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*BOROUGH OF BANBURY*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

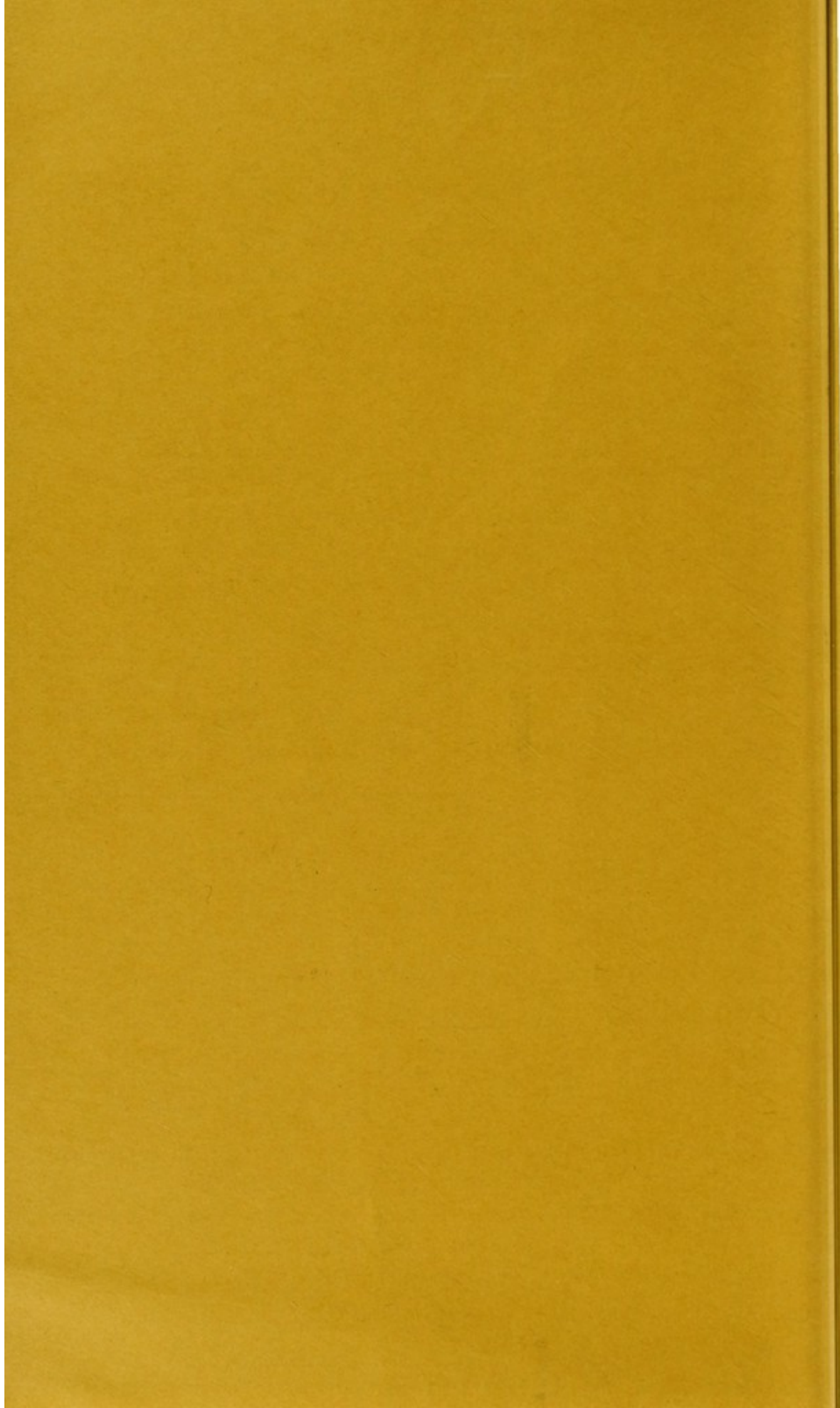
**Medical Officer of Health**

and

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

**For the Year**

1966





BOROUGH OF BANBURY

Mayor

COUNCILLOR ERIC WORDSWORTH, J.P.

Deputy Mayor

COUNCILLOR MRS. GERTRUDE MARY WILSON

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE -

Chairman - COUNCILLOR STOTON

Vice-Chairman - COUNCILLOR MRS. WILSON

ALDERMAN MISS BUSTIN

ALDERMAN WALKLETT

COUNCILLOR AMOS, D.L.

COUNCILLOR MRS. COLEGRAVE

COUNCILLOR GREENMAN

COUNCILLOR HACKWORTH

COUNCILLOR HEATH

COUNCILLOR JELFS

COUNCILLOR KEYS

COUNCILLOR PRIESTLEY

COUNCILLOR STOTON

COUNCILLOR MRS. WILSON

The Mayor is ex-officio a member of all Committees.

Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace - F.G.E. BOYS, Solicitor.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

L.H. BREARLEY, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

"Cleaves", Over Norton, Oxon.

Telephone - Chipping Norton 2680

Chief Public Health Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector

F. APPLEYARD, D.P.A.(Lond)., F.R.S.H., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.H.(Hons).,  
M.A.P.H.I.

(To 31st May, 1966).

C.R.PALING, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (From 1st June, 1966).

Senior Additional Public Health Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector

C.R.PALING, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (To 31st May, 1966).

G. MILLS, M.A.P.H.I. (From 15th August, 1966).

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

G. ROSS, M.R. San.A.(Scot). (Certified Meat Inspector).  
(To 31st March, 1966).

A. BEATON, M.R.S.H., M.R.San.A.(Scot). (Certified Meat Inspector).  
(To 4th September, 1966).

D.B. SUTHERLAND, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Certified Meat Inspector).  
(To 25th September, 1966).

M.S. GRAY, M.A.P.H.I. (From 19th July, 1966).

R. BARRETT. (From 31st October, 1966).

A.W. MERRETT, M.A.P.H.I. (From 1st November, 1966).



Shorthand Typist.

MRS. C.F. HEDGES (To 24th June, 1966).

MRS. J. PINFOLD (From 27th June, 1966).

Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders.

G. STEVENS.

Rodent Operative and Disinfection Officer.

H.P. MILLIKEN.

Manager of Public Slaughterhouse.

P.J. KEARSE.

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Banbury.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report on the Health of the Borough during 1966.

#### BIRTHS AND DEATHS

To arrive at the corrected figures, an area comparability factor is given by the Registrar General as an endeavour to relate the population distribution in the area to the average population for England and Wales. For the Borough this factor is now 0, in other words, it is considered that the population distribution in terms of age and sex approximates to the average for the whole country. The birth rate for 1966 was lower than that for 1965 (the total numbers of births also being lower) but was still well above the national average.

The death rate for infants was much higher than the preceding year and well above the national average but the still birth rate was low. The perinatal mortality rate, however, (an indication of total infant loss) was only slightly higher than the national average. These figures are small in number and a small variation can show as a marked increase in rate. The causes of infant deaths are given below, most of them being associated with the hazards of birth:-

Prematurity	- 6	(associated with (a)Toxaemia in the mother (b) Breech delivery (c) RH Incompatability (d) Intracranial haemorrhage (e) Failure of lung to expand.)
Congenital Defects	- 2	
Bronchopneumonia	- 2	
Atelectasis	- 3	
Respiratory Obstruction	- 2	(due to (a) vomit (b) pillow)

The figures also show the much less chance of survival the illegitimate infant has when compared with the legitimate infant.

