denote work carried out during 1960.

Housing

The report on the Cambridge Street Clearance Area was made to the Committee in September, 1961, but at the end of the year confirmation of the Order by the Minister had not been received.

The work on the survey of sub-standard houses in the Borough was not completed in time for the report to be made to the Council during the year, and it is anticipated that the report will be made very early in the new year.

Progress in other fields of housing work continued during the year, three houses previously closed for human habitation were demolished, and a further three houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation and closed until either demolished or made fit.

In addition, six houses owned by the Borough Council and certified by the Medical Officer of Health as being unfit for habitation were closed during the year.

One application for a certificate of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, was received in the year, and following inspection and service of the usual notice the landlord gave an undertaking to carry out the necessary work.

The following table shows the general work carried out under the Housing Act. The high number of miscellaneous housing visits is accounted for by the survey of areas prior to preparation of the report on the next five years slum clearance programme.

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	79	(187)
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	191	(257)
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	24	(22)
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	1	(1)
Miscellaneous housing visits	..	..	..	255	(—)
Houses repaired:—					
By owners	..	..	..	16	(17)
By the Borough Council in default	..	..	..	1	(1)

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Work under this heading comprises mainly that in connection with drainage and nuisances, other aspects of public health legislation being dealt with under separate headings. It will be noted that there was an increase in the number of nuisances found or reported, and the fact that these were all abated without the necessity for statutory action being taken speaks well, I think, for the co-operation generally found between the Health Department and the public. The Statutory Notices served relate almost entirely to drainage work, in which case it is necessary to take formal action in order to recover the cost of the work done. The table showing the main work under this heading is appended below:—

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	17	(20)
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	81	(63)
Drainage visits	..	..	..	289	(273)
Drainage tests	..	..	..	52	(50)
Nuisances found	..	..	..	89	(83)
Nuisances abated	..	..	..	89	(83)
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	1	(—)
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	19	(23)

FOOD

Slaughterhouses

As stated in previous reports, the inspection of meat at slaughterhouses is one of the most important aspects of the Department's work, and the one which occupies the greatest individual time. Despite the difficulties of late hours of slaughtering, 100% inspection was maintained, and this entailed 740 visits to slaughterhouses and the working of 155 hours outside normal office hours, including inspection on Saturday mornings for which time off in lieu is granted following the introduction of a five-day working week. Inspections were also carried out on various Bank Holidays throughout the year and on one Sunday over the Christmas holiday.

Apart from cows, which showed a decrease of 130 animals slaughtered in the year, all other classes of animals showed an increase; the total increase for the year being some 2,600 animals. Despite this very marked increase in slaughtering, the amount of condemned meat and offal at slaughterhouses fell by almost 2 tons, which underlines the comment I made in my last report that the general standard of animals reaching the slaughterhouses is rising.

It will be noted that apart from T.B. reactors, no carcase was condemned for tuberculosis during the year. On the other hand, the number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* found in the slaughterhouses has risen from 9 to 27.

A report submitted to the Minister under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, was approved, but the operators of the larger slaughterhouse to be closed under the report, who had intimidated that they would erect a new slaughterhouse within the Borough, again changed their minds and decided to enter into agreement with a slaughterhouse operator in the Wycombe Rural District. This necessitated an amendment to the report as originally submitted, but the final draft was approved by the Minister and will come into operation on 1st April, 1962, from which date only one slaughterhouse will remain in operation in the Borough.

Tables showing the number of animals slaughtered and condemnation of carcasses and organs are appended below:—

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1961

Quarter	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1st	81	777	110	1,987	935	3,890
2nd	62	901	79	2,352	821	4,215
3rd	51	1,077	98	4,030	737	5,993
4th	71	1,389	103	4,285	1,045	6,893
Totals	265	4,144	390	12,654	3,538	20,991
Totals for 1960	397	3,439	345	10,706	3,520	18,407

Tables showing Condemned Organs of Animals

CATTLE

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Spleen	Kidneys	Skirt	Mesentery
Distoma Hepaticum ..	—	—	831	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscessed	3	3	161	16	1	—	—	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	5	29	1	12	—	2	—
Cavernous Angioma ..	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Change	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis ..	21	21	—	—	6	—	—	1	—
Haemorrhagic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Actinobacillosis	26	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	2	2	1	15	—	—	—	—	3
Tumoured	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	18	1	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cystic	—	—	7	18	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Actinomycosis	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fasciolae	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Hypertrophy	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Nephritic	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oedematous	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Reactors	7	7	13	15	1	—	—	—	8

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Fevered and Nephritis	1
Injured and Septicaemia	1
Oedematous Casualty	1
General Emaciation	1
Total ..	4

T.B. Reactors

Tuberculosis and Emaciation	1
Oedema	..	..	1
Bruised and Fevered	..	..	1
Generalised Tuberculosis	..	..	3
Total			6

In addition to the details given above, twenty-seven carcasses were found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* and transferred to cold storage before being released for human consumption.

