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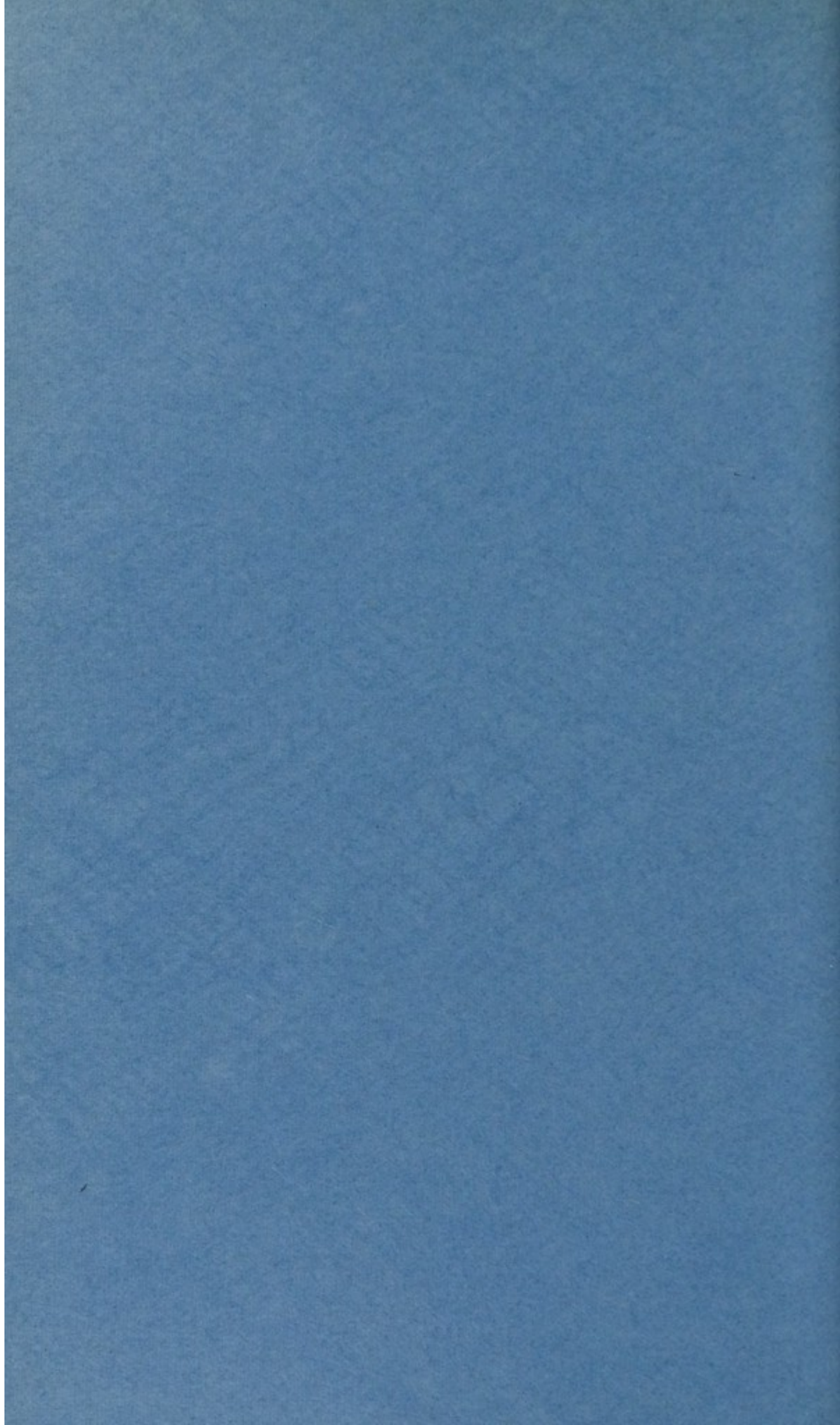
BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

for the year

1963




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BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1963

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR J. W. DOWNS,
J.P.)

