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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1962

A. W. PRINGLE,
B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,
BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



HEALTH COMMITTEE
(Constituted May, 1962)

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Councillor P. W. Jones (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor M. W. Buckingham (Mayor)
Alderman H. D. Smith (Deputy Mayor)
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Councillor H. W. Poole
Councillor N. Thompson

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

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Eric W. J. Miller, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss V. Slingsbury

Miss C. A. Campodonic (From 30/7/62)



Borough of Aylesbury

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

June, 1963.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

Much of this, my first year in office, was taken up in becoming acquainted with the health features of the Borough. I was able to do this by making a series of special visits planned with the assistance of the Borough Health Inspector, and accompanied by him or one of the staff, and also in the ordinary course of my work. There are, of course, so many factors which have a bearing on the health of a community such as this that one cannot hope to assimilate them all in the relatively short space of a year.

During January, 1962, there was an outbreak of smallpox in England and Wales, with the unusual feature of five people who were incubating the disease entering the country within a space of eighteen days. In spite of this the disease was kept within bounds, and a major epidemic was avoided, but many people were shocked with the ease with which it started. It underlined the risk of infection which increasing air travel between this country and other parts of the world, especially the underdeveloped countries, can bring. Several possible contacts of the disease were notified as having arrived in this area, and were vaccinated and placed under day to day supervision. This presented no particular difficulty when the persons concerned spoke some English, and had a fixed address in the Borough. There was at least one instance however of a contact notified as due to arrive in the Borough who could not be traced, and this caused considerable anxiety.

Health Department staff, Ambulance Drivers, District Nurses and all those whose duties might have brought them into contact with a case were vaccinated or re-vaccinated. There was some pressure from the general public for mass vaccination clinics to be opened, but in the circumstances this was quite rightly resisted. The opportunity was taken to remind parents of the importance of routine infant vaccination by an issue of leaflets enclosed with rent and rate demands. I would like to acknowledge the willing co-operation of the General Practitioners in dealing with the increased demands for vaccinations at a time when they were busier than usual.

Following the publication of the Report of the Royal College of Physicians on Smoking and Health, the Minister made a statement in the House urging Local Authorities to publicise the danger of smoking, in particular cigarette smoking, and to organise anti-smoking campaigns in their areas.

Already this is being referred to as "the cancer scare." This is a pity because the word scare suggests a temporary fright and it was not intended that people should regard this as a temporary warning or be frightened by it. Until the elements in tobacco smoke which cause cancer of the lung can be eliminated those who smoke will continue to expose themselves to a greater risk than non-smokers. The extent of the risk is roughly in proportion to the amount of tobacco smoked and is reduced somewhat if it is smoked in a pipe.

These facts should not frighten us but should make us pause and assess our own position in relation to them. If we feel strongly enough about it we should give it up altogether. If we accept the facts, and there can be no doubt about them, but do not feel strongly that we should give up smoking altogether we can change to a pipe or cut down cigarettes to a few per day. This is at least a gesture in the right direction. Whether smokers or non-smokers we should do all we can to dissuade young people from starting to smoke. Health Educators have an uphill struggle before them, and need the support of parents and the adult population generally.

The sharp initial public reaction to the Report has died down and it seems that the pendulum has swung back a little so that some idea of the resistance to giving up smoking can be obtained now. It is hardly surprising that this long standing social habit which has an element of addiction should die hard. It could take a generation or more to bring about a complete change of attitude towards smoking, even with constant pressure from health minded people.

Towards the end of the year the campaign was getting into its stride with lectures, exhibitions and film shows at schools and youth clubs. It is early days yet to assess the impact, but it is certain to be reduced unless parents are prepared to give their active support.

A comparison of the statistics for 1962 with those of the previous year shows that the population rose by roughly 2,000 and the birth rate was higher, but so also was the percentage of illegitimate live births. The rise in illegitimate births has been a national feature and was commented on by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in his Report for 1961. There was virtually no change in the death rate, but there was a small rise in the infant mortality rate, although this was not above the average for the country.

