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BOROUGH OF AYLESBURY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR 1971

A.W.PRINGLE

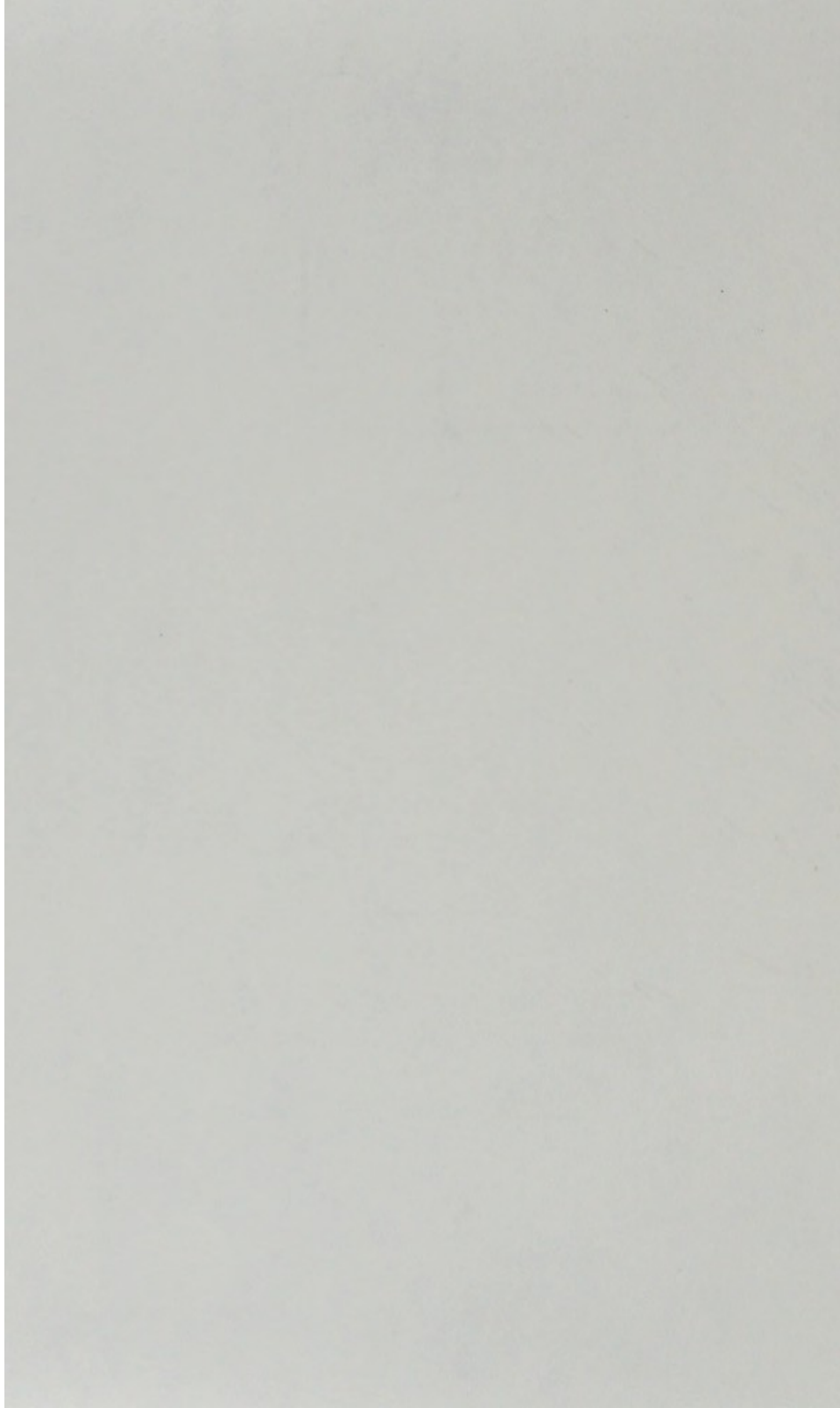
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DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R.WALKER

D.M.A.,M.A.P.H.I.,
BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



H E A L T H C O M M I T T E E

(Constituted May, 1971)

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Councillor Mrs. P. M. Reed (Vice-Chairman)
Alderman Mrs. Z. A. P. Williams (Mayor)
Alderman M. W. Buckingham, J. P.,
Alderman H. W. Poole
Councillor R. T. Brisley
Councillor A. R. Burch
Councillor L. P. A. Carroll
Councillor Mrs. J. Clarke
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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A. W. Pringle, B. A., M. B., B. Ch., D. P. H.,

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. F. Slocombe, M. B., B. S., L. R. C. P., M. R. C. S., D. P. H.,

BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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DEPUTY BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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D. W. Rixon, M. A. P. H. I.,

D. A. Keen

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Miss R. H. Falk (From: 1/9/71)

CLERICAL STAFF

Mrs. V. Tranter

Miss L. Birch (From: 5/7/71)

1911-12-13

1912-13-14

1913-14-15

1914-15-16

1915-16-17

1916-17-18

1917-18-19

1918-19-20

1919-20-21

1920-21-22

1921-22-23

1922-23-24

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1930-31-32

1931-32-33

1932-33-34

1933-34-35

1934-35-36

1935-36-37

1936-37-38

1937-38-39

1938-39-40

1939-40-41

1940-41-42

BOROUGH OF AYLESBURY

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Friars Square,
Aylesbury.

June, 1972.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

If, like the Chinese, one wanted to give a year a name, 1971 might be called the Year of the Environment. The establishment of a Ministry specifically concerned with the environment played a considerable part in drawing everyone's attention to the dangers of allowing industrial waste of all sorts to continue to pollute our land, sea and air, and led to a general assessment of the value to the quality of our lives of maintaining a healthy and pleasant environment. This is no easy task because of the conflicting interests involved, but clearly there was a new determination to strike a balance between an advancing technology, with its prospects of increasing wealth, and the natural expectation of a safe environment. These two objectives are not incompatible provided a strong line is taken and there are encouraging signs that this is the intention. No cases of dumping of dangerous industrial waste were reported in the Borough during the year, although other waste has been all too frequently dumped in ditches and other unauthorised places. There are several local industries which cause nuisance from time to time due to non-toxic atmospheric pollution, but these have been in the locality for many years and are conscious of the need to reduce pollution by any available means. They serve as a reminder, if any is needed, that once an industry with potential for the production of nuisances becomes established it is very often a slow and difficult business to achieve abatement.