COUNCILLOR J. F. BALDING (*Chairman*)

ALDERMAN E. KNIGHT (*Vice-Chairman*)

ALDERMAN J. G. WELLING

COUNCILLOR R. G. EHLEN

COUNCILLOR R. C. FOULSER

COUNCILLOR D. A. KEEP

COUNCILLOR MISS N. K. LAWFORD

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. MURRELL

COUNCILLOR A. RENNIE

BASINGSTOKE BOROUGH DISTRICT HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the Basingstoke Borough Health Committee and

C. H. GIBBONS, Esq., C.C.

P. W. MEDD, Esq., O.B.E., C.C.

MRS. C. A. CHANDLER

MISS S. KINGDON

MRS. E. A. LEE

MRS. E. RICHARDSON

M. J. WILLIAMS, Esq., M.B., B.S.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

T. E. ROBERTS M.B.(Lond), M.R.C.S., D.(OBST), R.C.O.G. D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health to Basingstoke Rural District Council and Assistant County Medical Officer, Hampshire County Council)

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. H. DAVID M.A.P.H.I.
(also Petroleum and Shops Act Inspector)

Additional Public Health Inspectors

R. M. BORLASE, M.A.P.H.I.

A. R. HONESS, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff

P. E. K. HUNT (Senior Clerk)

 (deceased 23.3.63)

MISS E A. TATLOW (Senior Clerk)

MISS M. A. ANNETTE

MISS A. S. UTTING

Rodent Operative

R. RUMBLE (retired 28.12.63)

TEL. NO. BASINGSTOKE 600

November, 1964

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Basingstoke.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Basingstoke for the year 1963.

The year began with the severest winter in living memory and the new claims for sickness benefits poured in. Despite the rise in numbers of the working population, the claims far exceeded what might simply be attributed to an increase due to immigration.

Vital Statistics

The slow but steady rise in the population is shown by an increase of 1,340 over the previous year. The natural increase of births over deaths accounts for 429 of this total.

In my last report, I mentioned the need to provide adequate hospital facilities to cope with the present population which is already throwing an almost impossible burden on the local hospital. It is worthy of note that 17.6% of all deaths of Borough Residents occurred in hospitals situated more than eleven miles from the town, and of this number over 60% were under sixty years of age. This figure in my opinion is far too high and if 17.6% represents the mortality figure, one realises that the morbidity rates for Borough Residents treated outside the Borough must also be high.

Social and Health Circumstances

The beginning of the year heralded the appearance on the threshold of Local Government of the Ministry of Health's Circular entitled "Fluoridation of Water Supplies". This foolscap sheet of paper was destined here, as in so many other places, to arouse in the Council intense interest, to produce in the local press potential giants of the literary world, and in the Public Health Department, its largest and heaviest file.

Although the Circular was intended for Local Health Authorities, the Council passed judgment on it and, ignoring the advice of their Medical Officer of Health, decided to vote against it. In many respects the Circular could well be described as a politicians dream, succeeding in many instances, in breaking down party loyalties and producing worthwhile majorities either for or against it. One does not wish to resurrect the story as perhaps friendly relations between all are better than a mouth full of healthy teeth.

The future role that a Public Health Department can play is well illustrated in the detection of pre-symptomatic conditions by screening the members of a community. Such a procedure took place in April when the Hampshire County Council sponsored a survey to detect all the unknown diabetics over twenty-one in the Borough. The operation took the form of a "crash scheme" during one week-end and the response by 13,716 people representing 74.3% of the adult population was very encouraging.

The need for these screening techniques is obvious, but the method of carrying them out evokes much discussion in medical circles. The great disadvantage of promoting a scheme similar to the one carried out here, is that if a postal service is used the cost is extremely high and if voluntary help is obtained, the appearance of rain clouds on the appointed day could well signal a marked depletion in the ranks of the volunteers.

Future screenings should be confined to the "at risk" groups and could well be undertaken by General Practitioners or through Factory health schemes. One feature which we noted from our survey was the decrease in co-operation as the age group increased. As the incidence of Diabetes increases with age the co-operation obtained in these particular age groups mirrored the inadequacy of our organisation in presenting our message to the elderly people in the Borough. This poses a question regarding Health Education in the elderly. Are they no longer interested in their well being, or are they cut off from all the various media of local and mass communication due to disabilities which may beset them?

