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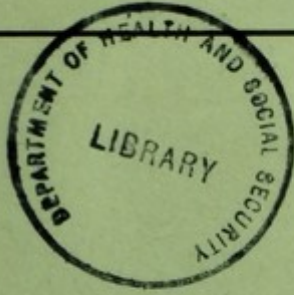
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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1968



BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

Telephone :
BARNSTAPLE 2591.

Public Health Department,
The Castle,
BARNSTAPLE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H


AND THE

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

F O R T H E Y E A R 1 9 6 8

E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. RODGERS,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.



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REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and
Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the Year 1968.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1969.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

YEAR 1968/69

His Worship the Mayor : Councillor R. G. Chugg

Chairman : Councillor A. C. Dibble

Aldermen : G. Casey

: Miss M. K. Howard

: W. H. Wilkey, M.B.E. J.P.

Councillors : D. T. C. Barlow

: J. Bartlett

: Mrs. E. M. Fern

: F. C. Pickard

: D. G. Potter

S T A F F

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*
*

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :-

Part-time Officer -

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Whole-time Officers -

W. RODGERS, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector

F. V. PYE, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector

MISS E. M. FENNELL

Clerk

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH -

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)							16,820
" at 1961 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,944
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1.4.1969)							5,378
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31.12.1968)	...						1,471
Density of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.12
Extracts from Vital Statistics -							
Births : Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.05
Deaths : " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.80

VITAL STATISTICS -

Live Births -							
Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	269
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.0
" " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor							16.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births							9.3%
Stillbirths -							
Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...						7.4
Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	271
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infant Mortality Rates -							
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births							19
Legit. " " " " Legit. " "							20.5
Illegit. " " " " Illegit. " "							Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per)							19
1,000 Total Live Births)							
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week)							14.5
per 1,000 Total Live Births)							
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths)							22.0
under 1 week combined,)							
per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births)							
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) -							
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...						Nil
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.4
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor							12.3

POPULATION, BIRTHS & DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1948 -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u> (Regist.Gen.Estimate)	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1948	16,000	317	242
1949	15,940	287	227
1950	16,060	230	217
1951 (Census)	16,299	263	241
1952	16,130	266	198
1953	16,090	261	314
1954	16,080	246	227
1955	15,930	239	227
1956	15,790	233	220
1957	15,750	255	227
1958	15,660	244	223
1959	15,520	281	214
1960	15,550	261	233
1961 (Census)	15,944	280	284
1962	15,650	289	228
1963	15,890	324	235
1964	16,280	328	252
1965	16,330	295	269
1966	16,320	307	269
1967	16,340	323	194
1968	16,820	269	259

BIRTHS -

During the year there were 269 live births, which was 54 less than occurred during the year 1967.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births -</u>			
Legitimate ...	135	109	244
Illegitimate ...	11	14	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	146	123	269
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The number of home confinements was 2, which is only 0.74% of the total live births.

<u>North Devon District Hospital</u>	<u>North Devon Infirmary</u>	<u>Highfield Maternity Home</u>	<u>At Home</u>
122	46	92	2
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 16.0			
" " " " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor 16.8			
Birth Rate for England & Wales 16.9			

The Birth Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1968 is as follows :-

1948 .. 19.8	1955 .. 15.60	1962 .. 19.01
1949 .. 18.0	1956 .. 15.34	1963 .. 21.41
1950 .. 14.32	1957 .. 16.67	1964 .. 21.15
1951 .. 16.15	1958 .. 16.04	1965 .. 18.96
1952 .. 16.32	1959 .. 18.64	1966 .. 19.64
1953 .. 16.05	1960 .. 17.28	1967 .. 20.8
1954 .. 15.90	1961 .. 18.58	1968 .. 16.8

Still Births -

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS -

Total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 259, which was 65 more than the previous year.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
129	130	259

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	15.4
" " " " " (adjusted by Comp. Factor)					12.3
" " " " " for England & Wales				...	11.9