I am glad to report that there was no case of paralytic poliomyelitis notified during the year. It is, however, too soon to claim that this is the result of the vigorous immunisation campaign, or to say with confidence that poliomyelitis will never return in epidemic proportions. There was a small rise in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during the period under review, and a more appreciable rise in the number of known cases moving into the Borough. Transfer cases are placed under the periodic supervision of the Chest Clinic as soon as they arrive.

A glance at the analysis of deaths will show that heart disease and disease of the coronary arteries of the heart caused 69 deaths (27%), cancerous growths caused 54 deaths (21%), and bronchitis 19 (7%). It is true that these diseases were responsible for the deaths of many old people, but they also caused death in middle age, and although we lack knowledge as to the actual causes, we do know of factors which pre-dispose to their onset. I have already mentioned smoking as a pre-disposing factor to cancer of the lung and bronchitis, and I should also mention atmospheric pollution in this respect. Over-eating, worry and lack of physical exercise in middle age are now recognised as pre-disposing to coronary thrombosis, and no doubt the car and television, two signs of our increasing material prosperity, play their part in this. Perhaps these diseases might be made notifiable rather than measles and whooping cough so that sociological research on them could be more easily undertaken in Health Departments.

I am most grateful to you for your interest and support throughout the year and I gladly acknowledge the help given to me by the staff of the Health Department.

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-1962)	29,090
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1962 according to Rate Books)	8,831
Rateable Value	£538,750
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,235

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:—

	1961			1962		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	268	254	522	284	314	598
Illegitimate	10	13	23	20	21	41
				1961		1962
Rate per 1,000 population				20.16		21.97
Rate (corrected)				16.93		18.24
Rate for England and Wales				17.4		18.00
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births) ..				4.22		6.42

Still Births:—

	1961			1962		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	6	6	12	5	8	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
				1961		1962
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				21.54		19.94

DEATHS

	1961			1962		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	135	109	244	155	98	253
				1961		1962
Rate per 1,000 population				9.02		8.70
Standardised Rate				11.18		11.22
Rate for England and Wales				12.0		11.9

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	1961			1962		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5	6	4	10
Illegitimate	—	1	1	—	—	—

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

	1961	1962
All infants per 1,000 live births	11.01	15.65
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	9.58	16.72
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	43.48	—
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	21.4	21.4

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	1961			1962		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4	4	3	7
Illegitimate	—	1	1	—	—	—
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ..				1961	1962	
				9.17	10.95	

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age:—

	1961			1962		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	1	1	—	—	—
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)				1961	1962	
				9.17	9.39	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births) ..				30.52	29.14	

Maternal Mortality:—

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

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	3
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	1
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	19
Coronary disease, angina	32	14
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
Other heart disease	8	10
Other circulatory disease	6	5
Influenza	3	—
Pneumonia	12	3
Bronchitis	16	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—

	M.	F.
Congenital malformations	—	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	10
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	155	98
	<hr/>	<hr/>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

Early in 1962 the Minister of Health presented a Hospital Plan for England and Wales to Parliament. At present there are three main hospitals in the Borough; the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville, and two smaller specialised hospitals, the Isolation Hospital, attached to Stoke Mandeville, and the Manor House Hospital for mentally subnormal children. The Plan envisages that by about 1975 Stoke Mandeville Hospital will be the district general hospital, providing almost twice as many acute beds than at present, the Royal Bucks and Tindal General having ceased to provide medical and surgical treatment for acute cases. Tindal will eventually be closed altogether, but it is probable that the Royal Bucks will continue to provide the same out-patients clinics, but in-patient treatment for old people only.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville

Routine samples of milk, ice cream and water and other specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to this Laboratory throughout the year. Reports were received with the minimum delay, and the help and advice given by the Medical Director were much appreciated.

Ambulance Services

These are provided by the Bucks County Council, and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Eleven ambulances and five dual purpose vehicles were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters.