The implementation of the Clean Air Act in its entirety is one of the challenges facing any Health Department in the field of environmental health. It is remarkable that in this day and age we still treat our air as we do our sewage system. If our water supply contained the amount of impurities which so often are present in our air, then the protests in such large numbers would indeed be deafening.

Until non-fume producing methods of heating are in universal use we shall still be bedevilled with the problem of polluting our air. Although many years may have to pass before we reach the Utopia of Clean Air, we are progressing in a manner which we hope will minimise this pollution. Late in the year, on the advice of the Health Committee, the Council implemented the "Memorandum on Chimney Heights in Industrial Buildings," as issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The effect of this decision has been to increase chimney heights, and for the Department to enter into long correspondence with many upset Architects who had likened the new chimney height to "a sore thumb sticking into the horizon". We have however been able to reassure them that it is more desirable to have to put up with a sore thumb than a sore chest.

The Old People's Welfare Committee continues to flourish, co-ordinating the efforts of the other groups, and undertaking new ventures. The year saw the inauguration of the "Meals on Wheels Service" which although not used as much as one thought it would, still continues to provide a very valuable service.

I wish to record my thanks to all the General Practitioners in the town for their help during the past year—to the members of the Health Committee for their enthusiasm and to all the Staff of my Department for their work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

T. E. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,180
Population—Registrar General's Estimate, Mid-1963 . . .	28,300
Number of inhabited houses, etc. (according to Rate Books as at 1st April, 1964)	9,418
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1964)	£1,358,898
Product of a Penny Rate (Estimated 1964/1965)	£6,200

VITAL STATISTICS

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Live Births	678	621	585	541	463
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	23.95	23.41	22.49	22.0	20.02
Still Births—Legitimate	13	10	5	9	11
Illegitimate	0	1	1	0	0
Total	13	11	6	9	11
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	18.8	18.9	10.1	18.1	23.2
Total Live and Still Births	691	632	591	550	474
Infants Deaths	9	13	10	9	7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births—Legitimate	13.2	19.3	17.0	17.4	15.1
Illegitimate	Nil	1.6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	13.2	20.9	17.0	16.6	15.1
Neonatal (First Four Weeks) Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	13.2	17.7	11.9	7.3	8.6
Early neonatal (Deaths under 1 week) Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	11.9	12.8	11.9	7.3	8.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 Live Births	28.0	30.1	21.9	23.6	31.4
Illegitimate Live Births % of Total Live Births	4.2	5.4	4.6	4.6	3.9
Maternal Deaths (including Abortion)	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	1.4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comparability Factors—Births	0.90	0.89	0.89	0.92	0.92
Deaths	1.17	1.25	1.25	1.18	1.18

	Male	Female	Total	1962	1961	1960	1959
Live Births—Legitimate	343	306	649	621	558	516	445
Illegitimate	16	13	29	34	27	25	18
Birth Rate per 1,000 total population (corrected)			21.5	20.8	20.1	20.2	18.4
Average for England and Wales .			18.2	20.8	17.4	17.1	16.5

	Male	Female	Total	1962	1961	1960	1959
From all causes	131	118	249	268	215	241	209
Death Rate per 1,000 population							
	(corrected)		10.9	12.4	15.1	10.00	10.46
Average for England and Wales			12.2	11.9	12.00	11.5	11.6