The general death rate was well below the national average and the main causes are given below:-

Cerebral Vascular Disease	- 26
Coronary Disease	- 75
Cancer (All types)	- 45
Lung Cancer	- 14
Breast Cancer	- 6
Stomach Cancer	4
Pneumonia	- 26
Other Heart Diseases	- 22



It can be seen that the "degenerative" diseases combined, were the main causes of death, whilst lung cancer remained the largest group amongst the cancers.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The majority of notifiable infectious diseases occur in childhood. This used to be true of Tuberculosis but as the table in Section B shows, this is now a disease of adult life with quite a high proportion of elderly people contracting the disease for the first time. Two of the cases of Tuberculosis occurred in immigrants from abroad and four in people recently rehoused from outside the area. The remainder of the cases occurred in people with longer associations with the area.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

These circumstances are found in detail in the report that follows: in general, conditions are reasonably satisfactory although difficulties are arising in sewage disposal and in the urgent need for a new refuse tip. Much is said about modern methods of refuse disposal, but provided adequate suitable land is available, properly controlled tipping is still, in my mind, the method of choice. The much publicised pulverisers are expensive to buy and run, do not radically change the essential character of refuse, and can present their own problems.

In a town the size of Banbury, with its high proportion of older houses, there is likely to be some smoke problem especially during the winter months, and it is anticipated that a measuring station will be set up in 1967 in the centre of the town to measure the degree of atmospheric pollution throughout the year.

In the field of housing, many of the present houses have been built since 1946 but there are in the older parts of the town, large numbers of terrace houses built at the end of the last century. Most of these still have a fair degree of useful life but it is intended to survey some of them gradually group by group to form a better idea of their condition. The more derelict looking buildings scattered in the town centre are in fact no longer used as housing and no longer come under Housing Act control.

The standard of hygiene of "food premises" was again on the whole reasonable, but it was found necessary to pursue firmly one of the long established bakers to obtain an improvement in his standards. This incidentally had unexpected dividends when inspections of other similar premises were made, the word had "got around" and improvements made even before being requested. It was also found necessary to take proceedings against a greengrocer for multiple infringements of the food hygiene regulations.



I would close this introduction by conveying my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support, to the Officers of other Departments for their co-operation, and to the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and loyalty during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L.H. BREARLEY.

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	5,051 acres
Population (1961 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	20,996
Population (1966 Estimated Reg. Gen.)	...	...	...	...	...	25,760
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£1,204,593
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£5,325
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	8,176

EXTRACTS from Vital Statistics for the year 1966.

## LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	283	234	517
Illegitimate	16	18	34
Total	299	252	551

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population - 21.4  
(England & Wales 17.7)

BIRTH RATE corrected for age and sex distribution 21.4

ILLEGITIMATE Live Births per cent of total live births  
... 6.2

## STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	4	3	7

STILLBIRTH RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths) -12.5  
(England and Wales 15.4)

TOTAL live and stillbirths ... 558

## DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	131	133	264

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population - 10.2  
(England and Wales 11.7)

Corrected Death Rate - 10.2

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
All infants per 1,000 Live Births (Infant Death Rate England & Wales 1966-19).	14	25.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.	12	23.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.	2	50.8
Neo-natal Mortality Rate - (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births). (England & Wales 1966 - 12.9)	...	16.2



Early neo-natal Mortality Rate -	Rate
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births). ... ..	16.2
(England & Wales - 11.1)	
Peri-natal Mortality Rate -	
(Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths) ... ..	28.7
(England & Wales - 26.3)	

#### CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ... ..	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	10	4
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ... ..	-	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	12	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	9	17
Coronary disease, Angina ... ..	36	39
Other heart disease ... ..	10	12
Other circulatory disease ... ..	5	3
Influenza ... ..	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	13	13
Bronchitis ... ..	6	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	1
Hyperphasia of prostate ... ..	1	-
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	8	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	6	-
All other accidents ... ..	1	2
Suicide ... ..	3	2
Homicide ... ..	1	-
Totals	<u>131</u>	<u>133</u>



# SECTION B

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases notified during the year 1966

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED</u>
Erysipelas	3
Whooping Cough	34
Scarlet Fever	4
Measles	122
Sonnie Dysentery	2
Tuberculosis	
Pulmonary	13
Non-pulmonary	3
	<hr/>
	181
	<hr/>

## AGE INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	4	4	1	1	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & OVER	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	5	1	2	-	-	-	-

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory work for the Borough is carried out at:-

- The Public Health Laboratory, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
- The Horton General Hospital, Banbury.
- The Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.  
(Chemical Water Examinations only).

The greater part of the work is now carried out at the Horton General Hospital, but full details of this work are not available.

## MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47.

No action has been necessary in the Borough during the year.



## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supply.

Water for the Borough was, up to the end of 1946 supplied by the Banbury Water Company but, during that year, a Bill was passed by Parliament under which the Town Council acquired the undertaking as from the 1st January, 1947 (Banbury Corporation Act, 1946).

The water supply, which is satisfactory in quantity, is obtained from the River Cherwell at Grimsbury and the Sor Brook at Bodicote. It is treated by settlement, filtration and chlorination. During 1965 a new reservoir came into use at Grimsbury adjacent to the treatment plant.

During the year 1966, 102 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. All were reported to be satisfactory and suitable for a public supply. 10 samples of water from the Bodicote Pumping Station and 15 samples from the Grimsbury Pumping Station were submitted for chemical examination and all were reported to be satisfactory.

All houses in the Borough are now connected to the public supply.

The water in the area is hard and there is no plumbo-solvency.

#### 2. Drainage and Sewerage.

Various extensions of the sewers in the Borough were carried out during 1966 as a result of the extensive building programme which is now in progress and work was continued in respect of the sewers on the industrial development area in Southam Road.

In times of heavy rain an area of Warwick Road was subject to flooding due to inadequate surface water sewers and longstanding overloading of foul sewers with surface water. A new large diameter surface water sewer has been completed in the area and parts of the foul sewer have been relaid at larger diameters. Many existing discharges of surface water which were connected to the foul sewer have been diverted to the new surface water sewer.

Drainage work carried out during the year under the supervision of the Public Health Department included:-

Drains cleared of obstruction	...	...	57
Drains repaired, relaid or connected to sewers	...	...	14
New inspection chambers provided	...		4
Choked sewers cleansed, or cleansed and repaired	...	...	49

#### 3. Rivers & Streams.

General supervision of the watercourses in the area is exercised by the Thames Conservancy Board, but the periodic cleansing of some of the water-courses conveying storm water is carried out as a result of action by the Department.



#### 4. Closet Accommodation.

Practically all the dwelling houses and other premises in the Borough are provided with water-closets except a very few premises in the more outlying parts of the town where the water carriage system is not available. Improvements to closet accommodation completed as a result of the work of the Public Health Inspectors included:-

W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. compartments repaired and cleansed					...	7
W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Artificial lighting provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	5
Intervening ventilated spaces provided to existing W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	6

#### 5. Public Cleansing.

This work is carried out under the supervision of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and has been well maintained during the year.