The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments. All casualties in the Borough are conveyed to the Casualty Department at the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Clinics were functioning during the year:—

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor attended</i>
Pebble Lane	Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	Each session
Quarrendon	1st and 3rd Wednesday	Each session
Southcourt	1st and 3rd Wednesday	Each session
Limes Avenue, Tring Road	Every Monday from 9th April, 1962— previously twice monthly	Each session

There was a total of 6,136 attendances at these Clinics. Besides advice on the health of infants and toddlers given to individual mothers, there were talks on a variety of health subjects for groups at the Clinics. Courses of immunisation against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus were available or could be given by the family doctor. Almost all parents who attended the Clinics were anxious that their children should have the maximum immunity against these diseases, but there was still a minority of the population who failed to take this advantage.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total notifications received			Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1961	1962		1961	1962
		Male	Female		
Measles	555	43	42	2	—
Whooping Cough	3	2	4	—	—
Dysentery	8	5	1	1	5*
Scarlet Fever	15	—	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	5	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis, paralytic	3	—	—	3	—
Pneumonia	—	5	—	—	1

* Manor House

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	1	15	33	35	—	—	—	—	—	1	85
Whooping Cough	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Dysentery	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	6
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	5

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
<i>Age Groups</i>				
0—	—	1	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	— (1)	— (1)	—	—
25—	2 (5)	— (3)	1	1
35—	— (3)	— (2)	—	—
45—	1 (2)	2	—	—
55—	— (1)	—	— (1)	1
65 and upwards	— (1)	1	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
Total	3 (13)	4 (6)	1 (1)	2

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 Royal
Bucks Hospital (Staff) on 8.10.62 and
15.10.62.

Response — 86%

Summary of Work	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	52	167	219
No. referred to chest clinic	—	2	2
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	34	128	162
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	18	39	57
 Results of Cases referred to Chest Clinic			
Neuro-fibroma	—	1	1
Bronchial catarrh	—	1	1
	—	2	2

**Report of survey carried out at H.M.
Prison, Aylesbury, on 16.7.62**

Summary of Work				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	151	2	153
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	48	1	49
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	103	1	104

**Summary of significant cases of
Tuberculosis found**

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Active P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>
Staff	59	—		—	
Prisoners	94	—		—	
Total	153	—		—	

**Report of survey carried out at General
Precision Systems Ltd., on 30.7.62.,
24.9.62., 27.9.62., and 29.10.62**

Response—99%

Summary of Work				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	562	185	747
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	7	2	9
No. referred to general practitioner	..	..	..	1	—	1
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	457	132	589
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	105	53	158

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic

Pulmonary tuberculosis requiring treatment	..	..	..	1	—	1
(This was a newly discovered case; he had a positive sputum; and a previous satisfactory M.M.R. examination)						
Bronchial carcinoma	..	..	..	3	—	3
Sarcoidosis	..	..	..	—	1	1
Pneumonitis	..	..	..	—	1	1
Pleural thickening	..	..	..	1	—	1
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	..	..	..	1	—	1
Normal	..	..	..	1	—	1
				7	2	9

Result of case referred to General Practitioner

Cardiovascular abnormality—acquired	1	—	1
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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, Hawridge and High Wycombe.

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

Thirteen samples were taken by this Department from domestic sources in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

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.

The Corporation are now embarking on the last of the schemes for the removal of surface water drained from the combined system and when the Cambridge Street/Park Street area is completed the whole of the drainage in the Borough will be on the separate system.

Sewage Disposal Works

The new Sewage Disposal Works constructed at the confluence of the Bear Brook and River Thames became operational during March, 1963.

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 controlled tip at Meadowcroft will be filled by the end of the summer of 1963, and negotiations have been concluded for a new tip near Calvert.

The collection of refuse is done by modern dustless 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.

During the year the Corporation put into service a suction type sweeper which has proved very successful.

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.

Seventy-two samples of water were taken for chlorine content and pH value during the summer months.

Five samples failed to fall within the accepted limits of chlorination. The attention of the Baths Superintendent was called to this matter, and he was required to give greater attention to the dosage in future.

Slipper Baths

Attendances at the Slipper Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street, amounted to a total of 4,477 during the year. The total for 1961 was 3,913.

Schools

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

Local Rainfall

January	..	..	3.39 ins.	July	..	..	2.29 ins.
February	..	..	.33 ins.	August	..	..	3.02 ins.
March	..	..	1.19 ins.	September	..	..	3.16 ins.
April	..	..	1.73 ins.	October	..	..	1.15 ins.
May	..	..	2.14 ins.	November	..	..	2.28 ins.
June	..	..	.22 ins.	December	..	..	1.42 ins.
Total rainfall for the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.32 ins.
Average for the past 57 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.85 ins.