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total	1962	1961	1960
1	Tuberculosis—respiratory . . .	1	1	2	—	1	2
3	Syphilitic Disease	2	—	2	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1	—	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasm—stomach . .	2	1	3	5	6	4
11	„ „ lung, bronchus	6	2	8	12	11	15
12	„ „ breast	—	6	6	4	5	5
13	„ „ uterus	—	2	2	4	—	4
14	„ „ others and lymphatic	12	10	22	18	27	22
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2	—	—	1
16	Diabetes	—	1	1	1	2	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	17	35	31	23	33
18	Coronary disease—angina	28	12	40	54	47	41
19	Hypertension with heart disease .	5	4	9	6	5	9
20	Other heart diseases	11	24	35	40	24	30
21	Other circulatory diseases	3	4	7	12	13	12
22	Influenza	1	1	2	—	—	1
23	Pneumonia	6	4	10	19	13	8
24	Bronchitis	8	3	11	12	6	10
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	3	6	2	2	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5	3	1	3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4	4	1	1
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .	—	1	1	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	3	3	6	1	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	8	20	24	17	17
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4	2	3	4
34	All other accidents	2	—	2	7	4	5
35	Suicide	—	3	3	2	—	2

AGE DISTRIBUTION

<i>Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	7	4	11
1—14	1	2	3
15—24	2	1	3
25—64	43	23	66
65—74	34	25	59
75—90	39	56	95
90+	5	7	12
Totals	131	118	249

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS — Deaths associated with:

<i>Classification</i>	<i>No. of deaths</i>			<i>Average Age at Death</i>		<i>Age Range</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Lung and Bronchus .	6	2	8	68	64	54 — 80
Stomach	2	1	3	61	60	50 — 71
Breast	—	6	6	—	72	49 — 86
Others	12	12	24	66	70	29 — 94

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN INFANTS

<i>Cause</i>	<i>24 hours</i>	<i>Within 1 week</i>	<i>1—4 weeks</i>	<i>1 Month — 1 year</i>
Congenital Malformation	—	—	2	1
Prematurity	5	—	—	—
Cerebral Ischaemia	1	—	—	—

Average age of all Deaths 69.54 (68.4*)

Average age of Male Deaths 68.25 (64.36*)

Average age of Female Deaths 70.89 (72.49*)

* The figures in brackets refer to 1962

EPIDMIOLOGY

(1) General Health

(a) Record of new claims to sickness benefit received at Basingstoke National Insurance Office:

Month	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
January . . .	950	1140	923	676	700
February . . .	1571	672	1023	672	1218
March . . .	1113*	621	717	656*	969*
April . . .	576	548*	461	495	490
May . . .	537	447	434*	464	289
June . . .	436*	415	572	313	371*
July . . .	477	348*	417	472	382
August . . .	400*	362	352*	380*	323
September . . .	513	417	419	432	432*
October . . .	652	456*	474*	493	451
November . . .	689*	586	446	585*	534
December . . .	720	609	632	466	503*

* Five-week periods reduced to four weeks for comparison

(b) Attendance at Schools in the Borough expressed as percentages:

Term	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Spring . . .	89.0	91.6	90.3	88.1	86.8
Summer . . .	90.8	93.0	92.4	92.4	92.8
Autumn . . .	92.4	92.2	93.0	92.5	91.2

The severe winter which had started a few days before the end of 1962 dragged on for nearly three months and its effect was noted in a very high return of sickness benefit claims which ran on into the early summer. It also produced in February the highest single monthly return since we started recording these figures in 1955, and increased the total number of benefits by over 40% above the previous year.

(2) Infectious Diseases

(a) Notifications received during the year were:

Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	9
Measles	631
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	9
Tuberculosis—Non Respiratory	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Food Poisoning	—
Erysipelas	2
 Total	 658

(b) **Tuberculosis:** The following table indicates the incidence of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year:

Age	M.	F.	Total	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Under 5	—	—	—	4	6	8	21	7
5-20	—	—	—					
21-40	3	2	5					
41-60	2	—	2					
61+	1	1	2					

The Mass X-Ray Mobile Unit now have regular sessions at Hackwood Road (opposite Hackwood Road Hospital) on the following days:—

1st Tuesday in each month	4.30 p.m.-6.30 p.m.
3rd Tuesday in each month	12 noon-1.45 p.m.
4th Wednesday in January, April } July and October }	2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.-7.30 p.m.

During 1963 5,685 people were X-rayed at the Mass X-Ray Centre, but as separate records for each Local Authority area are not kept, some of these are accounted for by residents outside the Borough.