SHEEP

	Liver	Head	Pluck	Lungs	Heart
Distoma Hepaticum ..	34	—	—	—	—
Parasitic	29	—	—	—	—
Septic Pneumonia ..	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1
Abscessed	—	—	—	1	—
Septic	—	—	1	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	—	1	1

Carcasses condemned (including all offal)

Septic Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2
Bruised and Imperfectly Bled			..	..	1
Oedema and Pneumonia	..		..	..	1
Oedema	..	..	..	..	3
Caseous Lymphadenitis		..	..	..	1
Septicaemia	..	..	..	..	1
Total					9

PIGS

	Lungs	Head	Heart	Pluck	Kidneys	Liver
Pneumonia	126	—	8	11	—	6
Tuberculosis	—	51	—	—	—	—
Inflammation	43	1	47	9	—	1
Cysts	—	—	—	—	7	—
Pleurisy	7	—	4	—	—	2
Fatty Change	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cirrhosis and Parasitic ..	—	—	—	1	—	6
Tumoured	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congestion	1	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic	—	—	—	1	—	82
Pericarditis	—	—	7	—	—	—
Abscessed	—	2	—	—	—	—

Carcases condemned (including all offal)

Dropsical	1
Septic Peritonitis	1
Total ..	2

CALVES

	Lungs	Liver
Pneumonia	4	—
Abscessed	—	1

Carcases condemned (including all offal)

NIL

Weight of Condemned Meat and Offal

	lbs.
Cow Beef	3,440
Cow Offal	602
Other Beef	1,760
Other Bovine Offal	13,756
Pork	204
Pig Offal	1,379
Mutton	462
Sheep Offal	158
Calf Offal	18
Total ..	21,779

Total: 9 tons 14 cwts. 1 qtr. 23 lbs.

Total for 1960: 11 tons 11 cwts. 1 qtr. 6 lbs.

Fourteen slaughterman's licenses were issued during the year.

The amount of foodstuffs surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough as a result of inspections carried out, often on request from the shopkeepers, follows:—

	WEIGHT		NUMBER
	lbs.	ozs.	
Cheese	15	13	—
Fresh Meat	312	4	—
Fresh Fish	21	—	—
Dried Chicken Meat ..	506	—	—
Tinned Vegetables ..	108	1	114
Tinned Fruit	1,680	6	1,276
Tinned Meat	436	1	173
Tinned Fish	37	2	99
Tinned Milk	100	2	44
Preserves	388	2	458
Miscellaneous	691	1	896
Total ..	4,296	1	3,060

Total Foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

Meat and Offal	9 tons 14 cwts. 1 qtr. 23 lbs. – ozs.
Various Foodstuffs	1 tons 18 cwts. 1 qtr. 12 lbs. 1 oz.
Total ..	11 tons 12 cwts. 3 qtrs. 7 lbs. 1 oz.
Total for 1960	13 tons 10 cwts. 3 qtrs. 18 lbs. 15 ozs.

Disposal of condemned food is left to the retailer.

Milk and Dairies

As mentioned in last year's report, the only duty now remaining with the Borough Council under this heading is that of registering milk retailers. The milk distribution trade is now confined to the distribution of milk in bottles and containers as received from wholesalers, and supervision by this Department is very much less important

than it was in previous years. Two visits only were made to dairy premises during the year. Milk producers are licensed and controlled by the County Agricultural Committee acting as agents for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the one firm which pasteurised milk within the district ceased production during the latter part of the year.

Ice Cream

The position with regard to the ice cream industry has not changed during the year, and although 104 premises are now registered for the sale of ice cream in the Borough, only one person makes his own ice cream, and in this case a cold mix ice cream, using previously heat treated ingredients, is produced.