Last year in my Report I wrote about the uncertainties which existed about the future structure of an integrated National Health Service, and the role which the present Public Health Service would be required to perform within it. Since then the way ahead has become only a little clearer and planning is still more in the nature of a theoretical exercise than a practical possibility. The last of four Government Papers is expected this summer, which will allow something under two years to bring about the radical changes required if the service is to be ready to function on 1st April, 1974. However, I have no doubt that it can be done, but it will require a period of intensive administrative work lasting considerably after 1974, and the greatest care will have to be taken that patient care in no way suffers while the new order is being established. In June, 1971, I submitted a paper to the Committee outlining how I visualised the relationship between the Area Health Board and the newly constituted Local Authorities might develop locally, and at the time of writing there is nothing which I could usefully add to it. The report of the Working Party on Collaboration, established by the Minister, is expected to be available in the first half of 1972, and should give some useful pointers.

There is nothing remarkable about the vital statistics for 1971. The birth rate for the Borough has shown a further decline, which is in line with the rate for England and Wales. For example, ten years ago the local rate was 18.24 (14.77 in 1971) and the national rate was 18.00 (16.00 in 1971). If this decline continues some of the national population forecasts made earlier in the last decade will have to be modified. It has been pointed out that it will only take a small further decline and there will be no natural population increase. This, of course, applies to the country as a whole without taking into consideration regional variations in the birth rate.

There was a small increase in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age. This was partly due to the deaths of triplets due to prematurity. The causes of death of the remainder were severe congenital abnormalities or

prematurity, apart from four infants who died of virus pneumonia. This is a very worrying disease when it occurs in infants because the onset is usually sudden and is followed by rapid deterioration. These are the so-called cot deaths because the baby can be apparently in normal health when put to bed for the night, and in a matter of hours may be gravely ill. No apparent connection between any of these deaths could be found.

It is good to be able to report that once again there were no maternal deaths.

Tuberculosis

During the year five new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified. This gives the lowest rate per 1,000 of the population so far achieved, but as I pointed out in my Report for 1970, the uniformly low rate over the last ten years, as recorded in the table below, is more significant.

New Cases

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 of Population</u>
1960	24,410	12	6	0.25
1961	27,040	5	5	0.18
1962	29,090	10	7	0.24
1963	31,030	17	15	0.48
1964	32,510	9	7	0.22
1965	33,680	9	6	0.18
1966	34,380	11	8	0.23
1967	35,190	12	11	0.31
1968	35,990	10	10	0.28
1969	36,730	16	14	0.38
1970	36,920	11	8	0.22
1971	41,100	7	5	0.12

In November a pupil nurse working in a children's ward in one of the local hospitals was found to have infective tuberculosis. Altogether 103 children who had been in the ward, or had visited while the nurse was working there, were followed up and tested. Three children were found to have evidence of recent infection, and were put on preventive treatment, as a precaution, although they showed no signs of active disease.

The mobile x-ray unit again visited factories and institutions, including the Aylesbury Hostel, where 131 volunteered for chest x-ray. Only one inactive case, a prisoner, was referred to the chest clinic for periodic supervision.

Venereal Disease

Figures obtained from the special clinic at the Royal Bucks Hospital show that there were fewer cases attending with venereal disease than the previous year. For the second year in succession there were no new cases of syphilis resident in the Borough, and looking back over the last ten years this disease shows a steady decline locally. The number of new cases of gonorrhoea was 14, and non-specific urethritis 64. It is interesting to note that 41 other people consulted the specialist and were found not to be suffering from venereal conditions.

Infectious Diseases

A glance at the table on page 10 will show that there was a dramatic fall in the number of measles notifications as compared with the previous year. However, the response to measles vaccination has not been as satisfactory as one would hope, mainly, I believe, because of the slight febrile reaction which occurs in some cases a few days after vaccination. It is very short-sighted not to have

children vaccinated because of the possibility that they may suffer a mild indisposition when a quite serious illness could be avoided later. Until such time as a sufficiently high general level of immunity can be achieved, it can be expected that limited outbreaks of the disease will continue.

Notifications of dysentery and food poisoning continued at a low level. Each case was visited and specimens taken from contacts for laboratory examination. Particular attention was paid to food handling contacts and school children who were isolated until cleared.

There were two cases of typhoid fever in the Wycombe Rural District in September, which gave rise to some publicity and are mentioned here because a family contact obtained employment as a ward orderly in a local hospital before the first case was diagnosed. A thorough investigation followed and until it was possible to clear him and his hospital contacts several wards had to be isolated, causing some unavoidable inconvenience to the patients.

Drug Dependence

The Committee continued to meet and discuss ways of assessing and preventing drug abuse. One concrete and worthwhile achievement was a general agreement reached with local pharmacists and medical practitioners that amphetamine drugs would no longer be held in stock locally. A pilot scheme for obtaining information on the number of incidents of drug abuse was put into operation, and may prove worth applying generally. At their request a successful course on drugs was held for school teachers in Aylesbury in September. The so-called soft drugs constitute the main problem in this area, and the Committee did not have any evidence that there was an increase in their use during the year.

Medical Students

I had the pleasure of welcoming and talking to a total of 12 medical students at different times throughout the year. These students had elected to spend two weeks during their final year learning about Local Authority Health Services, and your Borough Health Inspector shared teaching sessions on environmental health services with me. It is very encouraging to see that an increasing number of students are sufficiently interested in preventive medical services to give up two weeks during a busy year to study them in practice.

