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BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY



Medical Officer
OF
Health's Report
1966



S. M. R. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

1966

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Is there a need for public health services and preventive medicine today ? To all thinking people the answer to this question is obviously yes ; and not only for financial reasons, important though these may be. It is clear from the number of articles in newspapers and journals, and from various interviews on radio and television that there is an official and a popular demand for greater emphasis on the maintenance of good health.

Recent scientific investigation has shown that the existence of disease is like an iceberg. The amount of known illness can be represented by the small exposed portion of the iceberg while the undetected and untreated sickness forms the vast submerged area. It is of prime importance to reveal this unknown or incipient illness in the community. With earlier detection there may be a much better chance, indeed, it may be the only chance of successful treatment. Obviously it is essential to secure the re-orientation of the National Health Service towards discovering a person's medical needs and away from the existing 'care on demand' by the patient. It is true that modern medicine is gradually becoming increasingly concerned with patients who have not yet developed any symptoms but much more needs to be done.

In many cases it is only through early diagnosis and appropriate treatment that we can hope for either complete success or a partial cure with a delay in the advance of disease and a reduction in later handicaps. Early detection of disease by screening has grown up mainly in the public health field, first of all, in relation to communicable diseases such as Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease. As communicable disease has gradually declined in importance, attention has now naturally turned to the increasing prevalence of non communicable diseases such as hearing defects, Diabetes, Cancer of the breast and cervix, Hypertensive disorders, etc.

It has now been estimated that one person in ten is suffering from some, as yet, undiagnosed condition. It is also said that there are more than two million untreated hypertensives and about one-and-a-half million people with conspicuous psychiatric morbidity amongst the adult population of Britain. We are more and more aware of the tragedy of old people who fall into such a state of dependency that they have to be admitted, if lucky, to some institution from which they know too well they will never emerge.

It seems obvious that health departments should now be more and more engaged in this preventive and diagnostic field, with general practitioners and local authority workers functioning side by side. In recent years we have been able to see the excellent results of Infant Welfare Clinics in our bouncing bonnie babies. We have poured so much orange juice, cod liver oil and welfare foods down the throats of infants that they have often been described as miniature Samsons. Of course, some mothers from the poorer homes, who are most in need of advice and help, are still seldom seen at any clinic. Fortunately these are very much in the minority but they necessitate repeated home visits from various public health officials and social workers. Immunisations and Vaccinations at our clinics have been so successful that we can now take heart in the knowledge that the control of acute infectious disease is no longer a marathon task. However, we must not forget that the price of success is not only energy but eternal vigilance.

The school health service can also claim its share of the cake. We can now safely say that most children are sound in mind and limb. At the same time we must not minimise the importance of early ascertainment treatment and continued care of the physically and mentally handicapped, the delicate and the maladjusted, even though their numbers may be comparatively small.

In view of these attainments and the obvious needs of other potentially ailing section of the community one suspects that we should now devote less time on healthy youngsters and more on early ascertainment and treatment of handicapped children and or a thorough medical examination of older people.