Newly discovered cases of significant pulmonary tuberculosis:

Males	Females	Total
(‡) 9	(‡) 2	(‡) 11
(§) 4	(§) 3	(§) 7

‡ — cases needing close clinic supervision or treatment.

§ — cases requiring occasional out-patient supervision only.

Non-tuberculosis cases:

Males	Females	Total
30	17	47

The active incidence, therefore, can be taken as 2 per 1,000, which for these days is still quite a significant figure, and shows that there should be no let up in the search for unknown tuberculosis cases.

(3) Vaccinations and Inoculations

(a) **B.C.G.:** During the year, children in certain age groups in Secondary Schools were offered B.C.G. after being tested to see whether they required it.

623 children were approached, and finally 465 were given B.C.G. The difference between the two figures is partly accounted for by 38 parents refusing, 48 children already having been given B.C.G. on a previous occasion, and 43 positives being detected after the initial testing.

(b) **Smallpox.** Due to a change in Ministerial policy advising the delay of Primary Vaccination until after twelve months of the baby's life, there must be necessarily a smaller number of primary vaccinations to record for 1963.

Age	Primary	Booster
Under 1 year	62	Nil
1 year	88	Nil
2-4 years	5	7
5-14 years	3	23
Over 15 years	14	74

(c) **Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.** Up to the end of 1963, 72.1% of children born during 1962 had completed the primary course of immunisation against Diphtheria. With only a very few exceptions, this is combined with Whooping Cough and Tetanus. The boosting dose which is given at 2 years is also a "triple" type but the booster at 5 and 10 years includes only Tetanus in addition to Diphtheria.

Type of Injection	1963	1962	1961	1960
Primary Course	555	586	561	524
Booster Doses	752	514	366	389

(d) **Poliomyelitis.** The administration of Oral Poliomyelitis Vaccine has greatly eased the burden of seeing that the degree of immunity against this disease is kept at a high level. The vaccine is given at the sixth, seventh and eighth months of the child's life, and during the time that this report covers, 92 children born in this particular period completed the primary course while 400 children born during the previous year were given similar protection.

As was mentioned in my Annual Report for 1962, all Schools in the Borough of Basingstoke were visited during the Summer Term and 366 children in their first year at school were given booster doses.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

General Health Services

The District Health Sub-Committee continues to provide a most useful opportunity for discussion of matters which, though the responsibility of the County Council, nevertheless arouse considerable interest locally. Furthermore, intimate knowledge of local conditions is frequently of help in advising the higher authority. The welfare of infants, old people and the mentally and physically handicapped are cases in point.

I wish to pay tribute to the many voluntary workers who help out at infant welfare and other clinics. Their services are invaluable.

National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil continue to be distributed largely by the W.V.S. at their Centre at 46 Church Street. These foods are also distributed at Bramblys Grange Welfare Clinic, Basingstoke Co-operative Society Ltd., Soper Grove and 390 Worting Road, Basingstoke.

Maternity, Child Welfare and Health Visiting

Reporting on this section, it is noted for the first time that the total number of attendances during 1963 fell by nearly 10%. This may appear surprising when one considers the rapidly rising population which the town is experiencing with its overwhelming numbers of young people. The cause for this may be found either in the greater distances that the mothers have to take their children to the Clinic—for the periphery of the new estates are always moving further away from the static Child Welfare Centres, or the prevailing weather conditions.

With regard to the former the larger distance that one has to travel may have a bearing, but the latter suggestion becomes reality when one realises that the first ten to twelve weeks of 1963 witnessed the worst winter in living memory. The decrease in the total over the previous year was 938, and of this, 783 occurred during the first quarter.

Year	Bramblys Grange		South Ham		Elmwood Way		Kempshott		Total	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	D
1960	153	4006	48	1592	22	740	50	2265	273	8,603
1961	151	5346	48	2101	23	793	51	2221	273	10,461
1962	155	5305	87	3143	29	1229	51	1934	322	11,611
1963	161	4845	99	3085	46	1289	51	1454	357	10,673

A — Total Number of Clinics held in the year.