#### 6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Particulars of the work of the Public Health Inspectors are given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector attached hereto.

### SECTION D

#### HOUSING

##### 1. New Housing.

The Corporation's programme of new house building continued vigorously during the year, and the results detailed below are indicative of a viable and expanding town:-

(a) Total new houses and flats erected during 1966	...	...	...	...	...	477
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	325
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	152

##### 2. Slum Clearance.

Because of an acute staff shortage in the Department during 1966, which is mentioned elsewhere in this Report, it was not found possible to embark on any further slum clearance work during the year 1966. The actual number of houses dealt with from the inception of the Corporation's original Slum Clearance Programme in 1954 up to the end of 1966 was 451.

As mentioned in previous reports, there is no doubt that as a result of the above-mentioned slum clearance work together with the Corporation's extensive house building programme, the standard of housing in the area has been materially improved. This is illustrated by the substantial falling-off in the number of complaints received by the Department in respect of housing defects



A number of houses still exist, however, which will require to be dealt with under Parts II or III of the Housing Act, 1957, and these will continue to receive the attention of your public health officers for some years to come.

3. Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were discovered during the year.

4. Houses in Multiple Occupation.

A great deal of time was spent during the year in the supervision of premises of this type, and progress was made in several instances. 63 visits of inspection were made for this purpose, many during the evening, which is often the only time at which access can be gained and a proper count made of the various occupants of these houses. The work is made exceptionally difficult on occasions due to the rapid changes of occupancy characteristic of premises of this nature.

5. Caravans.

No material change in the number of caravans in the area occurred during the period under review. 8 licensed sites exist in the Borough containing approximately 80 caravans, and these were kept under regular surveillance during the year. No formal action was required on the part of the Department.

6. Improvement Grants.

No discretionary Improvement Grants were made during the year, but 23 Standard Grants were made, 20 of which were in respect of owner/occupied property and 3 in respect of tenanted accommodation. 21 schemes were completed during the year. As a result of the grants 16 baths were provided, 16 wash-hand basins, 16 hot-water systems, 18 internal W.C.'s and 15 ventilated food stores. A substantial amount of essential repair work was carried out in conjunction with the various schemes and there is no doubt that work of this nature plays a very considerable part in upgrading the general standard of living accommodation in the town, and prolonging the useful life of older houses.

In spite of various approaches made by the Department it does not seem possible to interest owners of tenanted properties in improving their property with the aid of Improvement Grants, the vast majority of the grants made to date having been made to owner/occupiers.

The Council, as a matter of policy, is providing standard facilities in all Council properties which lack these facilities.

7. Housing Repairs.

As in former years a good deal of housing repair work was carried out following the service of notices under the various provisions of the Public Health & Housing Acts. Details of this work are given in a table in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report which follows.

8. Rent Acts.

No action was found necessary under the provisions of the Rent Acts during the period under review.



## SECTION E

### INSPECTION OF MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS

#### (a) Milk Supply.

As mentioned in previous reports, the duties of the local Public Health Department in connection with the supervision of the milk supply is now restricted to the inspection of dairy premises and, during 1966, 16 visits of inspection were recorded. In no cases was formal action found to be necessary.

#### (b) Meat Inspection.

As has happened for many years now, every animal slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough was inspected prior to sale, and in the period under review, the carcasses, parts of carcasses and offal detailed in the table below were condemned and surrendered.

The provisions of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, were put into operation on the 1st October, 1963, and all carcasses inspected at the Public Slaughterhouse are now marked in accordance with the Regulations after being passed as fit for human consumption.

Total number of animals slaughtered and inspected	Cattle		Sheep		Pigs		Calves	
	1752		8933		4807		37	
Carcases Condemned	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases	1	400	6	380	6	786	5	170
TOTALS (A)	1	400	6	380	6	786	5	170
Parts of Carcases & Organs Condemned:-								
Meat	-	59½	-	41	-	182½	-	-
Total Offal	-	108	-	-	-	-	-	-
Livers	362½	4394½	306½	631	236	714	1	5
Lungs	59	443	82	116	471½	865	1	2
Heads (T.B.)	-	-	-	-	59	737	-	-
Heads	10	314	-	-	15	173	-	-
Tongues	12	74	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hearts	8	40	23	15	92	88	-	-
Kidneys	6	48	3	2	7	5	1	2
Skirts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spleens	5	14	-	-	-	-	1	2
Udders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mes. Fat	-	-	-	-	1	12	-	-
Plucks	-	-	2	8	24	200	-	-
Intestines	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
Tops	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
Flares	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	-
TOTALS (B)	462½	5495	416½	813	910½	2996½	4	11
Total Weight (A) & (B) in lbs.	-	5895	-	1193	-	3782½	-	181

The following table in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives further details of the incidence of tuberculosis, cysticercosis and other diseases occurring in food animals slaughtered and inspected in the Borough during 1966.



## CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1646	106	37	8933	4807	-
Number inspected	1646	106	37	8933	4807	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	5	6	6	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	467	-	4	417	882	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	28.4%	-	24.3%	4.7%	18.4%	-
Tuberculosis only:-						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	59	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.2%	-
Cysticercosis:-						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised & totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

(c) Other Foods.

The following other articles of food were inspected at the request of various food traders and were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption during the year.

TINNED FOODS

Tinned Meat ... ..	146	Tins
Tinned Fruit ... ..	708	"
Tinned Milk ... ..	123	"
Tinned Vegetables ... ..	403	"
Tinned Tomatoes ... ..	58	"
Tinned Soup ... ..	69	"
Tinned Juices ... ..	116	"
Tinned Corned Beef ... ..	70	"
Tinned Fish ... ..	188	"
Tinned Ham ... ..	7	"
Tinned Milk Pudding ... ..	98	"
Tinned Cream ... ..	16	"
Tinned Chickens ... ..	2	"
Tinned Spaghetti ... ..	43	"
Tinned Baked Beans ... ..	71	"
Tinned Treacle ... ..	34	"
Sauces & Pickles ... ..	28	Jars
Jars Jams & Preserves ... ..	18	"
Jars Paste ... ..	2	"
Jar Cream ... ..	1	Jar
Packets Frozen Fish... ..	470	Packets
Packets Frozen Meat ... ..	81	"
Packets Frozen Sausages ... ..	18	"
Packets Frozen Vegetables ... ..	355	"
Packets Frozen Fruit ... ..	41	"
Packets Frozen Chips ... ..	51	"
Packets Crisps ... ..	22	"
Packets Frozen Pastry ... ..	54	"
Frozen Pies ... ..	51	
Frozen Cakes ... ..	9	
Packets Frozen Mousse ... ..	2	Packets
Packets Cereals ... ..	2	"
Packets Flour ... ..	4	"
Packets Peppers ... ..	1	"
Packets Biscuits ... ..	2	"
Packets Butter ... ..	4	"
Meat ... ..	1081	lbs.
Sausages ... ..	9	"
Chickens ... ..	8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Sweet Corn ... ..	12	Packets
Pasties ... ..	9	
Boxes Fruit ... ..	17	Boxes
Boxes Tomatoes ... ..	3	"

(d) Food Poisoning.