Monmouthshire is off to a good start. A chiropody clinic was established in Abergavenny in 1964, and now operates twice weekly at Leven House. Cytology clinics are also held here periodically, and their value can be appreciated by a glance at the statistics shown elsewhere in this report. Perhaps we should now provide facilities for the periodic medical examination of older groups of the population. Having arrived at middle-age, most people begin to realise that they are not immortal and to think seriously about their health. Under prevailing circumstances Doctors may be too busy for such periodic medical examinations, but with some rearrangements and the provision of more health centres the numbers of adult clinics could be increased and a closer contact established between local authority staffs and family doctors. If people could be sure of getting a thorough medical check-up by previous appointment without having to wait unduly, I feel a large proportion of the community, would, in time, respond. At the same time, the public could be educated to be sensibly, not morbidly, alert to the early symptoms of cancer, diabetes, heart disease as well as certain other conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Area in Acres	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2297	2397	2397	2397
Population ..	8990	9020	9030	9080	9620	9700	9710	9770	9790	9760
Houses (including houses assessed with shops according to the Rate Book)	2933	2922	3019	3019	3073	3299	3318	3356	3390	3423
Rateable Value	£ 93147	£ 94194	£ 102019	£ 104348	£ 107504	£ 257195	£ 266878	£ 272239	£ 277483	£ 283444
Produce of Id. Rate	357	368	388	405	413	1000	1040	1050	1050	1094
1966			M.		F.	Total				
LIVE BIRTHS										
Legitimate ..			85		67	152				
Illegitimate ..			1		11	12				
Total ..			86		78	164				
CRUDE LIVE BIRTH RATE				Borough		County		E. & W.		
Per 1,000 population ..				16.8		17.53		17.7		
Comparability Factor - 1.1										
Adjusted Live Birth Rate—16.8 x 1.10 - 18.48.						County 17.88				
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births.						Borough 7.3		County 4.93.		
STILL BIRTHS				M.		F.		Total		
Legitimate				—		1		1		
Illegitimate				—		—		—		
Total ..				—		—		—		
				—		1		1		
STILL BIRTH RATE				Borough		County		E. & W.		
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births ..				6.06		20.03		15.4		
Per 1,000 Population ..				0.10		0.35				
Per 1,000 Population				0.10		0.35				
DEATHS				M.		F.		Total		
All causes				65		67		132		
				Borough		County		E. & W.		
Crude Death rate per 1,000 population				13.5		11.92		11.5		
Comparability Factor 0.99										
Adjusted Death Rate 13.5 x 0.99				13.37		County 13.59				
				M.		F.		Total		
Death from cancer				10		12		22		
Death from lung cancer				5		1		6		
Death due to Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion—Nil.										
Maternal Mortality Rate				Borough		County				
Rate per 1,000 live and still births ..				0		0.47				
Infant Mortality				Total 2 (one male and one female).						

INFANT MORTALITY RATE	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
(Rate per 1,000 total live births) ..	12.2	24.99	19.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate—first 4 weeks			
(Rate per 1,000 live births) ..	6.1	16.06	12.9
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate			
(Under 1 week)	6.1	14.11	11.1
Perinatal Mortality			
(Still births and infant deaths under 1 week)			
per 1,000 total live and still births	12.1	33.87	26.3

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny, 1959–1966

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of first Week Deaths</i>	<i>Number Still-Births</i>	<i>Perinatal Mortality Rate</i>
1966	1	1	12.1
1965	1	5	31.25
1964	9	2	57.8
1963	3	2	30.6
1962	2	9	71.4
1961	5	2	46.1
1960	2	5	51.3
1959	1	4	23.9

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1959-1966)

Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and
Monmouthshire County.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Abergavenny Borough</i>	<i>Abergavenny Rural District</i>	<i>Monmouthshire</i>
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	—	35.98
1964	57.8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	—	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0
1959	23.9	32.0	47.7

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
1931	8490 (Estimated) ..	137	119	16.10	14.01
	8608 (Census) ..				
1938	7925 (New Borough) ..	115	108	14.50	13.6
1939	7832 ..	118	144	15.10	18.38
1940	8407 ..	122	149	14.5	17.7
1941	8769 ..	130	135	14.6	15.39
1942	8468 ..	134	113	18.8	13.34
1943	8174 ..	127	122	15.56	13.34
1944	7931 ..	139	104	17.5	13.11
1945	8275 ..	141	120	17.0	14.5
1946	8439 ..	147	110	17.5	13.03
1947	8427 ..	152	115	18.0	13.64
1948	8532 ..	146	138	17.1	16.17
1949	8597 ..	134	94	15.6	10.9
1950	8534 ..	130	145	14.4	16.99
1951	8904 ..	161	157	18.1	17.63
1952	9058 ..	154	108	17.0	11.9
1953	9070 ..	140	93	15.4	10.26
1954	9140 ..	143	100	15.6	10.94
1955	8970 ..	128	106	14.3	11.8
1956	8910 ..	143	124	16.05	13.9
1957	8980 ..	131	112	14.89	12.49
1958	9020 ..	171	139	18.96	15.4
1959	9030 ..	163	126	18.05	13.95
1960	9080 ..	151	114	16.63	11.6
1961	9620 ..	150	123	15.59	12.27
1962	9700 ..	159	120	16.39	12.37
1963	9710 ..	187	143	18.13	14.73
1964	9770 ..	188	136	19.24	13.9
1965	9790 ..	187	123	19.1	12.56
1966	9760 ..	164	132	16.81	13.5