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

Mr. Hannay stated that rain fell on 140 days during the year, compared with 152 days in 1961.

The highest daily recordings occurred on Bank Holiday, 6th August (1.62 ins) and on 14th July (.96 ins).

The rainfall recorded for January was the highest for 13 years, for May the highest for 7 years and for September the third highest for 10 years; the figure for February is the third lowest for 20 years, for June the second lowest since records were started in 1906, and for October the lowest for 10 years.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

This Department is no longer concerned in the registration of milk retailers. No sampling of milk was done by the Borough during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	2,237	252	241	6,032	2,448
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	7	—	3	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	574	9	—	14	257
Percentage of number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis	25.79 %	6.35 %	—	0.28 %	10.62 %
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . .	27	4	—	—	48
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	1.21 %	1.59 %	0.41 %	—	1.96 %
Cysticercus Bovis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	25	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration . .	25	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

Fifteen 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 workplaces.

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 } Factories with mechanical power }	45	—	—

2. Defects found—Nil

Outwork in unwholesome premises

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

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"FRIAR'S 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 1962. The figures in brackets denote work carried out during 1961.

HOUSING

An Inquiry into the Cambridge Street Clearance Area was held on 8th May, 1962, and as a consequence the Order was confirmed, the shop property being included in the Order but transferred from a "pink" to a "grey" property. The re-housing of the occupants was not completed before the end of the year, and as these properties are subject to compulsory purchase, which has not yet been completed, the properties were not demolished by the end of the year.

A preliminary report on the next five year slum clearance programme was submitted to and accepted by the Council, and resulted in a further 115 houses to be included for slum clearance and a further seven houses to be dealt with by individual action under section 16 of the Housing Act. During the year four of the individual properties were dealt with. Sixteen houses in two clearance areas were reported to the Committee, and the necessary Orders made. Confirmation of the Orders by the Minister is awaited.

During the year one house previously subject to a Closing Order was demolished, and one repaired to a satisfactory standard and the Closing Order determined. In the case of one house situated in an area due to be dealt with by slum clearance procedure, it was necessary to take immediate individual action on the property because of its condition. Upon serving notice on the owner of the time and place at which the matter would be considered, the deeds of the house were forwarded to the Council as a free gift. In consequence of this action, the tenant was re-housed and the property closed pending demolition with the making of a formal Clearance Order.

In addition to this work, fourteen houses owned by the Borough Council, and certified as unfit by the Medical Officer of Health, were closed during the year and the families re-housed.

Two applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, were received during the year. In one case an undertaking by the landlord to carry out the work prior to the issue of the certificate was accepted, and in the second case a certificate was issued.

Two applications for cancellation of certificates, one relating to the certificate mentioned above, and one to a certificate issued earlier, were received, and one application to cancel was granted. This work entailed a total of fourteen visits being made.

Regulations concerning the management of houses in multi-occupation were issued during the year, and 40 inspections were made in this connection. No instances where application of the Regulations was required were found, nor was there any case of serious overcrowding requiring action by the Committee. The work of inspection was continuing at the close of the year, and it is hoped that a survey of all the houses known to be in multi-occupation will be completed and a report submitted to Committee early in 1963.

The general work carried out by the Department under the Housing Act is set out in the following table.

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	73	(79)
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	206	(191)
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	41	(24)
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	5	(1)
Miscellaneous housing visits	..	..	..	199	(255)
Houses repaired:—					
By owners	..	..	..	32	(16)
By the Borough Council in default	..	..		6	(1)

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

One would imagine that the work of a Public Health Department would be carried out mainly under the Public Health Acts, but so multitudinous are the Acts governing the activities of the Department that in fact the main items which one can record under the title of "Public Health Acts" are those relating to nuisances and drainage, as so much of the other work of the Department, whilst bearing on and vital to public health, is actually carried out under other legislation.