The Death Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1968 is as follows :-

1950	..	10.8	1956	..	12.25	1962	..	11.79
1951	..	11.81	1957	..	12.68	1963	..	12.41
1952	..	9.65	1958	..	12.24	1964	..	12.99
1953	..	15.41	1959	..	11.29	1965	..	12.84
1954	..	11.42	1960	..	12.43	1966	..	7.86
1955	..	11.54	1961	..	15.36	1967	..	9.0
						1968	..	12.3

The following table shows the Causes of Death :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach ...	3	1	4
" " - Lung, Bronchus	5	3	8
" " - Breast ...	-	6	6
" " - Uterus ...	-	1	1
Leukaemia ...	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	13	10	23
Benign & Unspecified Neoplasms ...	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus ...	-	1	1
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases ...	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	2	3	5
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease ...	2	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	47	45	92
Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	6	10	16
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	15	19	34
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	7	11
Pneumonia ...	3	9	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Carried Forward ...	103	118	221

Causes of Death (continued from P.7)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Brought Forward	103	118	221
Bronchitis & Emphysema	9	3	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	2
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	3	3
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	-	2
Symptoms & Ill-defined Conditions	2	2	4
All Other accidents	3	2	5
Suicide & Self-inflicted Injuries	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	129	130	259
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Deaths occurred in the following age-groups :-

Under 1 year	5	44 - 54 years	12
1 - 4 years	-	55 - 64 "	30
5 - 14 "	1	65 - 74 "	72
15 - 24 "	1	75 - 84 "	80
25 - 34 "	1	85 - 94 "	47
35 - 44 "	5	95 + "	5

Neonatal Deaths -

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 19

Infant Mortality Rate -

During the year, 5 infants died under the age of 1 year, viz :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ...	4	1	5
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 19

Causes of Infant Deaths were as follows :-

- F. 8 hrs. : Foetal abnormality hydrocephalus.
- M. 14 hrs. : Respiratory distress. Syndrome.
- M. 1 day : Hyaline membrane disease; Prematurity.
- M. 2 days : Meconium ileus; Fibrocystic disease of pancreas.
- M. 1 week : Spina bifida.

Maternal Mortality - Nil.

Cancer Deaths -

There were 43 deaths from Cancer during 1968 : 10 more than in 1967.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stomachh	3	1	4
Lungs & Bronchus ...	5	3	8
Breast	-	6	6
Uterus	-	1	1
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Other	13	10	23
	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>43</u>

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung & Bronchus, since 1950 -

<u>Year</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1950	...	3	-	3
1951	...	2	-	2
1952	...	2	-	2
1953	...	3	3	6
1954	...	5	1	6
1955	...	5	-	5
1956	...	8	-	8
1957	...	6	1	7
1958	...	9	-	9
1959	...	4	1	5
1960	...	13	2	15
1961	...	9	1	10
1962	...	7	3	10
1963	...	6	1	7
1964	...	5	1	6
1965	...	10	1	11
1966	...	8	2	10
1967	...	7	2	9
1968	...	5	3	8

The total number of cancer deaths, and the percentage of cancer deaths to total deaths, since 1950, are shown in the following table :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total No. of Deaths</u>	<u>CANCER DEATHS</u>			<u>Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths</u>
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1950	217	15	11	26	11.9%
1951	241	14	12	26	10.7%
1952	198	9	17	26	13.1%
1953	314	22	27	49	15.6%
1954	227	15	23	38	16.7%
1955	227	15	15	30	13.2%
1956	220	23	17	40	18.1%
1957	227	18	11	29	12.7%
1958	223	24	27	51	22.8%
1959	214	17	18	35	16.3%
1960	233	24	20	44	18.8%
1961	284	26	19	45	15.8%
1962	228	18	27	45	19.7%
1963	235	23	12	35	14.8%
1964	252	16	20	36	14.2%
1965	269	24	28	52	19.3%
1966	269	24	22	46	17.1%
1967	194	15	18	33	17.0%
1968	259	21	22	43	12.7%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1968, arranged in age-groups :-