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1966 IN THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								
					1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75 and over	
Menigococcal Infections	M ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	M ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
	F ..	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Coronary Disease, Angina	M ..	9	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
	F ..	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other Heart Disease	M ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
	F ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Disease	M ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
	F ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	M ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	F ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	M ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	M ..	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	M ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other Accidents	M ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	M ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M ..	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F ..	—	1	1	1	1	2	3	13	13	13	21	30
			—	—	—	—	1	3	7	21	—	—	33

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1965 AND 1966

Cause of Death	1965			1966		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	1	—	1	1
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	1	—	1	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus ..	3	—	3	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	—	3	3	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	—	2	2	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	6	6	12	5	7	12
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	2	—	2	..	1	1
Diabetes ..	2	4	6	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	6	5	11	8	10	18
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	6	5	11	8	10	18
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	14	9	23	16	9	25
Hypertension and Heart Disease ..	—	2	2	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease ..	8	14	22	14	8	22
Circulatory Disease ..	—	—	—	2	5	7
Influenza ..	4	4	8	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	3	3	6	2	4	6
Bronchitis ..	4	3	7	2	6	8
Ether Disease of Respiratory System ..	—	—	—	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and/or Duodenum ..	2	—	2	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ..	—	—	—	1	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	1	—	1	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	1	—	1	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	—	7	7	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Suicide ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other Accidents ..	1	2	3	1	2	3
TOTAL ..	58	65	65	65	67	132

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough	..	..	Nil
Measles	..	..	59
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	..	..	Nil
Poliomyelitis	..	..	Nil
Erysipelas	..	..	Nil
Diphtheria	..	..	Nil
Encephalitis	..	..	Nil
Acute Primary Pneumonia		..	1
Salmonella Typhimurium	..	..	Nil
Dysentery	..	..	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified :	Pulmonary	M 5	F 0	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 1
Deaths :	Pulmonary	M 0	F 0	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 0

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) (Classified according to sex and age)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i> 0-4	<i>Age</i> 5-9	<i>Age</i> 10-14	<i>Age</i> 15-24	<i>Age</i> 25	<i>Total</i> <i>plus</i>
Diphtheria	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Menigococcal Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Male	13	17	—	—	—	30
	Female	16	13	—	—	—	29
Whooping Cough	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	1	1
Salmonella Typhimurium	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1966

Age		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Non-				Non-	
		Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Pulmonary
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-19 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-29 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-39 years	..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40-49 years	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50-59 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 and over	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

VACCINATIONS AGAINST SMALL POX

Age Groups	..	Number Vaccinated										
		1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Under 1 year	..	57	64	71	81	86	50	60	7	—	9	4
1-four years	..	37	22	16	22	30	38	282	7	56	63	99
5-14 years	..	4	9	12	12	6	10	1332	—	—	—	7
15 years plus	..	25	28	17	9	15	15	2564	3	2	1	9
Total	..	123	123	116	124	137	113	4238	17	58	73	119

In addition 51 Children were re-vaccinated.

Age Groups	..	IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH				
		1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Under 5 years	..	114 Diph. 109 Whc.	95 Diph. 95 Whc. 104 Tetanus	160 Diph. 166 Whc. 158 Tetanus	182 Diph. 183 Whc. 182 Tetanus	146 Diph. 146 Whc. 154 Tetanus
5-14 years	..	118 Diph. 3 Whc.	1 Diph. 0 Whc. 3 Tetanus	5 Diph. 8 Whc. 5 Tetanus	— Diph. — Whc. 6 Tetanus	6 Diph. 6 Whc. 4 Tetanus
Totals	..	118 Diph. 112 Whc.	96 Diph. 95 Whc. 109 Tetanus	165 Diph. 174 Whc. 163 Tetanus	188 Diph. 183 Whc. 188 Tetanus	152 Diph. 156 Whc. 158 Tetanus

In addition to the above, 113 children were given "Booster" Diphtheria Prophylactic injections, 95 "Booster" Tetanus injections and 113 "Booster" Whooping Cough injections.