Another successful course on food hygiene for those engaged in the food industry was held at the Aylesbury College of Further Education. Nineteen people passed the Certificate Examination of the Royal Institute of Public Health & Hygiene at the end of the spring term 1971. It should be recorded that Miss M. Blears, Head of the Department of Catering, Fashion and Home Management, at the College, has been responsible for the organisation of these courses which have made a valuable contribution to maintaining the standard of food hygiene in the area. Those of us who contribute by lecturing consider our time well spent.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their continued advice and support throughout the year, my Deputy, Dr. Slocombe, the Borough Public Health Inspector, and the staff of the Public Health Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.W. PRINGLE,

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

Medical Officer of Health

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

<u>1970</u>				<u>1971</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	8	7	15	11	11	22
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	21.58	30.09
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	23.26	32.84
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ...	18.0	18.0

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

<u>1970</u>				<u>1971</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	6	6	12	8	9	17
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ...	17.27	23.26

Deaths of infants under one week of age:-

<u>1970</u>				<u>1971</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	6	5	11	7	8	15
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	-	-	-

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) ...	15.83	20.52
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births) ...	35.26	29.81

Maternal Mortality:-

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

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

	M	F
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	2	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine... ..	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	19	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Leukaemia	2	-
Other malignant neoplasms.	11	8
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	1
Diabetes mellitus... ..	2	1
Other endocrine etc., diseases.. ...	-	4
Anaemias	1	1
Meningitis	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system ...	2	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease. ...	1	-
Hypertensive disease	4	8
Ischaemic heart disease... ..	46	28
Other forms of heart disease	4	4
Cerebrovascular disease... ..	13	19
Other diseases of circulatory system..	5	8
Pneumonia	17	14
Bronchitis and emphysema.. ...	11	5
Asthma	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system..	1	-
Peptic ulcer	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	2
Other diseases of digestive system ...	1	4
Nephritis and nephrosis... ..	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate... ..	5	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system.	1	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue.	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system...	-	2
Congenital anomalies	2	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc...	1	5
Other causes of perinatal mortality...	3	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions...	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents... ..	3	1
All other accidents	4	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries...	3	-
	<u>180</u>	<u>152</u>

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 Sir Henry Floyd Auditorium at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, since its opening in 1969, has become an important centre for post graduate medical and para-medical education. Regular meetings for all branches of the health service were held in these very pleasant surroundings throughout the year.

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 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. Ten ambulances and six dual purpose vehicles were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. In addition, there is also a purpose built ambulance with an hydraulic tail lift for the conveyance of wheelchair patients. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters.

The Ambulance Car Service which was introduced during 1968 to supplement the directly provided services has continued to prove highly satisfactory throughout the year.

The majority of long distance cases are now conveyed by road owing to the non-availability of suitable rail accommodation. Increasing use is also being made of air travel wherever possible.

All casualties in the Borough are conveyed to the Casualty Department of the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Clinics were functioning during the year:-

<u>Times open</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Number of Children Attending</u>	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Doctor Attended</u>
74	Pebble Lane	522	Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	70
76	Quarrendon	440	Every Wednesday, 1st and 3rd Tuesday	76
24	Southcourt	161	1st and 3rd Wednesday	24
<u>58</u>	Bedgrove	<u>630</u>	Every Monday, 2nd and 4th Thursday	58
<u>232</u>		<u>1,753</u>		

There has been a change in emphasis in examinations carried out at these Clinics. Whereas in the past they were directed towards revealing physical defects and nutritional faults only, they are now equally concerned with the child's developmental progress. The children are seen, if possible, soon after birth and thereafter periodically to compare their progress with developmental norms for their age. Early methods of testing vision, hearing and other senses have been devised by Dr. Mary Sheridan and others, and these are also

applied with a view to detection and treatment of defects as early as possible. Closer ties with the hospital paediatric department have been developed so that, after consultation with the child's general practitioner, specialist advice can be easily obtained. The usual range of child immunisations, including more recently measles, are carried out at the Clinics.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total Notifications Received			Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1970	1971		1970	1971
		Male	Female		
Measles ...	629	10	13	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	5	6	-	-
Dysentery ...	24	-	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever ...	4	1	3	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	5	1	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice.	1	4	1	-	2
Acute Meningitis...	1	-	-	1	-

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 ...	-	3	7	11	-	1	1	-	-	-	23
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	2	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	11
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Food Poisoning ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	5

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Age Groups:-				
0 -	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	1	-
15 -	-	1	-	-
25 -	-	-	1	-
35 -	-	1	-	-
45 -	-	1	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-
Totals:	2	3	2	-

(No inward transfers have been received from other areas during the year)

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 of water were taken from the main service by this Department during the year, 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.

Sewage Disposal Works

Work on the extensions of the Sewage Disposal Work has commenced and they should be ready for use in two years time.

Sludge Disposal

Work on the land acquired by the Corporation for the spraying of sludge has now been completed. The whole of the sludge produced at the Sewage Disposal Works has been disposed of by spraying on farmland surrounding the Sewage Disposal Works.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is still being carried out by controlled tipping at Calvert.

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. Twenty-four samples were taken during the year, nineteen for chlorine and pH content, and five for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

The number of bathers using the Pool during the year was 61,185, compared with 81,856 in 1970. There has been a considerable drop in attendances over the last three seasons, which is probably due to the fact that members of the general public prefer to travel to modern indoor facilities. Compared with these facilities, out-door swimming becomes unattractive unless in very hot weather.

Sauna Bath

The Sauna Bath was completed in November, 1971, and opened to the public on 4th December, 1971. This new venture, which is the only municipal Sauna Bath in the County, is proving popular with members of the public.

School Swimming Pools

During the year, and at the request of the County Health Inspector, the Department accepted responsibility for sampling the school swimming pools in the Borough.