AGE GROUPS	Dysentery Sonne	Encephal- itis	Infective Hepatitis	Measles	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Tuber- culosis		Whooping Cough	TOTAL
							Pulm.	Non- Pulm.		
Under 1 year	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	4	12
1 +	-	-	-	28	1	-	-	-	2	31
2 +	1	-	-	45	-	1	-	-	2	49
3 +	1	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	5	46
4 +	-	-	-	39	-	1	-	-	4	44
5 - 9 yrs.	6	-	-	117	1	4	-	-	9	137
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	6
15 - 19 "	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
20 - 34 "	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	6
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
45 - 64 "	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	5
65 and over	-	-	-	-	11	-	1	-	-	12
Age unknown	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL ...	10	1	3	287	17	6	2	2	28	356

* Encephalitis (Post Infect.): F.17 (Tonsillitis) Trans. to N.D. Infirmary from Bideford Hosp.

** Infective Hepatitis : M.15; M.20; M.23.

*** Pneumonia : Figures for 9 mths. to 30.9.68 only, after which date Pneumonia not notifiable.

**** Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) : M.45 (Re-activated case); M.72 (Died in Alexandra Hospital during year from another cause.

**
*** Tuberculosis (Non-Pulm.) : F.23 & F.36 (both Renal).

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis in the Borough, and no cases of Diphtheria, the last case of this latter disease occurring 23 years ago.

There were also no official notifications of Food Poisoning during the year, but four suspected cases were investigated. All proved Negative.

YEARLY INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1950

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1950	9	0.56	2	0.12
1951	18	1.11	7	0.43
1952	12	0.74	3	0.18
1953	8	0.49	2	0.12
1954	4	0.24	Nil	Nil
1955	5	0.31	1	0.06
1956	12	0.76	Nil	Nil
1957	6	0.37	Nil	Nil
1958	11	0.76	1	0.06
1959	13	0.83	1	0.06
1960	8	0.51	1	0.06
1961	3	0.19	1	0.06
1962	3	0.19	Nil	Nil
1963	6	0.37	1	0.06
1964	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1965	1	0.06	Nil	Nil
1966	2	0.12	Nil	Nil
1967	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1968	2	0.11	Nil	Nil

The following table shows the number of cases on the Borough Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and the end of the Year 1968

<u>1968</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st January	70	31	101	11	12	23
31st December	71	32	103	11	14	25

HOUSING -

During the year, 21 dwelling-houses were built by Barnstaple Corporation, and 80 by Private Enterprise.

Under the Housing Acts, 2 houses were demolished, 5 closed, and parts of 3 others closed.

WATER SUPPLIES -

The water supply to the Borough has, again, been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year.

The water is supplied by the North Devon Water Board. The intake is from two sources : one from the River Yeo at a point some 5 miles from the town; this water gravitates to the Treatment Works at Pilton, where it is first filtered through sand filter-beds, and then chlorinated. The other source of supply is from the Water Board's reservoir at Wistlandpound. This is also treated by filtration and chlorination.

During the year, 94 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. 92 were satisfactory.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT -

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenaeum for the following information regarding local weather statistics :-

BAROMETER : Highest reading : 30.5 inches on 27th March, 1968;
: Lowest " : 29.3 inches on 1st November "

TEMPERATURE : Maximum : 78°F. on 30th June and
: 22nd August, "
: Minimum : 26°F. on 9th January,
: 20th February, and
: 4th March, "

Mean for the Year : 52°F.

RAINFALL : 36.94 inches.

Average for preceding 10 years : 36.7 inches.

Number of days on which .01 or more inches of rain fell : 159.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION -

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners, and at the Child Welfare and School Clinics. There are two Child Welfare Clinics in Barnstaple : these are held at Alexandra Road Clinic weekly, and at Sticklepath Clinic fortnightly.