CYTOLOGY STATISTICS FOR 1966 (MONMOUTHSHIRE)

Name of Clinic	Appts. sent		Appts. kept		No. of Infec- tions	New Cases only		"Carc- in-Situ"
	New Cases	Recalls	New Cases	Recalls		No. Ref'd to Gynae- cologist	Other Conditions	
Abergavenny	378	17	261	11	30	—	18	—
Abertillery ..	303	1	202	1	17	—	1	—
Blaina ..	276	17	161	8	22	1	16	—
Cladicot ..	172	4	118	3	6	—	3	—
Chepstow ..	319	21	233	12	22	1	9	—
Cwmbran ..	529	23	287	15	38	—	5	—
Croesyceiliog	402	26	291	19	29	3	11	—
Ebbw Vale ..	270	11	182	7	22	4	7	1
Monmouth ..	358	14	174	9	18	3	2	—
Newport ..	356	41	237	20	29	2	8	—
Pontypool ..	922	86	570	59	72	2	23	1
Pontllanfraith	1,167	76	729	49	96	4	25	1
Risca ..	587	29	410	22	59	2	36	—
Tredeggar ..	285	8	177	5	21	—	6	1
Totals ..	6,324	374	4,132	240	481	22	170	4

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.SC., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the town continues to be derived from the Reservoir at Llwyndu, supplemented at periods during the year by a supply from Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board's Trunk Main, which passes near the town.

The Reservoir is fed from 13 springs within the catchment area of the slopes of the Sugar Loaf, also at periods during the year from the Kibby Stream which rises in this area.

The springs are divided into two groups, the Lodge Springs and the Llwyndu Springs.

A further supply to the Reservoir can be provided by a borehole well from which the water is drawn by a vertical electric pump to a maximum flow of 60,000 gallons per day.

The supply is moderately soft, faintly alkaline water of high organic purity. The water is easily maintained at high bacteriological standard by chlorination only, the level of free chlorine being checked daily by the Water Works Attendant. Regular periodic samples are also taken for examination by the Bacteriologist of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Nine samples of raw and treated water were taken.

The water from the town's Reservoir is not plumbo-solvent, but is very slightly zinc-solvent. Bye-Laws are in existence prohibiting the use of galvanized iron pipes for water.

From the point of view of water supply the rainfall for the year was, for the most part, consistently high, ranging from $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. to $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins. with the exception of March, July and September when it was $1\frac{3}{4}$ ins. $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. respectively. This meant that the supply was maintained throughout the year from basic sources with the exception of four months, June to September when a small amount averaging 83,000 gallons per day were drawn from the Kibby stream and 64,000 gallons per day from the Newport main. The consumption of water was fairly consistent throughout the year, ranging from 520,000 gallons per day in January to 580,000 gallons per day in June, with an average throughout the year of approximately 533,000 gallons per day.

Fourteen dwellings in the town serving 30 people are supplied by stand pipes. 9,730 persons living in 3,409 dwellings are supplied by services direct to the premises.

Continuous periodic samples of water in private supplies were carried out during the year to ensure that over the period the quality

would be satisfactory. Ten samples were taken of which six proved to be of high purity. Of the four remaining, the standard could be described as reasonable. However, the possibilities of high fluctuation in the results made it necessary, in my opinion, not to cancel letters that had been sent in respect of three premises advising that water used for drinking purposes should be boiled. It is hoped that with works now in hand two of these supplies will be so treated that they would eventually be considered to be safe supplies.

SWIMMING BATHS

The water in the Swimming Baths is derived from the town's mains and the bacteriological purity is maintained by pressure sand filter and chlorination. Free chlorine content is checked daily by the Baths Superintendent and a snap sample taken for bacteriological examination confirmed that the water is maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The Baths Superintendent reported that although the weather was not conducive to out-door swimming, the season proved to be very satisfactory in many respects. School classes attended regularly by timetable, and a high percentage of passes ranging from beginners to advanced level certificates were gained. Awards were granted to many candidates who entered tests for the A.S.A. and the Royal Life Saving Society. Favourable comments were made by many visitors who attended the Baths through the season.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

From the Borough Engineer's reports during the year it appears that a satisfactory effluent standard was maintained, but not without difficulty.