As the majority of the ice cream sold in the Borough is manufactured by a relatively small number of large manufacturers, it is obviously unnecessary to take a large number of samples to check the methods of production. In fact, twenty samples of ice cream were submitted for analysis during the year, and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1 — 15 samples

Grade 2 — 5 samples

Grade 3 — Nil

Grade 4 — Nil

Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory ice creams.

Thirty-six visits were paid to registered ice cream dealers' premises during the year.

Following a communication from the Senior Medical Officer at Halton regarding the results of informal samples of ice lollies which he had taken, a number of samples of lollies from the same manufacturer were taken in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological analysis. There is no legal standard for ice lollies, and the laboratory treated these as water, the results showing that all the samples were bacteriologically contaminated, three samples showing evidence of gross contamination. The firm concerned was informed of these findings, and undertook to strip plant down and carry out a thorough investigation before proceeding with the manufacture. Further samples of ice lollies and ice cream lollies taken after being informed by the firm that their investigations had been completed, showed some improvement in the bacteriological standard of the ice lollies, but although the ice cream lollies fell into Grade 2, which, as will be noted above, is considered to be satisfactory, on further bacteriological examination they both showed evidence of contamination. The firm were again communicated with, but up to the end of the year it was not found possible to take further samples from this manufacturer to check on present standards.

It is interesting to note that three lollies taken over the same period from other manufacturers proved sterile in each case.

Food Shops, Restaurants, Etc.

The following table shows that the number of inspections made at premises in this category remains fairly constant. The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in all food premises was found to be satisfactory, and no statutory action was necessary.

Market Stalls	..	..	..	634	(709)
Grocers	..	..	..	136	(123)
Butchers	..	..	..	54	(48)
Restaurants	..	..	..	10	(25)
Fishmongers	..	..	..	4	(3)
Food Preparing Premises	..			4	(2)

Water Supply

Every house in the Borough is supplied with piped water obtained from the Chiltern Hills by the Bucks Water Board.

Sixteen samples taken during the year satisfied the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health, and the action taken concerning the four unsatisfactory samples of water submitted for analysis during the year is reported in the Medical Officer of Health's section of the report.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act and Disinfestation

The statistics relating to rodent control and disinfestation show year by year the necessity for continued activity in this field. Although again no major infestation of rats or mice was discovered during the year, the number of minor local infestations remains fairly constant from year to year. During the year under review the increase in the number of private premises and Local Authority premises treated is to some extent offset by a drop in the number of business premises treated, whilst infestation in the sewer system shows a slight increase, takes being recorded in eleven manholes as against eight in the previous year.

It is perhaps interesting to record that the pattern found in Aylesbury bears a very close relationship to that in other urban areas throughout the country, and adds some evidence to the theory I have held for many years that in rodent control there is an irreducible minimum beyond which it is extremely difficult to get, and that whilst the rat and mouse are ever with us, continued vigilance is necessary to ensure that the numbers do not increase.

The service given by the Council to factories and shops in the Borough is still appreciated, and the number of annual agreements remains the same at 29, with an income of £270 per annum. The cost of work done on business premises not covered by agreements was recovered and amounted to £26 1s. 0d. Private properties continue to be treated free.

The Borough are constituent members of the North Bucks Workable Area Rodent Control Committee, which meets twice yearly to discuss matters of mutual interest and receive reports from the Ministry Officers of new methods and improved techniques of rodent and insect control.

The number of wasps' nests dealt with during the year was nearly double at 95, and although the work of destroying these nests is not without some danger, the service is very much appreciated by those householders who are plagued with a wasps' nest on their premises.

My previous remarks about rodent control would seem to be applicable to infestation of bed bugs. This year two notifications were received and eight rooms were found to be infested with these vermin. Treatment with D.D.T. solution and gammexane powder was effective in clearing the infestation, and it is hoped that it may not be many years before I can again report that no bed bug infestation was found during the year.