C — Totals of A

B — Total Number of Children who attended.

D — Totals of B

At the time of compiling this report, I am happy to state that for the first time since 1959 it appears that facilities for a Child Welfare Clinic to serve a part of the Oakridge area may become a reality.

How long these Clinics will undertake their present duties is a matter of speculation. The time must surely come when the General Practitioner with his attached ancillary Local Health Authority Staff will take over these duties. If this is so, then unless careful thought is given to the siting of the new General Practitioner premises, many mothers will be reluctant to travel long distances to the surgeries. The future promises only an average of one car per family, and not one per family.

Clinic	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Friday	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Bramblys Grange			X _A	X _{AB}			X _A	X _A
South Ham . .		X _A				X _{AC}		
Kempshott . .			X _A					
Elmwood Way .		X _A						

A — signifies Doctor in attendance.

B — signifies 1st Tuesday in month only.

C — signifies 2nd and 4th Wednesdays only.

The Health Visitors are notified of all births to "Borough Mothers" whether they occur within or without the Borough. They visit the home and offer help and advice and the liaison that they can effect with the General Practitioner is helpful in being able to inform him at an early stage of any problems which may arise.

District Nursing

The following table shows the number of cases attended and visits paid by the General Nurses and Midwives.

Year	Midwifery		General Nursing	
	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits
1963	194	3786	388	8077
1962	164	4842	350	7810
1961	171	3107	354	6378
1960	210	4445	285	6804
1959	115	2090	358	7504
1958	82	1517	421	7963

Although the number of Midwifery Cases attended by the District Midwives rose by nearly 20% over the previous year, the average number of visits paid to each case fell from 29 to 19. This fall in the average number of visits paid to each case was no doubt due to the number of vacancies for Midwives which existed in the area for quite a considerable period of 1963.

The position with regard to the General Nursing Service is better, as the increase in cases shows that the average number of visits per case is nearer to the previous year's total. One point however which should be borne in mind with regard to the number of visits paid to midwifery and nursing cases is that whereas the former usually necessitate the same number of visits, the latter presenting as they do a wide range of problems, demand a highly fluctuating number of visits from the District Nurse.

Home Help Service

Year	No. of Applications Received and Investigated	No. not requiring Assistance	Advance bookings at end of the year
1963	148	26	9
1962	150	36	4
1961	142	31	11

Origin of Notification

Year	Family Doctor	Almoner	District Nurse/Midwife	Health Visitor	Children's Officer	Welfare Officer	Nat. Asst. Board	Other	Total
1963	93	13	24	3	1	5	1	8	148
1962	91	8	25	7	—	8	—	11	150
1961	88	15	16	4	—	4	5	10	142

Type of Case		1963	1962	1961
Short Term	Maternity .	34	47	38
	General Sickness	14	21	13
	Post Hospital	13	17	16
	Child Care	1	—	2
	Special . . .	—	2	—
Long Term	Chronic Sickness	13	23	18
	Aged Sickness	148	110	106
	Aged Infirm . }			
	Tuberculosis .	1	1	1
	Special . . .	1	—	2
Total Number of cases assisted . . .		225	221	196

	1963	1962	1961
Number of cases completed	100	113	89
Number of Home Helpers in Register at end of year	46	45	41
Number of Cases Paying	1963	1962	1961
Full Cost	69	69	65
According to Scale	32	43	26
Minimum Charge	123	108	105
Special	1	—	—
Total	225	220	196

Day Nurseries

The rapid growth in the town is reflected in the demand for day nurseries. An initial inspection is carried out by the Health and Fire Departments regarding the suitability of the premises and periodic inspections are undertaken by Health Visitors to see that conditions of registration are complied with:—

Year	Number of Nurseries	Number of Children Permitted
1963	9	150
1962	7	81
1961	4	61

During the year one establishment cancelled its registration for personal reasons.