Once again it will be seen that all the nuisances found were abated in the year, and in only six instances was it necessary to serve informal notices. Twenty-seven statutory notices were sent, the majority of these again being in connection with drainage work. This, I think, is sufficient indication that the work of the Department is progressing satisfactorily, and that the good relations generally between the Department and the public are well maintained.

The table of inspections, drainage visits, nuisances found, etc., is appended below:—

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	86	(17)
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	228	(81)
Drainage visits	..	..	..	258	(289)
Drainage tests	..	..	..	20	(52)
Nuisances found	..	..	..	79	(89)
Nuisances abated	..	..	..	79	(89)
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	6	(1)
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	27	(19)

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The main source of complaints under this Act still concerns the sounding of musical chimes by ice cream vendors outside the permitted hours, but one unusual case was also reported during the year. The complaint originated from tenants in both Stocklake and Park Street, who complained of a noise and vibrations alleged to come from the boiler of the Park Laundry. After several visits of inspection it was discovered that the cause of the nuisance was the removal of the draught plate from the ashpit of the boiler which allowed too much air to pass through the firebars, and in the effort of this vast volume of air to pass through the fire tubes a pulsation was set up which was noticeable quite a distance away. The replacement of the draught plate to the ashpit door was all that was required to remedy the nuisance.

Five inspections were made under the Act, and one informal notice served.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS AND DISINFESTATION

The statistics relating to work under this heading again show little change. It is perhaps interesting to note that while the number of premises treated throughout the year show a slight decrease over the previous year, as do the number of poison baits laid, the number of rat bodies found shows an increase.

I have noticed in connection with a Local Authority in Hampshire that because of the decrease in the number of complaints received regarding rats they decided a few years ago to discontinue the rodent control service. The effect was exactly what I have predicted in my annual reports for past years, and the rodent population rose considerably, and it has been necessary for the Authority to again undertake rodent control, and in fact to start extensive treatment to try and redeem the situation.

I have many times mentioned in my reports that this is an essential public health work, and that any decrease of vigilance would inevitably result in an increase in the rodent population, and the facts quoted above lend weight to my arguments. Treatment of the sewers was again carried out and showed that the methods of control were satisfactory, the infestation being lower than shown in the previous year, only eight manholes showing takes.

The agreement service for treatment of factories and shops continue to give satisfaction, and although the number of agreements has dropped to twenty-five, this is accounted for almost entirely by firms which have closed or left the district. The income from this service dropped from £270 to £237 5s. 0d., whilst the amount recovered from work carried out on other business premises dropped from £26 1s. 0d. to £21 5s. 0d. The policy of free service to private houses was continued, and I am sure that this accounts for the good co-operation we receive from householders in the question of rodent control.

Two meetings of the North Bucks Workable Area Rodent Control Committee were held during the year, when discussions on control matters were held, and talks on various aspects of the work were given by members of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Owing to the very cold and wet summer, complaints of wasps nests were greatly reduced, only six being received as compared with ninety-five in the previous year.

I am extremely pleased to be able to report that my hopes regarding bed bug infestation were realised, and that during the year no premises were found to be infested with these vermin.

A summary of the work carried out under this Act during the year is appended:—

Private Premises treated	174	(206)
Business Premises treated	96	(136)
Local Authority Premises treated	18	(25)
Rat bodies found	672	(580)
Mouse bodies found	163	(200)
Points laid—Private Premises	499	(601)
Points laid—Business Premises	505	(601)
Points laid—Local Authority Premises	287	(175)
Manholes treated	84	(75)
Visits made by Public Health Inspectors	158	(120)
Wasps Nests destroyed	6	(95)

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting ..	102	(101)
Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	20	(18)
Visits paid to factories	45	(21)

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Approval, in principle, was received from the Minister of Housing and Local Government to the making of the Bedgrove Smoke Control Order, and the work of inspection of those houses requiring adaptation was continued during the year. A postal survey was made of the houses on the Bedgrove Estate to ascertain the types of fuel at present used and the amount of smokeless fuel required to replace bituminous coal being burnt. Preparatory work on this Order was completed, and the Order submitted to the Minister for formal approval in November.