A breakdown in routine treatment was caused by flooding at the end of the previous year and continued wet weather made it very difficult to bring the works back to normal functions. Further periods of heavy rain in the Spring and Autumn prevented normal drying and clearing of the sludge beds, with a result that recourse had to be taken to pumping digested sludge on to the lagoons.

The problems of the Sewage Works Manager were not made any easier by reduction in electrical voltage and complete power failures during one or two days in each month. The installation of a stand-by electric generator was completed by the end of the year, but owing to difficulties in the supply of batteries it was not possible to put it into operation before the year ended. There is every hope that this would be put right early in the new year. The Manager is to be commended, for, in spite of the difficulties he had to contend with, the sewage disposal was carried out without any nuisance or inconvenience to the residents of the town.

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AND HOUSING ACT, 1964

During the year 12 applications for Standard Grant were approved, involving a sum of £1,867.

Payments of £1,025 were made in respect of six schemes previously approved.

One application for a Discretionary Grant of £247 was agreed to, while payments totalling £2,232 were made in respect of nine schemes previously approved.

One representation for improvements under the Housing Act, 1964, received in 1965, was resolved during the year by the tenant purchasing the property and carrying out the necessary works himself.

Five representations were made during the year, improvements have been completed in one case ; an Immediate Improvement Notice has been served in respect of another. The other three are due to be dealt with early in 1967.

Once again it is noticeable that all voluntary improvements are carried out by owner/occupiers. Action by Landlords has resulted from procedure under the Housing Act, 1964.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The Mill Street Clearance Area was declared in two separate resolutions, the first, in December, 1965, comprising areas A, B, C, D, D 2. The second areas, E, F and G, in June, 1966.

All the properties contained in areas A, B, C, D and D2, were purchased by negotiation before the end of the year. All the families were re-housed with the exception of one single person, while one other family appears to have abandoned their premises and moved away. Arrangements are now being made by the Borough Engineer for the demolition of all the buildings contained in the areas.

Negotiations for the purchase of the premises in areas E and F were in the hands of the District Valuer. Three families have been re-housed from area G, i.e., the north side of Mill Street.

RE-HOUSING

The construction of new dwellings on the Croesonnen Estate proceeded according to plan, and by the end of the year the whole 148 projected dwellings were completed, comprising 3 two-bedroom houses ; 63 three-bedroom houses ; 32 one-bedroom and 2 two-bedroom bungalows. Private enterprise made a contribution of 30 houses during the year, comprising 5 two-bedroom houses and 25 three-bedroom houses.

In view of the completed building programme the Council was able to make some inroad into the problem of general housing needs, and from their Point Scheme for the allocation of houses were able to give 142 families houses in 93 new dwellings and 49 re-lets. These also included families from houses otherwise declared to be unfit and in the ownership of the Council.

Four applications for mutual exchange were agreed to by the Council amongst tenants of the older houses, two of which being with tenants from other Authorities.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.
 - (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts 86
 - (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose .. 258
2. (a) Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading) (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 42
- (b) Inspections made for that purpose 129

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Houses in Clearance Area declared under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957

Number of Houses demolished :—

Unfit for human habitation	Nil
Included by reason of bad arrangement	Nil
On land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 ..	Nil

Nil Persons Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	21
From houses included by reason of bad arrangement	Nil
From houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Families Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	8
From houses included through bad arrangement	Nil

HOUSES NOT IN CLEARANCE AREA

Number of Houses demolished :—

As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	
Houses unfit for human habitation when action has been taken under Local Act	Nil
Houses included in unfitness orders made under para. 2 of the Second Schedule in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1959	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act	
From Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Officer of Health	
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	Nil

Families displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ..	
From Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Officer of Health	
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under the Local Acts	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	Nil

UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Number of Houses :—

Under Section 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From Houses to be Closed :	
Under Section 16 (1), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1947, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	5
Under Section 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Families displaced :—

From Houses to be Closed :	
Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	1
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 :—

Number of Houses	Nil
Number of Persons displaced	Nil
Number of Families displaced	Nil

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

1. PROCEEDINGS UNDER HOUSING ACT :				
a	No. Informal Notices served	..	..	Nil
b	No. Informal Notices complied with	..	..	Nil
c	No. Notices served under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1947	..	..	Nil
d	No. remedied	..	..	Nil
2. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT :				
a	Following information action No. remedied	..	..	15
b	No. Statutory Notices served	..	..	6
c	No. complied with (by owner)	..	..	6
d	No. complied with by Local Authority	..	..	Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

Two applications for Certificate of Disrepair were received during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Routine inspections were continued throughout the year and some minor contraventions were brought to the notice of the responsible persons.