1 case of food poisoning occurred in the Borough during 1966.



(e) Public Slaughterhouse.

The Public Slaughterhouse, which was taken over by the Corporation in 1954 from the Ministry of Food, still continues to operate satisfactorily and is the only slaughterhouse in the Borough. The premises are regularly used by several of the local butchers in the Borough and in the adjoining rural districts and I am satisfied that slaughtering is carried out under hygienic and humane conditions.

Every animal slaughtered during the year was inspected - as has happened for many years now - and, since 1st October, 1963, all carcasses passed as fit for human consumption have been marked as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. Charges of 2/6d. per head for cattle, 9d. for calves and pigs, and 6d. for sheep were made in respect of this latter service.

Details of the animals slaughtered together with details of condemnations are given on page (14) of this report and, once again, these figures illustrate the excellent quality of the animals passing through the abattoir.

The Public Slaughterhouse is an undoubted public health asset to the Borough, although during the year under review a small trading loss was occasioned.

(f) Food Hygiene.

No special courses in Food Hygiene were held during the year but several talks were given by myself and the public health inspectors to local organisations interested in the subject. These talks are of especial value, as, mainly directed to women's organisations, the information received is invariably passed on to others in the home. A good deal of educative work is also carried out by the public health inspectors by the very nature of their work in connection with food premises and I consider this method of practical advice to be most useful.

The administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations (made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955) takes up an ever increasing proportion of your public health officers' time, as more and more food premises of one sort or another are brought into use, and active work in this connection was continued during 1966. The statistics recorded in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report which follows this, illustrate the efforts made by the Department to secure a clean and wholesome food supply and clean and hygienic methods of operation of food businesses.

The standard of food premises in the Borough is, generally speaking, high, although food hygiene is a subject which allows of no complacency, and I would once again stress the need for regular frequent inspection of premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for sale.

The need for strict personal hygiene by food handlers is a matter which I have stressed in previous reports, and it cannot be repeated too often that the thorough washing of the hands after using the toilet is one of the main means of preventing the spread of food poisoning organisms.

However well intended legislation is, it can only demand material things, and however well these are provided, the personal factor is the final factor that regulates their usage.

#### FOOD PREMISES

(1) The following statistics, required by the Ministry, are given in respect of premises in the Borough subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:-



TRADE	NO. OF PREMISES	NO. FITTED TO COMPLY WITH REG. 16 (Wash basins with H. & C.)	NO. TO WHICH REG. 19 APPLIES. (Sinks with H. & C.)	NO. FITTED TO COMPLY WITH REG. 19
Bakehouses	7	7	7	7
Butchers Shops	19	19	19	19
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	50	50	50	50
Confectioners & Sweet Shops	24	24	20	14
Dairies	4	4	4	4
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish Shops	4	4	4	4
Food Manufacturing Premises	6	6	6	6
Greengrocers Shops	14	14	6	3
Grocers & General Shops	45	45	42	41
Public Houses & Licensed Premises	62	58	62	62
Other trades not included above	6	6	5	3
TOTALS	243	239	227	215

(2) Number of Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

- (a) For the manufacture or storage  
of ice-cream ... .. 60
- (b) For the preparation or manufacture  
of sausages or potted, pressed,  
pickled or preserved food... .. 17



(3) Number of Dairies Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959 ... .. 5

(4) Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises.

(Full details of this work are recorded in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which follows).

(5) Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

Generally by burying on the Corporation's refuse tip.

(6) There are no poultry processing premises or egg pasteurisation plants within the district.

## SECTION F

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1966 FOR THE BOROUGH OF BANBURY IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE

#### Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

#### PART I OF THE ACT

I - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	138	62	8	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	5	24	-	-
Total.....	150	88	9	-



2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9	4	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS - (ALL engaged in making wearing apparel).

No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (I) (C)

... .. 22

No. of cases in default in supplying lists ... NONE

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises ... NONE



## PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

### Corporation Swimming Pool.

The Corporation's open-air swimming pool comprises a rectangular enclosure, having an area of approximately one and a half acres. There is a spacious car park at the front of the main entrance block, which accommodates the purification plant, spectators' conveniences and stores, Superintendent's office and a central vestibule with registering turn-stile and ticket office. A raised circular terrace descends to the Gentlemen's and Ladies' changing rooms together with flower beds and complete with Cafe and paved areas round the pool.

The pool is 165 feet long x 60 feet wide with depths of 2' 9" to 10' 0". The capacity is 356,000 gallons with a surface area of nearly 10,000 square feet.

The water supply to the pool is from the town's main, and the purification plant, housed in the entrance block, is designed to maintain a standard of purity equal to that of drinking water.

An electrically operated centrifugal pump withdraws the water from the deep end of the pool at the rate of 59,000 gallons per hour and the water is passed through cylindrical pressure filters. Alumina and Soda are automatically added and the water is sterilised by the Chloramine process before returning to the pool via the Cascade. The entire contents of the pool are thus circulated once every six hours.

Bacteriological examinations of the water from the pool have been entirely satisfactory during the present and previous years.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR-1966.

To the Worshipful the Mayor, the Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Banbury.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to submit to you my annual report for the year 1966 which contains statistical details of the work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors, together with some comments on our various duties.

The year 1966 will be a particularly memorable one if only because of the many staff changes which took place in the Department. These are set out on the first page of the Medical Officer of Health's Report. Mr. Frank Appleyard, who had been the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector since 1946, retired at the end of May, and also during the year the three Additional Public Health Inspectors resigned to take up appointments elsewhere. The staffing position did not return to normal until the first week in November, when the establishment became complete once more.

The type of disruption described above makes its impact felt in the falling-off of "routine" inspections. In all Departments there is, of necessity, a scheme of priorities, some duties having to be carried out "come what may", whilst other duties fall to be done as time and opportunity permit. In the Public Health Department such duties as meat inspection and Diseases of Animals Act administration fall into the first category, whilst routine inspection of shops, houses, food premises and the like come within the second category. Because of this some of the figures recorded in the various statistical tables which follow are less than in previous years (e.g. Offices, Shops & Railway Premises inspections) but the position has now returned to normal and the usual frequency of inspections is being maintained.

The Public Slaughterhouse continued to function satisfactorily during 1966, although a slight loss was occasioned over the year's trading. The staff continued to cope efficiently with their work and as always produced at all times a first class final product.

Finally, I must express my thanks to all those persons who have helped me during the year. To the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee I am grateful for their support, courtesy and interest in all the affairs of the Department. To the Medical Officer of Health I am indebted for the continuance of a very happy relationship, and to the Town Clerk and other Chief Officers of the Corporation and their staffs I must express thanks for co-operation and assistance freely given as and when requested throughout the year. To my own staff I am especially indebted for their loyal support at all times.

I AM, MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

C.R. PALING

Chief Public Health Inspector.

October, 1967.



# VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1966

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Houses inspected ... ..	305
Verminous premises ... ..	22
Infectious diseases enquiries ... ..	169
Drainage Inspections ... ..	416
Re-visits to premises and works in progress ... ..	564
Van Dwellings ... ..	150
Smoke Abatement ... ..	438
Keeping of Animals ... ..	11
Streams and Watercourses ... ..	77
Vacant land and refuse dumps ... ..	78
Canal Boats ... ..	1
Public House Conveniences ... ..	22
Cesspools ... ..	33
Refuse Accommodation ... ..	4

## HOUSING ACTS

Houses inspected and recorded ... ..	27
Re-visits and works in progress ... ..	68
Clearance Areas ... ..	18
Houses let in multiple occupation ... ..	63
Improvement Grant Applications ... ..	126
Improvement Area Survey ... ..	112
Overcrowding ... ..	6

## FACTORIES ACTS

Factories inspected ... ..	64
Workplaces inspected ... ..	24

## SHOPS ACTS

Shops inspected (closing hours, records, etc) ... ..	17
--	----

## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

General Inspections ... ..	86
Re-visits made ... ..	251

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Bakehouses ... ..	89
Butchers Shops ... ..	111
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	25
Fishmongers Shops ... ..	27
Greengrocers Shops ... ..	75
Grocers Shops ... ..	137
Other Food Shops ... ..	45
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	57
Public Slaughterhouse ... ..	726
Knackers Yard ... ..	3
Public Houses ... ..	55
Public Market ... ..	121
Food Inspection Visits ... ..	113
Restaurants and Cafes ... ..	116
Ice-Cream Premises ... ..	5



Food Vehicles	...	...	...	41
Dairies	...	...	...	16
Banbury Michaelmas Fair (Food Stalls)	...	...	...	104

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Rats, Mice, Wasps &c	...	...	...	236
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	12
Schools	...	...	...	11
Cinemas, Public Halls &c	...	...	...	1
Diseases of Animals Acts	...	...	...	505
Interviews with Owners, Builders &c	...	...	...	834
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	26
Noise complaints	...	...	...	16
Talks to various organisations and bodies	...	...	...	6
Meetings	...	...	...	25
Miscellaneous inspections and visits	...	...	...	211

TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE      ...      6,901

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH 1966				
TYPE OF NOTICE	OUTSTANDING 31.12.65	SERVED 1966	COMPLIED WITH 1966	OUTSTANDING 31.12.66
Public Health Act - Informal	6	46	33	19
Public Health Act - Statutory	3	16	8	11
Housing Acts - Informal	4	6	1	9
Factories Acts -	1	9	4	6
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act -	25	52	29	48
Food & Drugs Act -	3	57	24	36
Clean Air Act -	2	1	-	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act -	-	1	1	-
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act -	-	-	-	-
Shops Act 1950	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	44	188	100	132



SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED,  
NOTICES COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND  
PREMISES IMPROVED, 1966.

	PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS	FOOD & DRUGS ACT	FACTORIES ACT	MISC. ACTS & REGS.	TOTALS
Inspections made	2,710	1,866	88	2,237	6,901
Notices served	68	57	9	54	188
Notices complied with	42	24	4	30	100
Defects remedied	246	71	13	120	450
Premises improved	42	22	4	28	96

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED 1966

(a) Dwellinghouses

Roofs repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Walls (external) repointed etc. ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Wall and Ceiling Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Floors repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Windows repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Fireplaces repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks renewed ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sashcords provided to windows ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Doors repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney stacks repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness Abated ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Steps repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sink waste pipes renewed ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains cleared of obstructions ...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Drains repaired, relaid or connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	...	14
New inspection chambers provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Choked sewers cleansed or cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	49
Water closet compartments repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water closets - new pedestals provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water closets - cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
New dustbins provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations removed ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous rooms disinfected ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke nuisances abated ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Burning of refuse - nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Premises rendered proof against rats ...	...	...	...	...	...	6



(b) Factories and Workplaces

Intervening Ventilated Spaces to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	2
New W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	3
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary conveniences lighted	...	...	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation to workrooms improved	...	...	...	...	1

(c) Bakehouses

Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	7
New mess-rooms provided	...	...	...	...	1
Unfit rooms closed	...	...	...	...	2
Apparatus cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Food Storage arrangements improved	...	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Refuse removed	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse storage improved	...	...	...	...	1

(d) Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Lockers provided for clothing	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	5
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	4
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	3
Constant hot water provided	...	...	...	...	5
Food rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	3
Repairs to food rooms	...	...	...	...	1
Artificial lighting provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	1
Repairs to W.C. Compartments	...	...	...	...	2
Redecorations to W.C. Compartments	...	...	...	...	1
Apparatus cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Apparatus renewed (chopping blocks)	...	...	...	...	4
First Aid Equipment provided	...	...	...	...	3

(e) Cafes, Restaurants and Public Houses

Walls cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	2
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Working surfaces renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Cooking range cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Soap, towels and nail brushes provided	...	...	...	...	1
Constant hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	1

(f) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

Thermometers provided	...	...	...	...	23
First Aid Outfits provided	...	...	...	...	10
Hot water provided to sinks	...	...	...	...	1
Hot water provided to wash-hand basins	...	...	...	...	10
Cold water supplied to sinks/wash-hand basins	...	...	...	...	2
Additional wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	4
Heating provided	...	...	...	...	4
Seats provided for assistants	...	...	...	...	3



Defective and dangerous floors repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Defective and dangerous floor coverings renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Handrails provided to stairs	...	...	...	...	4
Lighting provided to stairs	...	...	...	...	1
Lighting provided to passages	...	...	...	...	1
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s repaired and redecorated	...	...	...	...	3
Intervening ventilated spaces provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	4
Artificial lighting provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.'s properly marked for sexes	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	2
Guards provided for food slicing machines	...	...	...	...	2
Abstracts of Act provided	...	...	...	...	25
Repairs to ceilings	...	...	...	...	1
Improved ventilation	...	...	...	...	3

### COMPLAINTS - 1966

During the year 511 written or verbal complaints were received at the office in respect of the following matters:-

Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective house roofs	...	...	...	...	...	3
Choked and defective drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	...	100
Offensive smells	...	...	...	...	...	40
Defective water supply (burst pipes, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dumping of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	21
Flooding of cellars etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective gutters and rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	22
Smoke, dust and chimney nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	13
Insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	47
General defects	...	...	...	...	...	35
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	153
Unsound Food (including requests for condemnation)	...	...	...	...	...	53
Miscellaneous complaints	...	...	...	...	...	3

### DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS

A great deal of drainage work is carried out in the town under the supervision of your public health inspectors, and includes the cleansing and repair of private drains and public sewers which have been the subject of complaints to the Department. Details of this work during the year 1966 are included in Section C of the Medical Officer of Health's report which precedes this. I must here make mention of the ready co-operation shown by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department in dealing with choked and/or defective sewers. Without this co-operation, many householders would be more seriously inconvenienced than they are at present.



Details of improvements to sanitary accommodation effected during the year are also included in the aforementioned section of the Medical Officer of Health's report.

As a result of action on the part of the your inspectors 4 wash-hand basins and 3 sinks were provided at food premises of one type or another in the area.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

The incidence of infectious disease was again low in the Borough but it was nevertheless found necessary for your inspectors to make 169 visits in this connection.