During the severe winter supplies of all types of fuel dropped, and deliveries both from manufacturers or collieries to wholesalers, and from wholesalers to retailers became extremely difficult. Because of this, questions were raised in Council as to the availability of smokeless fuels if and when the Order was confirmed, and it was pointed out that both the Minister of Housing and Local Government and the various Committees set up by Parliament to consider the question of the supply of smokeless fuels had stated categorically that the larger part of smokeless fuels for smoke control areas must consist of less reactive cokes, and that reliance could not be placed on sufficient quantities of premium fuels, i.e., Rexco and Coalite, being available in smoke control areas.

It is interesting to note that whilst supplies were sometimes low, nevertheless supplies of gas coke were available throughout the winter, and I can state from experience that gas coke of the correct size will burn on a suitable appliance properly installed, as for two years this is the only fuel I have used.

Apart from the International Alloys, which is now controlled by the Alkali Inspector, few complaints of smoke nuisance from industrial chimneys were received during the year, and on those occasions when complaints were received they were usually fairly readily solved.

Five informal notices were served in this connection during the year.

The investigation into atmospheric pollution, in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, was continued but for various reasons only one further station was brought into operation during the year. The other two will certainly be operating early in 1963.

From the observations so far made it has become apparent that the pollution at ground level is consistently higher at the Town Hall than in the Bicester Road area of the town, and during a period of fog lasting for about three days early in December, the same pattern was observed. For the sake of comparison the figures obtained on Tuesday, 2nd November (which was clear) and Tuesday, 4th December, (during fog) are appended:—

Bicester Road Site

<i>Date</i>	<i>Smoke</i>	<i>S.O.₂</i>
2/11/62	15 mcg. per cubic metre	54 mcg. per cubic metre
4/12/62	320 mcg. per cubic metre	355 mcg. per cubic metre

Town Hall Site

2/11/62	46 mcg. per cubic metre	103 mcg. per cubic metre
4/12/62	367 mcg. per cubic metre	652 mcg. per cubic metre

It is interesting to note that whilst the smoke concentration at the Bicester Road station increased about twenty times and that at the Town Hall only about eight times, the increase in the sulphur dioxide concentration at both sites was fairly constant at just over six times. It can also be seen that during both the clear and foggy periods the concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide were much heavier in the town centre than in the industrial area of Bicester Road.

Thirty-nine visits in connection with the Clean Air Act were made during the year.

FOOD

Slaughterhouses

Despite the closing of two slaughterhouses on 31st March, the inspection of meat at the remaining slaughterhouse is still one of the most important aspects of the work of the Department, and the one which occupies the greatest individual time. It will be noted that although the number of visits made fell from 740 to 451, this still necessitated the working of 125 hours outside normal office hours, which includes inspections on Good Friday, Boxing Day and five Saturdays. The reason for the high incidence of work outside normal office hours is that the one remaining slaughterhouse is not

permitted to lair cattle over night, which results in a late start being made on the day's slaughtering, with the consequent need for working in the evenings. As would be expected, the number of animals slaughtered in the Borough has shown a decrease of just under 50%. The figures for the first quarter approximate very closely to those for the first quarter of 1961, the two slaughterhouses were not closed until 31st March. For the remaining quarters the drop is over 50%, and it is therefore to be anticipated that the figures for 1963 will again show a drop, following which the figures from year to year should remain fairly constant.

The following tables show the causes of condemnations at the slaughterhouses, and it will be noticed that apart from T.B. reactors, tuberculosis was practically non-existent, whilst the number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* found has dropped to twenty-five. Whilst this is a drop in the actual number of cases found, having regard to the throughput of the slaughterhouses in the year, the percentage has risen.