Sixty-two samples (twenty-five bacteriological, and thirty-seven for chlorine content) were taken during the year, with one exception all the samples were satisfactory.

Hot Baths

Attendances at the Hot Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street, amounted to a total of 1,985 during the year. The total for 1970 was 2,451.

Schools

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

Local Rainfall

January	3.35 ins.	July	1.58 ins.
February	0.65 ins.	August	4.25 ins.
March	1.78 ins.	September	0.62 ins.
April	1.56 ins.	October	2.54 ins.
May	1.09 ins.	November	3.05 ins.
June	3.96 ins.	December	0.75 ins.

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

Mr. Hannay stated that the total rainfall for the year was 25.18 inches; this is less than the total for the previous year, but above the yearly average of 24.83 inches. Rain fell on 147 days, compared with 179 days in 1970.

The amount of rainfall for June was the highest recorded for thirty-five years for that month and the second highest since records started in 1906. The rainfall in January was the highest for nine years, and the rainfall in August was the highest for nineteen years. The rainfall for May was the lowest for ten years, the July rainfall was the lowest for seven years, and the rainfall for December the lowest for eight years.

The highest daily rainfall occurred on 5th August, when 1.66 inches was recorded.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1961, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of this Act, in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power)	90	-	-
Factories with mechanical power)			

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1			1	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	1	1		1	-
Total:	2	1	-	2	-

Outworkers

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,
Municipal Offices,
Friars Square,
Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for 1971. I was appointed Borough Public Health Inspector on the 15th March, 1971, and my predecessor, Mr. W.E. Ruse, retired on the 24th March, 1971, after 42 years Local Authority service, 31 years with Aylesbury Borough Council.

During the course of the year there was one change in the staff of the Department, Miss M. Fettes, the Student Public Health Inspector, resigned, and Miss R. Falk was appointed to replace her.

HOUSING ACTS, 1957, 1961 AND 1969

In October a small Clearance Area of unfit houses in St. John's Street was submitted to the Department of the Environment for confirmation. No Closing Orders were made, but in respect of one house an undertaking was given that the house would not be re-let for human habitation until such time as it had been made fit. Later in the year this house was completely renovated, and is now occupied.

At the end of the year some of the occupants in the Mill Street Clearance Order, which was confirmed in 1969, and the St. John's Road Clearance Order, which was confirmed in 1970, had still not been rehoused.

During the course of the year a survey was commenced to establish if there were any areas of unfit properties in the town, or individual unfit houses, where it would be necessary to take action under the Housing Acts.

There was an increase in the number of applications for qualification certificates from 94 in 1970 to 128 in 1971.

Close liaison has been established with the Building Inspector's section, with regard to applications for improvement grants. Generally, the main aspect with which the Department has been concerned, is to advise on the anticipated life of a property where an application for a grant has been made. In this connection 32 visits were made during the course of the year.

Number of houses inspected	...	...	162
Inspections and re-inspections..	...	...	300
Informal Notices served	...	...	31
Statutory Notices served	...	...	10
Miscellaneous housing inspections	...	...	176
Multi-occupation housing inspections..	...	...	170
Overcrowding inspections	...	...	4
Improvement Grant inspections...	...	...	32
Inspections re qualification certificates	...	...	128

Houses repaired:

By owners	...	...	26
By the Borough Council in default	...	...	-

Houses in Multiple Occupation

A good deal of time was spent, during the year, in inspecting houses let in multiple occupation. 170 visits were made, compared with 107 in 1970. It is inevitable, that in an area where there is a serious housing shortage, and a relatively high immigrant population, that substantial numbers of houses will be used for multiple occupation. So far as is possible, the Department endeavours to keep a close check on these properties, but it is unfortunate that there is no legal obligation, on the part of the owner, to inform the Local Authority when he decides to let his house in multiple occupation. Multi-occupied houses only come to light through the District Public Health Inspectors paying close attention to developments on their districts. Inevitably, on some occasions, houses become multi-occupied and it may be some time before the Department becomes aware of it. Under the provisions of the various Housing Acts Local Authorities have fairly wide powers which assists in controlling the conditions in houses let in multiple occupation. So that when houses in multi-occupation come to light the Department can ensure that a reasonable standard of amenities is provided for the occupants. We can also take the necessary steps, where it is applicable, to require the owner to carry out essential repairs.

A good liaison has been established between the Department and the Department of the Bucks County Council Fire Brigade with regard to the provision of fire safety precautions in houses let in multiple occupation. The Local Authority is responsible for enforcing these provisions, but in these instances, we seek the advice of the Fire Prevention Officer. The normal procedure is for the District Public Health Inspector and the Fire Prevention Officer to make a joint inspection of the premises. I wish to place on record my appreciation of the excellent co-operation which I have received from the County Fire Brigade during the course of the year.

Overcrowding

Two cases of statutory overcrowding were brought to the attention of the Department during the year, and investigated.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 AND 1961

The following table indicates the number of inspections etc., which have been made to premises under the Public Health Acts. It is worthy of report that during the course of the year the Department was able to clear, free of charge, 122 blocked drains which complaints had been received about. Obviously the Department is not able to tackle difficult drainage jobs where, for example, the drain has to be exposed etc., but technical advice is given by the Department to builders and householders having drainage problems. The General Assistant keeps a set of drain rods and other equipment on the departmental van, and in many instances, a blocked drain can be cleared by rodding at the correct point. This is a useful service provided by the Department, and is, I think, appreciated by the public.

One of the statutory notices served, concerned urgent roof repairs, and the Department carried out this work in default and recovered the cost from the owner.