'MEALS ON WHEELS' -

This service is still run by the W.V.S. The meals are prepared in the kitchen of the Adult Training Centre at Hawley, and the number of meals distributed to the elderly is at least 50 per week.

CARE OF THE AGED -

Where possible, elderly people who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors, and, in cases of ill-health, by the District Nurses. The W.V.S. also visit the elderly and assist by doing their shopping, etc.

Two "Darby & Joan Clubs" exist in the town : one in the Pilton district, and one at Newport. Both these Clubs are run by the W.V.S.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Sec.47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951 -

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home. No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

MATERNITY CASES -

The North Devon District Hospital Maternity Unit at North Road, Barnstaple, was opened during the year. It has 54 beds : 48 general maternity, and 6 special care. As a result, the maternity sections at Ilfracombe, South Molton and Torrington Hospitals were closed, and the General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds at "Highfield" Maternity Home, Victoria Road, Barnstaple, was also closed.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

There is an Infectious Diseases Section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX -

LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital is the "first-line" reception hospital for any Smallpox cases from the Counties of Devon and Cornwall, with LEE MILL Hospital as "second-line" hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance provides transport for Smallpox cases in Devon or Cornwall. The telephone number is : Plymouth (0752) 64101.

THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT visits the Borough every fortnight, on alternate Wednesdays, between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. It is situated in the Cattle Market (Tuly Street entrance), and is available to the general public (except children under 15 years of age, and expectant mothers), and is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area, thus releasing the X-ray Department at the North Devon Infirmary to cope with other important X-ray work.

JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE, ABBEYFIELD, BARNSTAPLE -

This Centre provides training facilities for mentally-handicapped children between the ages of 5 and 16.

Hostel accommodation is also provided for children who may live some distance away from the Centre.

ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, HAWLEY, BARNSTAPLE -

A new Adult Training Centre for the North Devon area was opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This Centre also has Hostel accommodation.

HOSPITALS -

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the District. There are 125 beds.

Two Wards, with a total of 33 beds, at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple, are set aside as an Annex to the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are 100 beds for the Chronic Sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICES -

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is

responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the district around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple : telephone Barnstaple 5321. The staff consists of four paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the Doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME -

There are 5 District Nurse/Midwives practising in the Borough.

LABORATORIES -

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all Doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out there.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and technical staff, to meet the needs of the whole of the North Devon area.

The Blood Bank is also situated at this local Laboratory.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES -

V.D. Clinic : This is held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :-

Sessions

<u>MALES</u>	(Mondays, 5.45 p.m., (Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.	<u>FEMALES</u>	(Mondays, 4.45 p.m. (Thursdays, 4.45 p.m.
--------------	---	----------------	--

Chest Clinic : held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe.

Sessions

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. : Clinic & X-ray Examinations.

Infant Welfare Clinics : There are now two Infant Welfare Clinics in Barnstaple. These are held on the following days :-

Alexandra Road Clinic -

Every Tuesday afternoon : 2 - 4 p.m.,

Every Thursday afternoon: 2 - 4 p.m.

St. Paul's Church Hall Clinic, Sticklepath -

2nd & 4th Friday of each month : 2 - 4 p.m.

Dental Clinic : held at The Alexandra Road Clinic daily, for expectant mothers, school children, and children under 5 years.

Eye Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic every 2nd Friday of each month, for school children, and children under 5 years.

Speech Therapy Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic each Wednesday (all day) and Thursday mornings.

Hearing Clinic : This is held at the Alexandra Road Clinic on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon, for school-children and children under 5 years.

A Specialist Hearing Clinic is held at The North Devon Infirmary on the 4th Wednesday of the month, between 2 and 4 p.m. for children under 5 years and school-children.

Ante-natal Clinic : at Alexandra Road Clinic, held by the District Nurses and Health Visitors, every Monday afternoon. The Physiotherapist from the Hospital is also in attendance.