Most of these visits were to the houses of persons believed to be suffering from sonnei dysentery or to be carriers or contacts of the disease. They necessitated the collection of a sequence of faeces samples for despatch to the Public Health Laboratory, an important but time-consuming part of our duties.

A report was made to the Medical Officer of Health on each notified case of infectious disease which occurred in the Borough.

#### HOUSING

A full and detailed picture of the various aspects of this branch of our work appears in Section D of the Medical Officer of Health's report.

It is the duty of every local authority to cause an inspection of their district to be made from time to time with a view to ascertaining whether any house therein is unfit for human habitation (Housing Act, 1957) or for the detection of matters requiring to be dealt with as statutory nuisances (Public Health Act, 1936).

Routine inspections of this kind, as well as complaints received from occupiers of houses, bring to our notice many premises requiring to be dealt with by the service of notices under the various provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts. The tables on pages (24) and (25) indicate the extent of this branch of our work.

#### FACTORIES ACTS

The usual routine inspections and visits were carried out at factories, workplaces and outworkers' premises during the year, 88 inspections being recorded under this heading. As a result of these inspection 9 notices were served, in respect of inadequate ventilation (1) and unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences (8), and of these notices 4 had been complied with by the end of the year.



The duties of the local authority under the Factories Act, 1961, are in the main restricted to the enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to sanitary conveniences, although in the case of factories in which mechanical power is not used our duties include in addition to the above the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and the drainage of floors. As most factories nowadays are power factories, it will be seen that our duties are very limited and not particularly inspiring to public health inspectors. I must, however, acknowledge the friendly help and co-operation of H.M. Factory Inspectorate with whom we maintain a close liaison.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT, THE CONTROL OF INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS AND OFFENSIVE TRADES

Smoke abatement and its attendant problems, whilst not constituting a major problem in Banbury, took up a good deal of the time of your inspectors during the year under review. 438 visits of one kind or another were made in connection with dust, grit and effluvia from factory chimneys, nuisances caused by burning refuse (including the burning of old 'bus bodies) and the control of offensive odours from particular trade processes. In the latter connection I would mention the gut scraping factory in Swan Close Road which has been visited many times during the year on complaint and as a matter of routine. The firm have been most co-operative but it is almost impossible to carry out the processes of gut scraping and fat melting without on occasion giving rise to offence. This has usually been during periods of hot weather when the natural tendency is to leave open doors and windows in the interests of the comfort of the work people.

This branch of our work is essentially one of advice and education, and your inspectors are always prepared to co-operate with industrialists and others with a view to keeping nuisance and inconvenience to the absolute minimum.

#### SHOPS ACTS

##### Shops Act, 1950

The administration of the Shops Acts had been the responsibility of your public health inspectors for many years, and during the year under review 17 visits of inspection were made. It was not found necessary to serve any notices for contraventions of the Act.

##### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

###### (1) General

As was stated in the last Annual Report on the subject of the administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, the duties under the Act are carried out on a part-time basis by the Council's Public Health Inspectors.



Good progress was made in this work during the last year (1965), but in 1966 (the year under review) a serious set-back was experienced due to an acute staff shortage. During the year the Chief Public Health Inspector retired, and the three Additional Public Health Inspectors resigned to take up appointments elsewhere. The situation was not finally resolved until the first week in November, when the establishment returned to normal following the appointment of three new inspectors. The figures for the numbers of general inspections and re-inspections of registered premises therefore show a significant fall-off as compared with 1965, but the frequency of inspections has become stabilised at the time of writing.

Arising out of the general inspections made 52 notices were served in respect of contraventions and defects found.

The following table gives particulars of the registered premises, the persons employed therein, the general inspections made and the re-inspections carried out during 1966:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>General</u>	<u>Re-</u>
	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>inspections</u>
Offices	113	678	539	18	53
Retail Shops	190	489	793	63	179
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	11	77	25	1	9
Catering Establishments and Canteens	25	74	183	4	10
Fuel Storage Depots	2	16	-	-	-
	<u>341</u>	<u>1,334</u>	<u>1,540</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>251</u>
				(1965 - 169)	(1965 - 327)

Generally speaking the administration of the Act and Regulations made thereunder has not presented any major difficulties, and occupiers of premises have shown on the whole a readiness to comply with the requirements of the Department. It has not so far been necessary to resort to Statutory Action in this respect and in fact a good deal of work has resulted from informal explanations of the Act's requirements. As was pointed out in the last annual report, much of the work required under this Act is carried out along with the works required by other pertinent legislation (e.g. the Food Hygiene Regulations), and it has now become a routine of the Department to inspect shops, public houses, catering establishments &c. with both these objects in view and to serve the necessary notices concurrently.



With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer's Department, all plans affecting alterations to premises coming within the scope of the Act, or plans for new premises, are scrutinised by the Department in order that the requirements of the Act may be satisfied at the outset, and it is gratifying to note that many occupiers of premises have approached the Department of their own volition for advice before embarking on schemes of modernisation &c. In the centre of the town, however, a few old premises (mainly shops) have been found to require a good deal of work in order to secure compliance.

Offices, on the whole, have presented few difficulties and most of those inspected to date have required little work in order to secure compliance with the Act.

The table on page (26) of this report shows the improvements effected to registered premises during 1966 as a result of the service of notices.

## (2) Accidents

During the year under review 9 accidents were reported in premises registered under the Act. It was considered advisable to investigate 3 of these, and in one of the cases proper steps were provided in a shop to enable assistants to place goods on shelves instead of standing on a chair as hitherto.

## RODENT CONTROL

The table below gives details of the work of your Rodent Operative during the year under review:-

SUMMARY 1966		RATS AND MICE		
		<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of Complaints received ...	...	199	36	235
No. of Premises Inspected ...	...	1,753	47	1,800
No. of Re-visits made ...	...	1,225	156	1,381
No. of Premises cleared ...	...	315	46	361
Amount of Bait Laid (lbs.) ...	...	1,845 $\frac{3}{4}$	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,944
No. of Bodies Found ...	...	1,776	254	2,030

The work continued actively during the year and, as in previous years, the Council continued its policy of providing a free service to domestic premises and making a charge for dealing with infestations on business premises.

The annual treatment of the sewers in the area was carried out during June and the results were most satisfactory. Out of a total of 88 manholes treated in various parts of the town only 1 showed a "complete take". The results of this treatment show that the sewer system of the town is, on the whole, remarkably free from rats. Quite considerable activity is, however, apparent from time to time on the surface, but I attribute this to the disturbance caused by the various building projects taking place.



During the month of May the Public Health Department put on a Hygiene Publicity Display at the local Ideal Homes and Trades Exhibition held at the Winter Gardens in High Street. The centre feature of this display was Rodent Control, and the Regional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food kindly loaned to the Department an illuminated display unit which illustrated the rat problem in a highly effective albeit somewhat horrific manner. It is not possible to assess the effect of publicity of this nature on the public generally, but considerable interest was displayed by the persons visiting the Exhibition. It is significant to note that the numbers of complaints to the Department of rat infestation showed a marked increase for some time afterwards.