Number of houses inspected.	...	127
Re-inspections to above houses...		98
Drainage inspections	... ..	266
Drainage tests	... ..	28
Blocked drains cleared by Dept...		122
Nuisances found	... ..	168
Nuisances abated	... ..	168
Informal Notices served	... ..	20
Statutory Notices served and complied with	... ..	23

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Shops, Restaurants, etc

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in food premises has remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The following table gives details of the inspections which have been made:-

Market Stalls	...	...	193
Grocers	...	...	215
Butchers	...	...	76
Restaurants and Canteens..			113
Fishmongers	...	...	11
Food Preparing Premises...			69
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	25
Licensed Premises...	...	...	30
Bakehouses	...	...	33
Miscellaneous Food Premises			118

A substantial proportion of the District Public Health Inspectors time was spent in the administration of this aspect of our duties, 883 inspections of food premises were made compared with 690 in 1970, 35 informal notices, requiring the execution of works, to bring premises up to a standard to comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, were served, all the notices were complied with.

During the course of the year a number of new food premises have been opened, and some existing food premises have been renovated and extended. In all these instances the Department has discussed, at the planning and design stage, the proposed works to ensure that any new premises or extended premises would comply with the appropriate Regulations. Generally speaking, my Department has found that people engaged in this work have been co-operative and ready to accept departmental advice on the question of the design and the equipping of food preparation premises.

Within the Borough there are a number of important food producing factories; the Department's responsibilities, so far as the administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations is concerned, extends to these food factories in the same way that it does to the small corner shop. Routine visits are made to all the food factories in the town, and in our discussions with the management, of these companies, we have found them co-operative, and willing to carry out works of improvement which we advise.

It is obviously necessary, on occasions, to call on the services of a qualified Public Analyst, who is available to carry out the examination of foodstuffs etc. At the time of my appointment, Aylesbury Borough Council did not have the services of a Public Analyst, and on my advice the Council appointed Mr.F.A.Lyne, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., of Reading, to this post. The assistance of the Public Analyst, particularly with regard to the investigation of complaints concerning food etc., has been most useful.

The amount of foodstuffs surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough is as follows:-

			Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs
Paprika	...	...	5	-	3	-
Fresh Fruit	...	...	-	-	1	3
Fats	...	...	-	-	-	11
Fresh Meat	...	...	-	8	-	9
Fresh Fish	...	...	-	8	1	7
Tinned Vegetables..	...	...	-	17	-	16
Tinned Fruit	...	...	2	18	3	26
Tinned Meat	...	...	-	5	-	19
Tinned Milk	...	...	-	11	-	25
Tinned Fish	...	...	-	1	3	9
Preserves	...	...	-	4	2	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	1	13	2	4
Total:			12	9	3	25

			Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs
Frozen Foods:-						
Meat	...	...	-	17	2	17
Vegetables	...	...	1	5	-	21
Fish	...	...	-	15	2	-
Fruit	...	...	-	1	-	9
Milk Products	...	...	-	14	3	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	-	5	1	2
Totals:			3	19	2	1

Total foodstuffs condemned during the year:-

Total for 1970: 9 tons 7 cwts. 1 qtr. 9 lbs.
Total for 1971: 16 tons 9 cwts. 1 qtr. 26 lbs.

It will be seen from the above table that 5 tons 3 qtrs of paprika was condemned and it is interesting to note that the Department seized this foodstuff, and, as is required under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, obtained the services of a Justice of the Peace to sign a certificate certifying that the food was unfit for human consumption. The paprika was badly infested with *ephestia elutella* (the warehouse moth). Arrangements were made with Basingstoke Corporation for this paprika to be burnt at their Municipal incinerator, as it would obviously have been unwise to dispose of it at Calvert Tip.

Sixty complaints, details of which are tabulated below, were received concerning food purchased by members of the public in the town. This is an increase on the 1970 figure, when 51 complaints were received.

One of the main reasons for complaints of unsound food arising is because of inefficient stock rotation on the part of the retailer. A good system of stock rotation is an essential requirement for a well conducted food business, and the District Health Inspectors take every opportunity to hammer this point home, nevertheless, the Department continues to receive a substantial number of complaints directly attributable to faulty stock rotation.

A high proportion of the food sold in the country to-day, is imported, and so far as Food & Drugs legislation is concerned, it is extremely difficult to take formal action on any complaint concerning food imported from abroad. It will be interesting to see, when the United Kingdom forms part of the Common Market, whether when the Food & Drugs legislation is re-drafted, if provisions are incorporated in the new Act giving Local Authorities and Food & Drugs Authorities the power to take formal action for contraventions.

All the food complaints were fully investigated, and in the majority of cases a warning letter was sent to the person or Company responsible for the offence.

In three instances, however, it was considered appropriate to institute legal proceedings, the cases were taken under section 2 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, in all of these cases a conviction was obtained.

List of complaints received

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Reason for complaint</u>
Grapefruit	Crystals in tin (Not injurious)
Malt Loaf	Small stone (fruit stone)
Sausage Roll	Mouldy
Bloaters	Complaint unfounded
Crumpets	Mouldy
Ice Cream	Peculiar taste
Danish Bacon Joint	Decomposition
Ravioli	Mouldy (tin punctured)
Cream doughnut	Piece of plastic spatular
Danish Sterilised Cream	Mouldy (tin faulty)
New Zealand Butter	Complaint unfounded
Edam Cheese	Mouldy
Milk	Dirty bottle
Bread Roll	Contained bristles
Milk	Dirty bottle
Home Bake Rolls	Mouldy
Dairy Cream Meringue	Black garden ant (Prosecution under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Section 2. Fine of £20)
Chocolate Ice Cream	Gritty (small crystals)
Cheese	Mouldy
Pineapple Cubes (Malaya)	Tin rusty
Pressed Pork	Decomposing (Vacuum pack punctured)
Cakes	Stale
Cake	Mouldy
Sliced Loaf	Mouldy
Ice Cream	Gritty
Sliced Loaf	Discoloration
Chocolate Ice Cream	Sugar crystals
Bread	Mould growth on crust
Pasty	Mouldy
Sliced Loaf	Mouldy
Eggs	Bad
Smoked Pork Sausage	Unusual flavour
Leg of English Lamb	Fly larvae
Frozen Cod	Parasites
Fruit Pie	Stale
Double Cream	Sour
Fruit Pie	Live ants in pie
Chickens	Unsound
Beef Sausages	Mould (Prosecution under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Section 2. Fine of £26)
Sour Cream in two Meringues	Unfounded
Three Cartons of Yoghurt	Unsound
Packet of Cheese Cakes	Discoloration
Chicken Salad	Worm on lettuce
Sausage	Flavour
Chocolate Spread	Mouldy
Eggs	Bad
Cooking Oil	Sediment
Mineral Water	Sliver of glass in bottle
Cornish Pasty	Insect
Two Cartons Raspberry Fool	Flavour
Sausage Roll	Ants
Tin of Tuna Steak	Mercury contamination