Family Planning Clinic : This Clinic is run by the Exeter and District Women's Welfare Association, and is held on the following days, by appointment, at 113 Boutport Street, Barnstaple. A lady Doctor is in attendance.

1st Monday	of each month,	from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.,
2nd	" " " "	" 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
3rd	" " " "	" 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Chiropody Service : This service operates at the Alexandra Road Clinic on certain Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The W.V.S. arrange the rotas and assist the Chiropodists generally. The charge is 2/6d., but the service is free for Old Age Pensioners receiving Supplementary Pension, also to expectant mothers.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present herewith the Annual Report, my 18th to date, of work done by the Public Health Inspectors during the Year 1968.

Once again, there was no change nor addition in personnel, but the Department was yet oddly diminished by the death, in November, of Dr. F.J.H. Martin, late Medical Officer of Health, after 9 years of retirement, at the age of 92. Such a life-span is an excuse to hold up the mirror to Public Health progress. When Dr. Martin was born, the causative organism of Tuberculosis had not been discovered : well before he died the disease had been stamped out from our food animals. Dangerous infectious diseases were almost a daily feature of the Department's records : no case of Diphtheria has now been notified in the Borough for over 23 years. Similar comparisons in the fields of Housing, Refuse Collection & Disposal, Food Control, etc., are obvious, and, in nearly every case, pleasing.

To justify one claim made above, work began during the year in building a new Public Abattoir at Pottington, on an airy, fairly secluded site, to replace the Tuly Street premises which, all too long, had coped with the Borough's needs, and also produced meat for many thousands elsewhere who were, happily, unaware of its archaic working conditions and all the ill-feeling and frustration its position fostered for years past. To many minds the Borough is amply catered for by the several new Slaughter-houses erected in the near vicinity during the past few years, and there was no need to replace the Tuly Street centenarian, but it is to be with us, and its completion will also complete a trinity of great achievements in the Borough, in the matters of Housing, Waste Disposal and Food Hygiene : a large Slum Clearance programme fulfilled ahead of schedule, a service of Refuse Collection & Disposal which, it is claimed, is not surpassed in the County,

and now a Public Abattoir where humane slaughtering can be done in conditions which should ensure a wholesome and safe meat supply for thousands, for several generations.

To even more minds, it is still surprising that the new Abattoir was not sited on the Seven Brethren's Bank reclaimed land, where controlled tipping of the Borough's refuse continued for the fourteenth year, so much so that its 50 acres, less several denied to us by various road projects, are now disappearing under the ever-increasing volume of refuse. During the year a proposal was made and approved, subject to the views of other Authorities, to "recover" by controlled tipping the marshy land between the Seven Brethren's Bank footpath and the River Taw, with the final aim of another Taw Vale Parade. It is an expensive project, and will afford barely another three years' tipping space, but the benefit to the townspeople could be inestimable in a variety of ways. The many benefits stemming from the continued tipping of refuse on this invaluable piece of land which Providence seems to have placed almost in the centre of a very small Borough (in acreage, that is) for this purpose, are, of course, finally due to the work of the men engaged on collection and disposal, and it is again a pleasant duty to thank them for their efforts during the year. Traffic conditions worsen yearly, refuse increases from every source, and in particular from the new Pottington Industrial Estate where the output is equal almost to that of any Municipal Ward, and it is not always summer, but the unpleasant job is done week by week with despatch and with almost unfailing cheerfulness. The system of plastic liners in dustbins was extended to only a few more special cases during the year, but where it is in use, it is applauded by users and collectors alike for its ease, cleanliness, speed and silence. Its eventual extension to the rest of the Borough's dwellings is a confident forecast; it is merely a matter of time - and money. A day, perhaps, will come when a dustbin will be displayed as an antiquity in St. Anne's Chapel Museum, and the liner is the first transitional stage towards that day.