Fourteen Informal Notices requesting improvement works were served, but it was not necessary to take legal proceedings, with the exception of a recommendation to the Council in respect of two persons found selling fish on the street without taking the necessary precautions to prevent contamination, smoking, and not using a vehicle in a satisfactory condition.

CONDEMNED FOOD

The following list of miscellaneous foods were surrendered and condemned as not fit for human consumption :

CANNED FOODS

Meats, 57 cans ; Fish, 12 cans ; Soups, 20 cans ; Vegetables, 103 cans ; Fruits, 102 cans ; Milk and Milk Food, 3 cans.

MISCELLANEOUS FOODS

Cheese, 2-lbs. ; Ham, 19-lbs. ; Jam, 15 jars ; Confectionery, 14lbs. ; Sausages, 1lbs. ; Wet Fish, 74lbs.

FROZEN FOODSTUFFS

204 Miscellaneous Packets.

MEAT AND OFFAL FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH AREA

Beef, 334lbs. Pork, 66-lbs. Livers, 40lbs.

ICE-CREAM

Of the 33 premises registered with the Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1958, only two are used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

One uses the Heat Treatment, the other adopting the cold mix method.

All the manufacturers comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Ten samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination, and as a result of such examinations four samples were Grade 1, four were two Grade 2, and two Grade 3. There were no Grade 4 samples.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Narrative Report by the Public Health Inspector, for the Year 1966.

It appears from the figures contained in the records, which are brought up to date from time to time, that there was a loss of seven premises at the end of the year.

Seventy-nine premises were visited and re-visited, bringing the total number of visits to 119.

Although the owners and occupiers of the various premises are most co-operative it is obvious that in a town which consists mainly of very old buildings the greatest difficulty is experienced in providing amenities for the staff to a desirable level. This feature has entailed a great deal of discussion and advice in order that a reasonable standard should be adopted bearing all factors in mind.

Some aspects of the Regulations, however, are not given enough importance by the people concerned, in my opinion. In particular I refer to lighting and heating. In the case of the latter there appears to be a general misconception of the requirements of the Act, and many Shopkeepers consider that the mere fact that the public enter their premises automatically excludes them from the need to provide adequate forms of heating.

Only in one case has representation been made to my office by members of the staff of a retail establishment. It is apparent that the employees have not seen fit to report conditions in the places where they work, which are below the required standard. It is apparent that some form of obvious publicity must continue to be given out to bring to the notice of owners, occupiers and employees the conditions under which registerable premises should be used.

Six premises were registered during the year, and at December 31st the total number of registered premises was 189.

RODENT CONTROL

As will be seen from the statistics appended to this report, extreme vigilance continues to be exercised in order that, at any signs of an infestation of rodents immediate remedial action can be taken to prevent a build-up or extension of the infestation. The public can greatly assist in this by reporting to the Public Health Department any such evidence they may observe.

The infestation of a premises can also be discouraged by using care in preventing accumulation of rubbish which can provide the rat with a home or a restaurant, or even both. All rubbish should be kept in a properly constructed bin with a tight fitting lid. Also material capable of being burnt should be so disposed of.

This applies particularly to business premises where packaging material presents a problem. In premises where food is sold or prepared, the Food Hygiene Regulations require that a sufficient number of suitably constructed bins must be provided.

The staff of the Public Health Department is ready at all times to advise on the precautions to be taken.

Statistically the work of the Rodent Operator is hereby appended :

DESTRUCTION OF RATS IN SEWERS

Annual Treatment, 25th April to 6th May, 1966

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	..	306
Number baited	.. .. .	161
Number showing takes of bait	.. .. .	23

Annual Treatment, 3rd October to 14th October, 1966

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	..	306
Number baited	.. .. .	157
Number showing takes of bait	.. .. .	25

In this treatment an anti-coagulant poison was used.