List of complaints received (contd)

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Reason for complaint</u>
Fried Plaice	Metal wire (Prosecution under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Section 2. Fine of £17)
Chocolate Meringue	Piece of metal
Red Salmon	Flavour
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. French Unsalted Butter	Extraneous material
Chestnuts	Stale
Tomatoes	Insect
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Butter	Extraneous material
Fruit Cocktail	Wasp

MILK AND DAIRIES

There are fifty-six retailers of milk in the Borough registered under the above Regulations.

ICE CREAM

There are one hundred and nineteen premises in the town registered for the sale of ice cream, in addition, a number of vendors, who are not subject to registration, tour the streets in mobile vehicles selling ice cream and ice lollies. Most of the mobile ice cream vendors now sell soft ice cream, and the majority of the bacteriological sampling of ice cream, in the Department, is directed towards this outlet.

The following table shows the grading which was given to the various bacteriological samples submitted for examination. Grade 3 and 4 samples are considered to be unsatisfactory, and the principal reason for an unsatisfactory sample being obtained is the inadequate cleansing and sterilisation of the equipment.

Out of the total of 57 samples of ice cream which were examined during the year, 16 were unsatisfactory, all the unsatisfactory samples were from mobile vendors. This is too high a proportion of unsatisfactory samples, and strong representations were made by the District Public Health Inspectors to the vendors concerned. Additionally, the amount of sampling was stepped up, so that three times as many samples were taken this year as last year.

The ice cream samples examined during the year were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	-	34 samples
Grade 2	-	7 samples
Grade 3	-	11 samples
Grade 4	-	5 samples

Seventy-one visits were paid to ice cream dealers premises and premises from which mobile vans operated during the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 AND 1968

In July the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment issued a Circular informing all Local Authorities that he had received reassuring advice about the present situation concerning the availability of solid smokeless fuels. The Secretary of State went on to say that "there is no longer any cause for any Local Authority, "black" or "white", to refrain from proceeding with a

smoke control programme." Partly because of this Circular, but principally because the Council was interested in resuming the deferred smoke control programme, it was decided to carry out a pilot survey in the area bounded by the existing Smoke Control Area (Bedgrove), the south side of Tring Road and High Street, and the north-east side of Wendover Road and Walton Street. In this area there are approximately 1,600 dwellings, and the area covers 388 acres. Approximately 10% of the houses in the area were inspected, and from this survey it was estimated that the cost of establishing a Smoke Control Area in this sector of the town would be £35,855, of which the estimated total expenditure by the Local Authority on mandatory grants would be £25,098, £14,342 of which is recoverable from the Government.

The Council approved, in principle, the establishment of this second Smoke Control Area, and also approved the target date of 1980 for the completion of smoke control in the town.

Generally speaking, so far as atmospheric pollution from industrial sources is concerned, there have been no serious problems. During the year 50 smoke observations were carried out, and 24 complaints were received concerning emissions of smoke or grit, all these complaints were investigated, and the appropriate action taken.

One of the large industrial works in the town is a registered process under the Alkali etc., Works Order. The Department investigates complaints about alleged emissions from this source, but in this regard we co-operate with the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate. During the course of the year the Company carried out experiments with some processes with the object of reducing the level of emissions to the atmosphere.

Under section 6 of the 1968 Act seven applications for prior approval of chimneys, serving furnaces, were received during the year. In two instances, on the basis of the data submitted, it was necessary to ask the developers to build the chimneys higher in order to ensure the reasonable dispersal, in the atmosphere, of pollutants in the flue gases.