In Housing progress, the year was another of sweeping up the few individual unfit houses that had escaped the holocaust of earlier years. The emphasis now is all on improvement and re-conditioning the older house, and there were, again, some remarkable cases of this form of treatment. It is truly amazing what

can be done to a sub-standard house by an owner with a free hand, some imagination, and the necessary skills at his command. (This is no apology for what has gone before, no wish to undo the clearance programmes of the 50's - they were the just treatment for unhealthy areas that sullied the Borough.) A probe was begun during the year to ascertain the extent of house improvement in various areas, as it is yearly believed that a new Housing Act will bring some compulsion where only enterprise has been encouraged by grants. It became more obvious that owner-occupation in the class of house concerned, i.e. the pre-1919 type, is wide-spread and increasing, and that the number of Improvement Grants made is far short of the number of improvements done. Particularly is it pleasant to report that almost every street has several examples of modernising the older houses, and so offers a pattern to those who may require eventual compulsion to improve their properties, and question that it can be done.

Food premises continue to give almost general satisfaction, as, indeed, they should with modern materials, packaging, and the protection of an army of detergent and steriliser manufacturers in the background. Competition also begets betterment, and there is certainly no discharge in this war. One strange feature of the foodshop scene is that, although there has been, and is, a steady disappearance of the "private" grocer, baker and milkman from our midst, the butcher still flourishes as an individual, even increases.

The above are the special references to the main duties of the Department. The tables that follow, and the list of visits that conclude the Report are the more detailed breakdown of the year's work.

I am again grateful to all who have co-operated in any way, especially so to my colleagues in the Public Health Department for their unfailing, unstinted execution of duty.

Your obedient servant,

W. RODGERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

(1) MEAT INSPECTION -

Animals slaughtered and inspected were as follows :-

Beasts	...	2,302
Calves	...	234
Sheep	...	33,241
Pigs	...	5,947
		<hr/>
		41,724
		<hr/>

Meat condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

28 tons 14 cwts. 0 qrs. 4 lbs.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following :-

Beasts	...	62
Calves	...	45
Sheep	...	520
Pigs	...	10
		<hr/>
		637
		<hr/>

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Cows was, again, Nil.

Examinations for Cysticercus Bovis (the embryo form of a tapeworm infesting man) continued, and 12 cases were found, an increase of 2 on the previous year. The incidence of infection was .52% against .45% in 1967.

There is no other Slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough.

10 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The following table is in the form prescribed for Annual Reports by the Department of Health & Social Security:-

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,907	395	234	33,241	5,947	Nil
Number inspected	1,907	395	234	33,241	5,947	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI -</u>						
Whole Carcasses cond'd.	12	50	45	520	10	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	419	116	-	753	21	Nil
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. & Cysticerci ...	22.6%	42.0%	19.2%	3.8%	0.5%	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY -</u>						
Whole Carcasses con- demned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	45	Nil
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.7%	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS -</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ con- demned ...	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrig- eration ...	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(2) FOOD PREMISES -

(a) The following is a list of Food Premises * in the Borough :-

Bread & Cakes	...	...	...	16
Cafes & Restaurants	...	...	...	21
Cooked Meats, etc.	...	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	16
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	6
Fish & Chips	...	...	...	7
Fruit & Vegetables	...	...	...	27
Groceries & Provisions	...	...	...	64
Ice Cream	...	...	...	1
Meat	...	...	...	26
Mineral Water Factories	...	...	...	2
Public Houses & Hotels	...	...	...	38
Sweets & Confectionery	...	...	...	109
Wines & Spirits (Off-Licences)	...	...	...	4
				<hr/>
				340
				<hr/>

* N.B. Where, as often applies, a Food Shop deals in more than one of the specified commodities, the premises have been classified according to the predominating type of business:

(b) 143 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, viz : 50 for the Preparation of Processed Foods, and 93 for the Sale of Ice Cream.