**Number of animals slaughtered and
inspected during 1962**

Quarter	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1st	93	968	79	1,704	947	3,791
2nd	57	443	39	506	431	1,476
3rd	53	422	63	1,842	435	2,815
4th	49	404	60	1,980	635	3,128
Totals	252	2,237	241	6,032	2,448	11,210
Totals for 1961	265	4,144	390	12,654	3,538	20,991

Tables showing Condemned Organs of Animals

CATTLE

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Spleen	Skirt
Distoma Hepaticum	—	—	389	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cavernous Angioma	—	—	16	—	—	—	—
Abscessed	—	—	66	3	1	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	5	30	2	5	1
Cystic	—	—	6	14	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis	20	20	—	—	5	—	—
Actinobacillosis	9	9	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Tumoured	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
Congestion	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fibrous Tissue	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Actinomycosis	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

T.B. Reactors

	Head	Tongue	Liver	Lungs	Heart	Mesentery
Tuberculosis	12	12	10	22	—	16
Inflammation	—	—	1	—	—	—
Abscessed	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cavernous Angioma	—	—	3	—	—	—
Distoma Hepaticum	—	—	6	1	—	—
Cystic	—	—	1	1	—	—
Adhesions	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	—	1	—	—
Actinobacillosis	1	1	—	—	—	—

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Oedema	3
Septicaemia	1
Fevered	3
Septic Pericarditis	1
Total ..	8

T.B. Reactors

Oedema	2
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In addition to the details given above, twenty-five 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
Pneumonia	—	1	1	—	—
Parasitic	5	—	—	—	—
Distoma Hepaticum	4	—	—	—	—
Fatty Change	1	—	—	—	—
Tumoured	1	—	—	—	—
Dropsical	—	—	1	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	—	1	1

Carcases condemned (including all offal)

Uraemia and Oedema	1
Dropsical	1
Septicaemia	1
Total ..	3

PIGS

	Lungs	Head	Heart	Pluck	Liver	Spleen
Pneumonia	61	—	11	8	—	—
Inflammation	32	—	29	28	3	1
Pleurisy	5	—	5	2	—	—
Parasitic	1	—	—	4	85	—
Tuberculosis	—	45	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	3	—	17	1	—	—
Cirrhotic	—	—	—	—	6	—

Carcases condemned (including all offal)

Moribund	1
Lymphadenitis	1
Septic Peritonitis	1
Total ..	3

CALVES

Carcases condemned (including all offal)

T.B. Reactor

Tuberculosis	1
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Weight of Condemned Meat and Offal

	lbs.
Cow Beef	3,164
Cow Offal	453
Other Beef	1,450
Other Bovine Offal	8,330
Pork	434
Pig Offal	1,209
Mutton	165
Sheep Offal	44
Veal	232
Calf Offal	7
Total ..	15,488

Total: 6 tons 18 cwts. 1 qtr. 4 lbs.

Total for 1961: 9 tons 14 cwts. 1 qtr. 23 lbs.

Fifteen slaughterman's licences 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	184	—	—
Fresh Fruit	60	10	—
Fresh Meat	309	4	—
Fresh Fish	7	—	—
Dried Fruit	18	—	—
Eggs	295	5	756
Tinned Vegetables	318	3	216
Tinned Fruit	1,629	2	1,383
Tinned Meat	451	12	187
Tinned Fish	25	7	44
Tinned Milk	83	1	45
Preserves	101	—	70
Miscellaneous	558	3	194
Total	4,040	15	2,895

Total Foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

Meat and Offal	6 tons 18 cwts. 1 qtr. 4 lbs. 0 ozs.
Various Foodstuffs	1 ton 16 cwts. 0 qtr. 8 lbs. 15 ozs.
Total	8 tons 14 cwts. 1 qtr. 12 lbs. 15 ozs.
Total for 1961	11 tons 12 cwts. 3 qtrs. 7 lbs. 1 oz.

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. Five 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.

ICE CREAM

The only change with regard to ice cream during the year was that the person making his own ice cream from a cold mix has ceased production for the time being, although the premises remain registered, leaving a total of 104 premises in the area. The majority of the ice cream sold in the Borough by the various retailers is produced by a relatively small number of large manufacturers, and it is therefore unnecessary to take a large number of samples to check the methods of production. Seven samples of ice cream were submitted for analysis during the year and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1 — 6 samples
Grade 4 — 1 sample

Seventeen visits were paid to registered ice cream dealers premises during the year.

The position with regard to the manufacture of ice lollies referred to in my last annual report continued to give cause for concern through the year. Sixteen samples of ice lollies were taken, eleven of which were satisfactory, three were unsatisfactory, showing the presence of coliform organisms, and two, whilst falling into Grade 1 of the Ministry's grading, showed on bacteriological inspection to have coliform organisms present. The whole question of these ice lollies was taken up with the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale, who undertook, with the manufacturer's consent, to examine the methods of production at the factory. Initial inspections revealed some faults in the method of cleansing of the plant, and at the end of the year the inspections were still continuing.