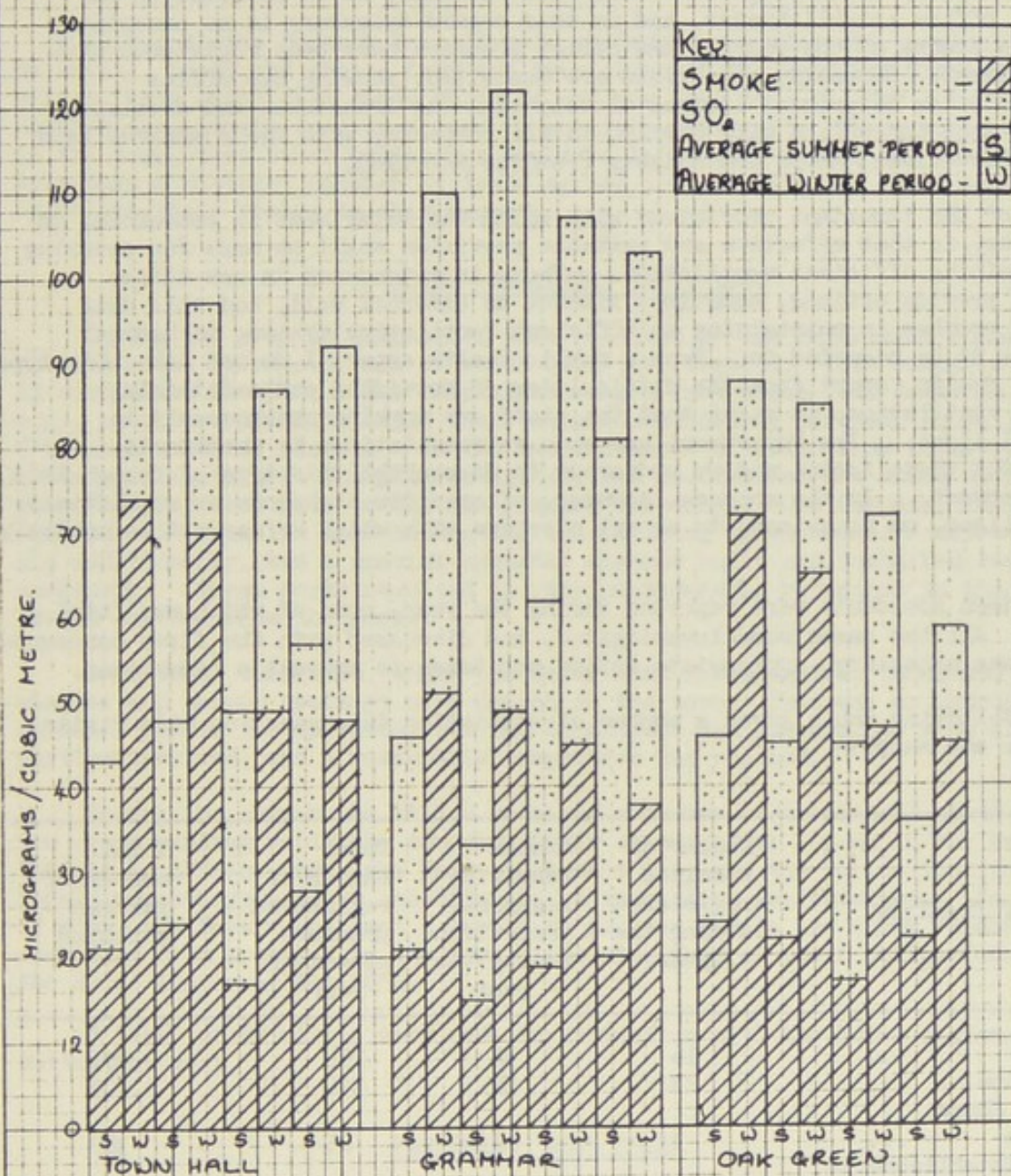
During the course of the year an old established Company in the town replaced their obsolete hand fired boiler with a modern package type oil fired installation. The firing of this obsolete type of boiler had, on occasions, contravened The Dark Smoke (Permitted Period) Regulations, 1958, and partly because of representations by the Department, the Company concerned decided to convert to a modern boiler.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In co-operation with Warren Spring Laboratory, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, four sites for volumetric apparatus are maintained in the town, and daily recordings of smoke concentrations and levels of sulphur dioxide are made.

On the following page a graph has been produced which shows the average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide from three sites in the town. The graph covers a four year period and each block represents six months, i.e., summer period and winter period. It is interesting to note, that without exception, the levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide are considerably lower in the summer period than the winter. This indicates that in a large measure the increased pollution in the winter is from domestic sources, since apart from a short summer break, pollution from industrial sources remains fairly constant throughout the year.

There seems to be an unusually high level of sulphur dioxide from the Grammar School site compared with the smoke level. It is probable that an industrial source is responsible for this relatively high concentration. Lest anyone should be alarmed at the sky-scraper appearance of some of the blocks, let me say that the average pollution levels in Aylesbury compare favourably with most industrial areas.



GRAPH SHOWING CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE AND SO₂
AT 3 RECORDING STATIONS IN THE TOWN FOR THE PERIOD 1968-1971.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

One hundred and forty-nine inspections and re-inspections under the provisions of the above Act were made during the course of the year. It was necessary to serve 54 informal notices for contraventions of the Act, but, generally speaking, the notices were for contraventions of a fairly minor nature.

In a rapidly developing town there will obviously be an increase in the number of office establishments, and in this regard Aylesbury is no exception. During the course of the year 16 new office premises have been registered with the Department. Normally, when plans are deposited, showing new office development, the Department liaises closely with the Architects and developers to ensure that the office will comply, in all respects, with the standards laid down by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

One of the important provisions with which the Department is concerned, in new offices, is that effective and suitable provision shall be made for securing and maintaining efficient ventilation. There is a tendency in new office blocks to provide offices, sometimes without an external wall, and this does present a problem in maintaining an efficient ventilation system, mechanical means have to be resorted to. From a public health aspect I do not like this type of office design, apart from the difficulties of providing and maintaining efficient ventilation, it means that the staff are working continuously in artificial light. The Department has made representations to architects, pointing out these facts, and we endeavour to discourage this type of design in a new development. In the absence, however, of specific standards or regulations, we are obliged, on occasions, to accept a scheme with which we may not be entirely satisfied.

Thirteen accidents were reported during the year, none of which was fatal or serious. All the cases were investigated, and discussed with the firms concerned. Where it was necessary, appropriate action was taken to prevent a recurrence.

The following table gives a number of statistics in connection with visits to offices and shops:-

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number receiving a general inspection during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Total number of persons employed
Offices ...	16	38	194	2,098
Retail Shops ...	23	54	334	2,409
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	3	7	25	349
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	7	16	36	403
Fuel Storage Depots.	-	-	1	32

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The administration of the above Act is the responsibility of the Department. During the course of the year 26 visits were made, to traders, concerning hours of opening, etc. Two informal notices were served for contraventions of the Act.

One complaint was received about unauthorised trading on Sunday.