<u>Other Foods</u> (cont'd. from P.28)	<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>oz.</u>
Fruit (Dried) (1 packet)	-	-	-	1	0
Fruit "Whip" Dessert (3 packets)	-	-	-	-	4
Jams, Conserves (21 jars)	-	-	-	21	0
Lentils (1 packet)	-	-	-	1	0
Meat (excluding Slaughterhouse)	-	-	1	10	0
Meat (opened tins, etc.)	-	-	1	3	0
Mixed Peel (11 packets)	-	-	-	5	8
Olives (Stuffed) (2 jars)	-	-	-	1	0
Pearl Barley (3 packets)	-	-	-	3	0
Potatoes	-	-	2	0	0
Rice (2 packets)	-	-	-	2	0
Sauce (3 x 1 gallon jars)	-	-	-	24	0
Sausages	-	-	-	7	4
Sponge Mix (30 packets)	-	-	-	13	8
Tomatoes (6 boxes)	-	-	2	22	0
	-	10	3	1	0
+ <u>Tinned Foods</u> (Page 28)	2	3	3	1	15
<u>TOTAL FOODS CONDEMNED</u>	2	14	2	2	15

N.B. In addition to the above, also condemned were the total contents of six Frozen Food Cabinets, due to breakdown in refrigeration mechanism.
Weight of these foods was not ascertainable.

(3) MILK & DAIRIES -

The number of Producer-Retailers in the Borough is now five, and from these, 7 samples of milk were submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for the detection of Brucella Abortus.

All were Negative.

(4) ICE CREAM -

18 samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, with the following results :-

PRODUCER	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	TOTAL
'A'	11	-	-	-	11
'B'	5	1	1	-	7
Total ...	16	1	1	-	18

(5) SALVAGE -

The following materials were salvaged during refuse collection and disposal during the financial year 1968/69 :-

	<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	£.	s.	d.
Ferrous Metals	-	1	1	0	-	8.	2
Non-ferrous Metals	-	-	-	11	-	6.	5
Feathers	-	3	3	22	3.	17.	10
Motor (Rubber) Tubes	-	2	1	6	-	10.	8
Rags (misc.)	1	2	3	22	16.	1.	3
Roofing Rags	-	3	2	6	-	17.	9
<u>TOTAL SALES</u> :	1	14	0	11	22.	2.	1

(6) DISINFECTION -

32 Disinfections were carried out, viz :-

23	Library Books	(Measles)
8	"	" (Chickenpox)
1	former Old People's Home	(General fumigation)

(7) RODENT DISINFESTATION -

The part-time employment of a Pensioner was, again, considered to be sufficient to do rodent disinfestation and other miscellaneous duties.

130 premises were treated for rodent infestation, involving 237 visits.

Sewer maintenance treatment was also carried out during the year by contract with a commercial undertaking. 155 sewer manhole entrances were treated.

(8) GENERAL DISINFESTATION -

17 premises were treated for other pests, as follows :-

Ants	...	3
Cockroaches	...	6
Fleas	...	6
Wasps (nests)...		2

The number of treatments at such premises were :-

Ants	...	5
Cockroaches	...	12
Fleas	...	7
Wasps (nests)...		2

26

==

(9) PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928 -

The following Storage Licences were granted under the above Act :-

Petroleum Spirit only	...	...	...	50
Petroleum Spirit & Petroleum Mixtures	...			8
Petroleum Mixtures only	...	...	...	9
Petroleum Mixtures & Carbide of Calcium	..			1
				<hr/>
				68
				<hr/> <hr/>

The quantities stored were as follows :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	220,330	galls.
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	3,170	"
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	112	lbs.

Fees received by the Corporation in respect of such Licences amounted to £59. 10. 0d.

(10) EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923 -

The number of Premises Registered for the Storage of Mixed Explosives (i.e. fireworks, cartridges, etc.) was 27, and the fees received, £1. 7. 0d.