FOOD SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in all food premises was found to be satisfactory, and although informal action was taken in one instance to raise the standards, no statutory action was necessary throughout the year.

During the year 76 visits were made to restaurants and all restaurants in the town were inspected by the District Public Health Inspectors in company with the Medical Officer of Health, when again conditions were found to be such that no statutory action was necessary, although in one or two instances proprietors were asked to improve certain aspects of their work. In this respect thirteen informal notices under the Food Hygiene Regulations were served. A baker's roundsman, having been warned on previous occasions, was seen smoking whilst handling unwrapped food, and on prosecution was fined £3 for the offence.

The following table sets out the inspections made under this heading:—

Market Stalls	..	..	..	891	(634)
Grocers	..	..	..	180	(136)
Butchers	..	..	..	30	(54)
Restaurants	..	..	..	76	(10)
Fishmongers	..	..	..	7	(4)
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	4	(4)

WATER SUPPLY

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

Thirteen samples taken during the year satisfied the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

All shops in the Borough normally continue to be closed at hours earlier than those allowed in the Act, and although eight visits were made during the year, it was not necessary to take any action in this connection against local shopkeepers. One shop in the Borough which opened on a supermarket basis during the year advertised that they would remain open until 8 p.m. on Fridays for the convenience of customers, but when it was pointed out to them that this would constitute a contravention of the Closing Orders in operation in the town, they co-operated by closing at 7 p.m. as required under the Order.

In March an advertisement was brought to my notice that a trader from outside the town would be holding a one-day sale in Walton Hall until 10 p.m. The person concerned was contacted and informed that such action would cause a contravention of the Shops Act, but despite this warning the sale continued as advertised. Action was taken against the promoter of the sale and resulted in a fine of £3.

PETROLEUM

No difficulties have been experienced in connection with the storage of petroleum in the Borough, although in one instance it was necessary to send a warning letter to a petrol pump attendant who was smoking whilst serving petrol.

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

Licences issued for storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures	63	(62)
Licences issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium	1	(1)
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores	30	(37)

Quantity licensed to be stored:—

Petroleum Spirit	169,244 galls	(148,864 galls.)
Petroleum Mixtures	1,975 galls.	(3,975 galls.)
Carbide of Calcium	300 lbs.	(300 lbs.)
Total of Licence Fees	£59 15s. 0d.	(£57 15s. 0d.)

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The remarks made in my report over the past years concerning Public Conveniences can be repeated for this year, as despite all efforts to maintain these not only in an efficient but decent state throughout the year, Conveniences continue to be subjected to wilful damage to fittings and fixtures and the use of the walls by certain persons for the exhibition of their poetic and artistic abilities.

During the year new Conveniences for both sexes were opened in Cambridge Street, and the existing Gents Conveniences at the Cattle Market were converted into Conveniences for both males and females. The Conveniences in the High Street, Old Stoke Road, and at the Cattle Market continue to be kept open all night, but the new Cambridge Street Conveniences are closed at 10.30 p.m. 569 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	499	(390)
Interviews	761	(609)
Complaints received and investigated	200	(103)
Infectious Disease Visits	26	(28)
Smoke Observations	123	(13)
Marine Stores Visits	12	(2)
Moveable Dwellings inspected	28	(2)

GENERAL

The Regulations governing conditions in houses in multiple occupation under the Housing Act, 1961, were issued during the year, and as previously reported, inspections of such houses were commenced. The Offices, Shops and Railways Bill was still being considered by Parliament at the end of the year, and it is anticipated that this will become law during 1963.

Mrs. N. Doyle resigned from her post as Junior Clerk on leaving the district, and was replaced by Miss C. Campodonic who has settled down well in the Department. The remaining members of the staff carried out all their duties in their usual efficient and cheerful manner, and I should like to express my appreciation to them for their loyalty during the year.

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, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,
Borough Public Health Inspector.

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