#### INSECT PESTS

The destruction of various forms of insect life continued during the year as a result of complaints from householders and other persons. 47 complaints were made to the Department which necessitated treatment by your staff, and included wasps' nests, flies, ants &c. The method of treatment was by spraying with a Pybuthrin/Lindane/DDT preparation and sometimes by the use of insecticidal smokes. During the summer and autumn numbers of complaints are received concerning wasps' nests, and in every case it has been possible to carry out a successful treatment and remove the nest.

All the above work was carried out free of charge in continuance of the Council's policy.

#### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No applications for registration under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act were received during the year under review.

#### RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

There is only one riding establishment in the Borough which is licensed annually on receipt of a satisfactory report from the Council's Veterinary Surgeon appointed under the Act. The premises are maintained in first class condition.

#### SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

Six individuals or firms are registered with the Council as scrap metal dealers carrying on business in the area. No nuisances or difficulties of any sort were experienced in connection with these businesses during the year.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No particular action was required during the year in respect of noise nuisances, although noise control is a subject which will become more and more important in the years ahead of us. Excessive noise, whether it be generated by traffic in towns, by road works or building operations, by aircraft or simply by the thoughtless use of television and radio receivers can be seriously detrimental to the health of persons exposed to it.



It is anticipated that further legislation will be placed on the statute book in the not-too-distant future with a view to strengthening local authorities powers in this respect.

#### MILK CONTROL

The Council's functions in respect of milk control are now generally speaking restricted to the registration and supervision of dairies and milk distributors' premises under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. 16 visits of inspection were made to dairies during the course of the year, and apart from minor contraventions which were remedied on request, no formal action was needed.

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

##### (a) Meat Inspection

All animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse (which is the only slaughterhouse in the Borough) were inspected prior to sale by your Public Health Inspectors, all of whom are qualified Meat Inspectors. The following table shows the number of such animals inspected together with the carcasses, parts of carcasses and organs which were registered as being unfit for human food:-

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
(1) Slaughtered and inspected	1,752	8,933	4,807	37	15,529
(2) Whole carcasses condemned:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Other Diseases	1	6	6	5	18
(3) Parts of carcasses and organs condemned:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	59	-	59
(b) Other Diseases	462½	416½	851½	4	1,734½
(c) Cysticercosis	4	-	-	-	4

##### (b) The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

As has been mentioned in previous reports, the time spent by your inspectors on meat inspection work has been increased since the introduction of the above Regulations on account of the necessity to stamp all carcasses in the approved manner after inspection. The fact that all slaughtering in the area is concentrated at the Council's Public Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road has, however, helped considerably in the administration of the Regulations.

With effect from the 1st April, 1966, the Council resolved to increase the charges for meat inspection to the maximum permitted under the Regulations, i.e. 2/6d. per head for cattle, 9d. per head for calves and pigs and 6d. per head for sheep.



(c) Public Slaughterhouse

From the public health point of view the slaughterhouse, which has been operated by the Council since August, 1954, continued to operate satisfactorily during 1966, although once again a slight trading loss was incurred over the year. This was occasioned by such factors as increased wages, increased overheads &c. over which we have little or no control, which were not entirely offset by increased throughput.

Centralised slaughtering at a Public Slaughterhouse, has, however, several positive advantages, making as it does for easy administration, closer supervision to ensure hygienic and humane conditions of slaughter, and a more efficient meat inspection service.

The table below shows the numbers of animals slaughtered annually for the last 10 years, together with the yearly receipts for the same period:-

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
1957	12,664	£4,597. 19.10.
1958	14,166	£5,087. 9. 5.
1959	16,087	£5,365. 17. 7.
1960	13,425	£4,667. 15. 2.
1961	13,202	£5,994. 19. 3.
1962	12,932	£6,306. 5. 4.
1963	13,160	£6,590. 6. 1.
1964	14,409	£7,527. 17. 4.
1965	14,102	£7,396. 7. 8.
1966	15,529	£8,120. 11.10.

I must once again pay tribute to the excellent services rendered by the Manager (Mr. Kearse) and the rest of the staff during the year. They continue to produce a first-class final product, a fact which is acknowledged by every one of our customers.

(d) Slaughtermen's Licences (Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958)

During the year 1966 the licences of 8 slaughtermen were renewed, including the conditional licence issued to the trainee-slaughterman employed at the Public Slaughterhouse.

(e) Other Foods

The usual large quantities of canned and packetted foods were inspected during the year at the request of various food traders in the Borough, and certificates issued to enable the traders to obtain credit from their suppliers against the goods surrendered to your inspectors as being unfit for human food. A list of the goods so dealt with is given on a previous page of this report. 113 visits were made to shops &c. for this purpose. It has always been considered to be a right and proper function of your inspectors to render this service to shopkeepers and others although in fact power exists by virtue of Section 98 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, to make a charge for such inspections.



An abnormally large number of complaints were received during the year concerning unsound foodstuffs, most of which were dealt with by the Department (i.e. the ones falling within Section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - "food unfit for human consumption"). Some of the complaints, however, were in respect of foreign bodies found in foodstuffs, and these were, in accordance with our usual practice, referred to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Oxfordshire County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority (Section 2 Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - "food - not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser").

Every complaint was fully investigated and action taken according to the circumstances. In most cases this took the form of a written warning, but in December a local firm of butchers were prosecuted and fined £30 for the sale of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of unsound pigs liver. The Food and Drugs Authority also prosecuted a local firm of bakers and confectioners for selling in the Borough a Dough Cake containing a piece of cardboard for which a fine of £50 and advocates fees was imposed.

Three new certificates of registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were issued during the year for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream, and one each for the cooking of meat pies and the frying of fish.

#### FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections and visits to the various classes of food premises in the Borough continued during the year, and the following works and improvements were carried out at premises in order to satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:-

Food rooms cleansed ... ..	12
Food rooms re-decorated ... ..	12
Repairs to structure of food rooms ... ..	4
New mess-rooms provided ... ..	1
Unfit rooms closed ... ..	2
Apparatus cleansed ... ..	9
Apparatus renewed (chopping blocks) ... ..	4
Working surfaces renewed ... ..	1
Food storage arrangements improved ... ..	3
Floors renewed or relaid ... ..	7
Floors cleansed ... ..	4
Refuse accumulations removed ... ..	1
Refuse storage arrangements improved ... ..	1
Lockers provided for clothing ... ..	1
Wash-hand basins provided ... ..	4
Soap, towels and nail-brushes provided ... ..	1
New sinks provided ... ..	3
Constant hot water provided ... ..	6
Artificial lighting provided to W.C.'s ... ..	1
W.C. compartments repaired ... ..	2
W.C. compartments re-decorated ... ..	1
W.C. compartments cleansed ... ..	1
First-Aid Equipment provided ... ..	3



The above improvements were all effected as a result of informal action, and generally speaking the local food traders co-operated well with the Department. A great deal of useful work is carried out often without even the necessity for serving informal notices, a word to a shopkeeper during the course of an inspection being often all that is required. Unfortunately, however, it proved necessary to prosecute one local greengrocer during the year for multiple contraventions of the Regulations, as a result of which the Magistrates imposed penalties totalling £255 plus court fees and 10 guineas towards advocates fees.