(11) OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 -

Report on Registrations, Inspections, etc. during the Year 1968 :-

TABLE 'A'

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year (2)	Total No. of regist. premises at end of year (3)	Number of premises receiving one or more gen. inspections during the year (4)
Offices	3	142	52
Retail Shops	11	223	124
Wholesale Shops, Ware- houses)	4	23	9
Catering Establishments) open to the Public;) Canteens)	1	21	14
Fuel Storage Depots	-	5	4
TOTALS ...	19	414	203

TABLE 'B'

Number of Visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to Registered Premises 223

(11) (continued)

TABLE 'C'

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	756
Retail Shops	1,511
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	188
Catering Establishments open to Public	193
Canteens	--
Fuel Storage Depots	30
TOTAL	2,678
	=====
Total Males ...	1,173
Total Females..	1,505

TABLE 'B'

Number of Visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to Registered Premises

(12) FACTORIES ACT, 1961 -

The following tables show Inspections, etc. carried out during the year 1968 :-

(a) INSPECTIONS :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec ^d .
1. Factories in which S.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	12	14	1	-
2. Factories not incl. in (1) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.	156	110	-	-
3. Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	17	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	185	124	1	-

(12) (b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instit ^d .
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	7	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :-					
(a) Insufficient	3	2	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	17	14	-	4	-

(12) (c) OUTWORK :

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-workers in Aug. list (S.133, (1)(c))	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecutions for failure to send lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	31	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace-curtains, Nets	6	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	37	-	-	-	-	-

(13) THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED LIST OF SANITARY OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1968 :-

Nature of Works Done	P.H. Acts	Hsng. Acts	F. & D. Act	Fact. Acts	O.S.& R.P. Act
Drains repaired	23	-	-	-	-
Drains cleared	40	-	-	-	-
New vent pipes provided	1	-	-	-	-
New inspection chambers built	2	-	-	-	-
New interceptors fixed	1	-	-	-	-
Fresh air inlets provided	1	-	-	-	-
New gullies fixed	2	-	-	-	-

(continued on P.38 :-

(13) DETAILS OF SANITARY OPERATIONS (continued from Page 37)

Nature of Works Done	P.H. Acts	Hsng. Acts	F.& D. Act	Fact. Acts	O.S. & R.P. Act
Smoke & water tests	2	-	-	-	-
New W.C. pans provided	1	-	-	-	-
Additional W.Cs. provided	2	-	-	-	-
W.Cs. repaired	-	-	2	-	-
Roofs repaired or renewed	1	-	-	-	-
Guttering repaired or renewed	2	-	-	-	-
Rain pipes repaired	1	-	-	-	-
Plaster repaired - external	1	-	-	-	-
" " - internal	1	-	-	-	-
Dampness remedied	3	-	-	-	-
Lighting improved	-	-	-	-	12
Washing facilities improved	-	-	2	-	10
Rooms cleansed	-	-	14	-	-
Food protected from contamina- tion)	-	-	10	-	-
Name & address displayed	-	-	6	-	-
Vermin and other pests eradi- cated)	17	-	-	-	-
Premises where nuisances abated	84	-	-	-	-
Houses demolished	-	2	-	-	-
Houses closed	-	5	-	-	-
Part houses closed	-	3	-	-	-
Houses completely reconditioned) and improved)	-	2	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	44

(14) SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC. -

Total visits made	...	...	...	...	3,401
Inspections - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	650
" - " " " (re-visits)					285
" - Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	4
" - " " (re-visits)	...	...	...	...	83
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	1,242
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	51
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	84
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	256
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	16
Milk Vehicles (including Sampling)	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies	...	...	...	...	18
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	75
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	8
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	223
Infectious Disease Investigations	...	...	...	...	7
Factories	...	...	...	...	124
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	2
Caravans	...	...	...	...	9
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	17
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	233
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	...	47
Miscellaneous Letters written	...	...	...	...	76
Statutory Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " - Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	Nil
Informal Notices - Public Health Acts	64
" " - P.H. Acts (secondary)	27
Verbal Notices	111

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