In August the Borough Council made an Order exempting all premises, selling by retail, boots and shoes, from the provisions of the Half-Day Closing. In effect, this means that these shops do not now have to close for a half day, whether they remain open or closed is entirely optional. There was some indication, in the town, that other businesses would be interested in six day trading, and the Aylesbury & District Chamber of Trade agreed to circulate all their members to establish their wishes in this regard.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

During the year 24 complaints were received by the Department concerning various noise nuisances, all of which were investigated. This compares with 13 complaints in 1970. The complaints ranged from noise from domestic sources, e.g., people complaining about their neighbours holding parties, to noise emanating from an industrial source. In the two instances of noise from industry, both of these complaints were fully investigated, and recommendations aimed at reducing noise levels, were made to the managements concerned. One Company, in the town, carried out extensive work insulating the building which housed noisy machinery, and additionally, had a special acoustic chamber built and installed round the machinery. These works resulted in very considerable reduction in the noise levels emitted from the works.

An unusual complaint, which the Department investigated, concerned hymn singing and prayer meetings at a Church in the town. This was an extremely delicate matter to deal with, but the Department had discussions with all the parties involved, and a reasonable compromise was reached.

During the summer the Police received a number of complaints about mobile ice cream vending vehicles, sounding their chimes after 7 p.m. in the evening. This is an offence under the Noise Abatement Act, and the Police instituted legal proceedings against one offender, a conviction was obtained. In view of this, the Department sent a letter to all the mobile ice cream vendors, operating from premises in the town, informing them of their obligations under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

A total of 67 visits were made in connection with the Noise Abatement Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following table shows the number of factories in the town, and the number of inspections which were made to ensure that the provisions of the Act, which the Department is responsible for administering, were complied with. No serious contraventions were found, but it was necessary to serve two informal notices, both of which were complied with.

Mechanical factories on register	...	132
Non-Mechanical factories on register...		17
Inspections of factories	...	90

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following table shows the number of visits etc., made by members of the Department in connection with the administration of the above Acts:-

Private Premises treated	....	263
Business Premises treated	....	106
Local Authority Premises treated..		21
Manholes treated	....	130
Visits made by Public Health		
Inspectors	....	121
Wasps Nests destroyed	....	187

The year can be described as fairly typical in that the number of complaints received about rats, mice and insects was about the norm.

The Department was consulted, by the Administrator at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, about a fly problem. After carrying out an investigation and having discussions with the Administrator and his staff, a number of recommendations were made to the Hospital Authorities, which we hoped would prove effective in easing the fly problem.

It will be seen from the table that 130 manholes on the sewerage system were baited and poisoned. The follow-up treatment which was carried out indicated that the rat population infesting sewers in the town was comparatively small, and did not constitute a serious problem. Nevertheless, it is sound policy to carry out these sewer treatments as a matter of routine, since it is accepted as being one of the most effective ways of controlling the rat population.

During the year it became apparent that there were a considerable number of feral pigeons in the town centre area. The Department, therefore, took some control measures to reduce the number of pigeons.

The General Assistant in the Department paid periodic visits to the Tip at Calvert to carry out the necessary rodent control treatment.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Department is responsible for the administration, staffing and maintenance of the following public conveniences in the town:-

Kingsbury	-	Ladies and Gents
Friars Square	-	Ladies and Gents
Bus Station	-	Ladies and Gents
Multi-Storey Car Park	-	Ladies and Gents
Cambridge Street	-	Ladies and Gents
Cattle Market	-	Gents
Cattle Market Disabled Persons		
Vale	-	Ladies and Gents
Old Stoke Road	-	Ladies and Gents

When I looked at the question of the manning of the public conveniences in the town I considered that, in some cases, there was an element of over-manning, and in the latter part of the year recommendations were made to the Markets & Public Health Committee concerning the adoption of a new system of attendance. In order to obtain accurate information about the usage of the main conveniences in the town censuses were taken at Kingsbury and Friars Square, the result of

the censuses was as follows:-

<u>Kingsbury Conveniences</u>		<u>Weekly Attendances</u>	
		<u>Ladies</u>	<u>Gents</u>
Week ended 9/4/71	...	3,034	3,395
Week ended 5/6/71	...	3,941	3,328
<u>Friars Square Conveniences</u>			
Week ended 19/6/71	...	4,415	2,915
Week ended 6/9/71	...	7,359	4,315

It can be seen from these figures that there is a very considerable usage of the two principal public conveniences in the town. Since the public conveniences in the Bus Station had been opened at the end of 1969, the conveniences had been left open all night. It was found, however, that there was an increasing amount of vandalism, and most of this occurred at a late hour. It was, therefore, decided that these conveniences would be closed at 10.30 p.m. in the evening and be re-opened at 7 a.m. in the morning.

After these measures had been taken acts of vandalism still occurred at these conveniences, but on a very much smaller scale than had previously occurred.

During the year arrangements were made to tile the walls of the Ladies and Gents public conveniences at the Bus Station. This helped very considerably in reducing the amount of work concerned with erasing graffiti from the original surface. Cambridge Street convenience was also redecorated externally and internally.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

The Department is responsible for the administration of petroleum installations and for the issue of licences under the above Act.

Four new petroleum installations were licensed during the year, the tendency now seems to be to alter the traditional type of petrol service station to the self-service and pre-payment type. The licences issued by the Department covered an approximate total of a quarter of a million gallons of petroleum spirit. This is an increase of some 25% on the amount licensed last year.

It is now necessary, under the Petroleum Regulations, for applicants to submit an electrical certificate, issued by an electrical contractor who is on the roll of the National Inspection Council for Electrical Contractors, with the annual application each year, previously it had only been necessary to submit an electrical certificate every fifth year. This is an additional safety precaution at licensed premises.

The following table indicates the number of licensed premises and the inspections that have been made, etc:-

Licences issued for storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures	...	68
Licences issued for storage of carbide of calcium	...	1
Inspection of petrol and carbide stores	...	195

Quantity licensed to be stored:-

Petroleum Spirit	...	242,994	gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	4,676	gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	300	lbs.
Total of Licence Fees	...	£318.00.	

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	1,408
Interviews	...	...	1,594
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	359
Infectious Disease Visits.	...	...	70
Pet Animals Act Visits	...	...	5

Nine scrap metal dealers are registered in the Borough.

R.WALKER

Borough Public Health Inspector