Food hygiene in the Borough is now of a fairly high standard, but this is work of a progressive nature, and regular inspections are always necessary in order to maintain this high standard.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, as always, was most co-operative during the year, and a useful liaison exists between the two departments by which all plans concerning new or existing food premises are shown to us in order that we may satisfy ourselves at the outset that food hygiene proposals are adequate.

#### BANBURY MICHAELMAS FAIR - 1966

The Michaelmas Fair was very closely supervised by your inspectors from the food hygiene point of view, and in accordance with our usual practice each food stall was visited at the time of erection and the stall-holder reminded of his responsibilities under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The stalls were subsequently re-visited twice a day (morning and afternoon) during the duration of the Fair, and I am pleased to record that the general standard of hygiene was higher than on any previous occasion, no serious contraventions being observed. There were 24 food stalls on the site, the same number as in 1965.

The showmen's caravans were also kept under close observation and no nuisances or cases of infectious disease were discovered.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The annual licences of 5 premises coming within the scope of the above Act were renewed during the year. All were satisfactory and conducted in a proper manner.



REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT & ORDERS  
FOR THE YEAR - 1966

To the Worshipful the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Banbury.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report on the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders in the Borough for the year 1966. Mr. Appleyard was your Inspector until his retirement at the end of May, and to that extent I am presenting to you on his behalf his twenty-first report on the subject. I am pleased to be able to report that the Borough was free of any of the scheduled animal diseases throughout the year.

The year was, therefore, an uneventful one from the Diseases of Animals point of view, but the regular routine work was nevertheless carried out by your inspectors necessitating attendance at the cattle market every day of the week. On licensing days (Thursdays and alternate Fridays) the attendance of two inspectors was necessary in order to cope with both the inspectorial and the clerical work. As members are well aware, the local cattle market is one of the largest in the country, with a quite phenomenal throughput, and the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act is consequently a most important branch of our work. As has been said before, the work is routine and unspectacular, but still of great importance, although the latter fact is only fully appreciated when the country is unfortunate enough to experience one of the periodic major outbreaks of animal disease.

Mr. George Stevens, your specialist Diseases of Animals Inspector, continued his work on a part-time basis throughout the year, and his wide experience of the subject as usual stood us in good stead.

I must place on record the high degree of co-operation which exists between the Department and the owners of the cattle market, which makes the administration of the task easier and more pleasant.

Finally I must express my appreciation of the invariable support and courtesy extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and for the help always readily available from the Town Clerk and his staff. I am also grateful for the friendly help and co-operation of the Ministry's Divisional Veterinary Officer (Mr. R. A.A. Beament) and his staff throughout the year.

Set out below are the usual statistics and comments on the year's work:-

1. Anthrax.

No cases of this disease occurred in the Borough during the year. (Nationally there were 222 outbreaks and 236 deaths).



2. Sheep Scab.

The last case of this disease occurred in 1952, and it is now considered to have been eradicated from the country.

3. Swine Fever.

No cases of this disease occurred locally during 1966. (Nationally there were 25 outbreaks and 8,098 animals were slaughtered).

4. Foot and Mouth Disease.

No outbreaks of this disease occurred locally during 1966. (Nationally there were 34 outbreaks and 45,312 animals were slaughtered).

5. Fowl Pest.

No outbreaks of this disease occurred locally during 1966. (Nationally there were 194 outbreaks).

6. Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1959.

Mr. Stevens and one of your other inspectors attended at the Market each Thursday during the year in connection with the licensing and other work required under the terms of the above Order. This was in addition to the several other sales held of breeding pigs. The table below shows the number of licences issued and swine involved in comparison with previous years:-

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
<u>Licences Issued.</u>	2,718	2,915	2,687	2,337	2,847
<u>Swine Involved.</u>	60,930	57,911	59,912	46,895	49,002

As will be seen from the above the number of animals involved was more than in any previous year. No serious contraventions were detected in connection with the movement of swine during 1966.

7. Importation of Animals. (Animals (Landing from Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland) Order of 1955).

353 licences were received during the year from the ports of disembarkation (Birkenhead, Holyhead and Fishguard) authorising the movement of 20,811 Imported Irish Store Cattle from the ports to the local market. 782 movement licences were issued by your inspectors to authorise the movement of these animals on to private premises for the statutory 6 days detention.

The corresponding figures for the previous four year are shown in the table below:-

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
<u>Licences Issued.</u>	782	883	1,795	2,302	1,057
<u>Animals Involved.</u>	20,811	19,726	39,189	31,297	22,605

No serious offences in connection with the movement of imported cattle were detected during the year.



8. Transit of Animals - Cleansing and Disinfection of Vehicles.

Regular supervision, within the limits imposed by shortages of staff, was exercised during the year over the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles at the market. This is work which calls for a constant presence at the market, and apart from the occasional verbal warning or reminder very little trouble was experienced.

9. Live Poultry (Restrictions) Order, 1957 (as amended).

As in previous years the poultry section of the market was licensed for the sale of poultry for immediate slaughter on Thursdays only - the normal market day. These sales are kept under constant supervision by your officers, and no special action was required.

10. Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.

Waste foods may, if not boiled for one hour, spread foot and mouth and other diseases. This Order prohibits the feeding of unboiled waste foods to certain animals and to poultry. There are two waste food plants in the Borough licensed for the boiling of swill.

11. The Markets, Sales and Lairs (Amendment) Order, 1926.

This Order requires the cleansing and disinfection of markets, saleyards and lairs after being used for the reception or temporary detention of animals. 423 visits were made during 1966 to ensure that the cleansing and disinfection of the market pens was being carried out satisfactorily.

12. Transit of Animals Order of 1927.

This requires similar cleansing to the above, but in respect of railway pens used for the reception or keeping of animals in course of transit. It was necessary to issue informal warnings on 4 occasions, but generally speaking the work was performed in a satisfactory manner.

13. Summary of Action taken during 1966 in the Administration of the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders.

(1) Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1959.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) Legal Proceedings for failure to obtain licences ... ..                             | Nil |
| (b) Cautions issued by the Town Clerk following reports to appropriate Committee ... .. | Nil |
| (c) Cautions issued by the Inspector without reference to the Committee ... ..          | 8   |

(2) Transit of Animals Order of 1927.

Cautions issued by Inspector in respect of failure to cleanse and disinfect railway pens ... ..	4
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- (3) Transit of Animals (Amendment) Order of 1931.  
 Cautions issued by Inspector in respect of  
 failure to cleanse and disinfect transport  
 (road) vehicles ... .. 4
- (4) Markets, Sales and Lairs (Amendment) Order, 1926.  
 Cautions issued by Inspector in respect of  
 failure to cleanse and disinfect pens etc.  
 between markets ... .. Nil
- (5) The Live Poultry (Restrictions) Order, 1957.  
 Cautions issued by Inspector in respect of  
 failure to clip back tail feathers ... Nil
- (6) Diseases of Animals Act, 1950 (Second Schedule).  
 (a) Legal proceedings taken in respect of  
 movements without licences ... .. Nil  
 (b) Cautions issued by the Town Clerk  
 following reports to the Committee Nil  
 (c) Cautions issued by Inspector respecting  
 use of unauthorised part of Market  
 during Irish Cattle Sale ... .. Nil

I AM, MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. PALING, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders.

November, 1966.