Rodent Control work carried out during the year

Private Premises treated	206	(179)
Business Premises treated	136	(179)
Local Authority Premises treated	25	(21)
Rat bodies found	580	(569)
Mouse bodies found	200	(330)
Points laid—Private Premises	601	(487)
Points laid—Business Premises	601	(728)
Points laid—Local Authority Premises	175	(103)
Manholes treated	75	(60)
Visits made by Public Health Inspectors	120	(27)
Wasps Nests destroyed	95	(47)

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting ..	101	(99)
Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting ..	18	(18)
Visits paid to factories	21	(20)

Clean Air Act

Seven visits in connection with the Clean Air Act were made during the year, and application was made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in October for approval, in principle, to the making of the Bedgrove Smoke Control Order. The Order was not confirmed at the end of the year, but the Minister did ask whether the Council proposed to proceed with further areas as it was felt generally

desirable that smoke control, once started, should be progressively extended, and the Ministry wished to avoid isolated islands of control surrounded by areas where smoky fuels may continue to be used for an indefinite period. The Committee considered this at their November meeting, and suggested to the Council, who agreed, that following the making of the Bedgrove Smoke Control Order, progressive action should be taken to cover the whole Borough. When confirmation of the Bedgrove Smoke Control Order is received from the Minister, a programme to cover the rest of the town will be submitted to the Committee.

The first station for recording atmospheric pollution in the Borough under the sampling programme devised by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, was set up in October, and it is hoped that the remaining three stations will be in operation during the coming year.

Shops Act, 1950

All shops in the Borough normally continue to be closed at hours earlier than those allowed in the Act, and although five visits were made during the year, it was not necessary to take any action in this connection.

Petroleum

The new form of licensing mentioned in my last report was introduced as from 1st January, 1961, and after some initial trouble in obtaining the necessary plans and certificates as to electrical wiring, the system settled down and it is felt it will be an improvement for the future.

Particulars of licences issued and quantities licensed to be stored are as follows:—

Licences issued for storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures	62	(62)
Licences issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium ..	1	(1)
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores	37	(24)

Quantity licensed to be stored:—

Petroleum Spirit	148,864 galls.	(161,874 galls.)
Petroleum Mixtures	3,975 galls.	(1,455 galls.)
Carbide of Calcium	300 lbs.	(300 lbs.)
Total of Licence Fees	£57 15s. 0d.	(£55 5s. 0d.)

Public Conveniences

The general standard of cleanliness and efficiency in the Public Conveniences has been maintained throughout the year. We have again been troubled with the usual misuse of these Conveniences, wilful damage to locks, windows and fixtures and

defacing of the walls and doors by writings and drawings. From visits made by the Chairman, Deputy Surveyor and myself in connection with the hand-dryers during the year, we learnt that this type of vandalism is common throughout the country, and there seems little that one can do to prevent it.

The Conveniences in the High Street, Old Stoke Road, and at the Cattle Market continue to be kept open all night. 331 inspections of Conveniences were made during the year.

Miscellaneous

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following:—

Miscellaneous Public Health Visits	..	..	..	390	(490)
Interviews	..	..	..	609	(510)
Complaints received and investigated	..	..	..	103	(115)
Infectious Disease Visits	..	..	..	28	(33)
Smoke Observations	..	..	..	13	(7)
Marine Stores Visits	..	..	..	2	(1)
Moveable Dwellings inspected	..	..	..	2	(8)

General

New legislation affecting the Department which came into operation during the year included the Public Health Act, 1961, and the Housing Act, 1961, both of which Acts amended existing legislation, and in the case of the former particularly, altered the procedure so that certain public health matters could receive more urgent attention than heretofore. The Housing Act, 1961, made provision for Regulations to be made by the Minister governing conditions of houses in multiple occupation, but such Regulations were not issued before the end of the year. The undertaking given by the Government to introduce The Offices Act before 1st January, 1962, was not implemented and legislation in this direction is still awaited.

The Additional Public Health Inspector authorised by the Council was appointed, and commenced his duties on 1st September. The advent of the new Inspector enabled the inspections in connection with the survey for the future slum clearance programme to be increased, and this work was nearing completion by the end of the year.

As stated earlier in the report, the approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government to the proposed Bedgrove Smoke Control Area was not received by the end of the year, and the detailed work of inspection was therefore not possible. Formal approval is expected early in the new year, and as the Council have already

agreed, in principle, that the first area shall be progressively followed by others until the whole Borough is covered, work in this direction will become increasingly heavy, particularly when the older parts of the town are dealt with.

No other changes in the staff of the Department occurred during the year, and I would again like to express my appreciation to all members of the staff for the way in which they carried out the duties entrusted to them.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and Committee for their continued help and confidence, and to my fellow Officers for advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, F.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

Borough Public Health Inspector.

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