SURFACE INFESTATIONS

Unless a quick kill was urgently required, when zinc phosphide is used, surface infestations were controlled with Warfarin.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

Total number of properties in this area	.. .. .	4,014
All other, including business properties	.. .. .	189

INSPECTIONS

Number of Local Authority properties inspected	..	..	22
Number of Business properties inspected	..	..	119
Number of private dwellings inspected	..	..	272
Number of agricultural properties inspected	..	..	3
Other types of premises inspected	..	..	30

Total inspections, including re-inspections 1,196

Total number found to be infested :—

By Rats	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
By Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	25

Total number of treatments carried out by Rodent Operator .. 105

Number of re-treatments 24

Total number of treatments, including re-treatments .. 129

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1957

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough :

				<i>Number of Mechanical Factories</i>	<i>Power used</i>	<i>With Power not used</i>
Agricultural Machinery Repairs	..	..	..	2	2	0
Building and Joinery	..	..	..	9	9	0
Bakery	..	..	..	3	3	0
Blacksmiths	..	..	..	1	1	0
Bean Flour Products	..	..	..	1	1	0
Boot and Shoe Repair	..	..	..	4	4	
Cellulose Spraying	..	..	..	5	5	0
Clock and Watch Repair	..	..	..	3	3	0
Concrete Products	..	..	..	1	1	0
Dry Cleaners	..	..	..	1	1	0
Egg Grading	..	..	..	1	1	0
Electrical Repairs (including radio)	..	..	..	5	0	5
Electroplating	..	..	..	1	1	0
Firewood	..	..	..	1	1	0
Fish friers	..	..	..	3	3	0
Florists	..	..	..	4	0	4
Gas Undertaking	..	..	..	1	1	0
Ice-cream	..	..	..	2	2	0
Ironworks and Engineers	..	..	..	3	3	0
Meat—small goods	..	..	..	5	5	0
Mineral waters	..	..	..	1	1	0
Monumental Masonry	..	..	..	1	1	0
Motor Repairs	..	..	..	11	11	0

Printing	2	2	0
Paper Cutting and Packing ..	1	1	0
Slaughterhouses	1	1	0
Soft Toy Manufacturers	1	1	0
Sugar Confectionery	1	1	0
Textile Products	3	3	0
Telephone Repairs	1	1	0
Tent Repairs	1	0	1
Tinsmiths	1	0	1
Upholstery and French Polishing ..	1	0	1
Welding	3	3	0
Wool Staplers	2	0	2

OUTWORKERS — During 1966 10 outworkers were listed, concerned with : Soft Toy (2) ; Wearing apparel (2) ; Retail drapery (3) ; Drapers (1) ; Tailoring (2).

Forty inspections were carried out, and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found :—

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Insp.</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Prose'ns</i>
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Convenience—					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle exl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Slaughtered ..	732	—	24	6446	1517	—
Number Inspected	732	—	24	6446	1517	—
Number Inspected	732	—	24	6446	1517	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	2	16	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	124	—	1	174	30	—
Percentage of the number inspected	17.1	—	12.5	2.9	2.0	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	25	—
Percentage of the number inspected	—	—	—	—	1.6	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—				
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—				
Generalised totally and condemned	—	—				

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis :—

Carcase meat	..	..	1673-lbs.
Offal	..	..	1931-lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular Infections :—

Carcase meat	..	..	265-lbs.
Offal	..	..	44-lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned .. 3914-lbs.

RAINFALL, 1966

Rain Guage . { Diameter of Funnel, 5-inches.
 { Height of Top { Above Ground, 1 foot
 { Above Sea Level, 215 feet.
 Situation : Bailey Park.

<i>Month</i>			<i>Total Depth inches</i>
January	..	..	4.0
February	..	..	7.0
March	..	..	1.75
April	..	..	5.75
May	..	..	2.5
June	..	..	2.75
July	..	..	1.5
August	..	..	3.5
September	..	..	1.25
October	..	..	7.5
November	..	..	4.5
December	..	..	4.75
		Total ..	46.75

I am,

Madam Chairman, Gentlemen and Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

ROGER J. HOWELLS,

Public Health Inspector.