Old People's Welfare

I am grateful to Mr. Dean, Senior Area Welfare Officer, for the following Annual Statistics for the Borough:

Visits, Applications and Admissions to Welfare (Part III) Accommodation:

Year	Visits	Applications	Admissions	Section 47
1963	214	16	18	3
1962	108	20	13	1
1961	113	21	14	—
1960	56	19	15	—
1959	40	9	10	—

Investigations made and referred to:

Medical Officer of Health	4	(1)
Home Help	4	(7)
Meals on Wheels	11	(10)
Hospital Bed Service	5	(7)
Forces Association	1	(—)
Housing Department	3	(3)
District Nurse	1	(1)
Miscellaneous	28	(13)

Figures in parenthesis refer to the year 1962

The Chiropody Clinics

The Old People's Welfare Committee found that more sessions of the Chiropody Clinic were required for the elderly residents of the Borough and as a result from 24th September, 1963, an extra monthly session was operated in an endeavour to satisfy this need, in addition to the monthly clinic already in existence.

Year	No. of Clinics	Attendances
1963	23	166
1962	19	144
1961	17	154
1960	17	159
1959	16	154

The Activities of the Old People's Welfare Committee become more active each year. The "visiting service" is proving to be of great assistance and the inauguration during the year of the "meals on wheels" service although popular with those who use it, is still not used by many people.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47

During the year three applications under this Act were applied for to the Magistrates.

Training Centre, Limington House

The long anticipated move from Goat Lane took place during the middle of the year. The new premises at South Ham now meet the needs of the children who attend there. One of the good features of the building is the incorporation of a short-stay hostel.

Family Planning Clinic

Despite extra clinics being held by the Family Planning Association, it is still heavily overworked and overbooked. (It has a six weeks waiting list).

Patients seen during 1963	1195
New Patients	210
Referred to Clinic by General Practitioners	59
Oral Patients	6

One of the very great services that the Family Planning Association can offer the community is routine cervical smear screenings — a process which is destined to become widespread in the future. The test to be carried out at regular intervals in women over thirty-five years of age is both easy to undertake and will undoubtedly go far to alleviate the fears of many women.

It is therefore disappointing to see such a poor response for 1963. One can only hope that in the future the need for this screening process will be emphasised to all women who attend the Clinic.

Cervical Smear Analysis				
Age Group		35-40	41-50	51-60
No. of smears taken	. . .	7	2	1
No. of Positives	. . .	Nil	Nil	Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Rainfall

The rainfall for the year was somewhat above average and March and November were particularly wet months with over 5in. of rain each. The snow, which started to fall at the end of December, 1962, persisted throughout January and February. The monthly rainfall figures and the annual totals for the five preceding years are as follows:—

January	. . .	0.92 in.	July	. . .	1.76 in.
February	. . .	0.58 „	August	. . .	4.48 „
March	. . .	5.03 „	September	. . .	3.71 „
April	. . .	3.48 „	October	. . .	2.29 „
May	. . .	1.51 „	November	. . .	5.35 „
June	. . .	2.19 „	December	. . .	1.06 „

Total for 1963 — 32.36 ins.

1962	. . .	27.50 in.
1961	. . .	28.66 „
1960	. . .	40.16 „
1959	. . .	27.63 „
1958	. . .	29.42 „

Water Supply

The Borough is supplied from wells and boreholes in the chalk at West Ham and Woodgarston. All water is chlorinated at the head works before distribution and frequent and regular samples of raw and treated waters are subjected to chemical and bacteriological examination in the company's own laboratory and also from time to time by an independent authority. All samples of treated water therefrom were satisfactory for the purposes of public supply.

The quantity supplied was adequate for all purposes and no restrictions of any kind on the use of water were imposed. The distribution system was extended by 5,417 yards of new service mains by the Company in 1963 to meet housing and industrial development within the Borough.

During the year further progress was made with the reconstruction and development of the West Ham works.

The fluoride content of the mains water in the Borough of Basingstoke is quite low, being within the range of 0.05 to 0.15 parts per million expressed as fluorine.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following information:

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year, no particular problems arose in connection with sewage pumping and disposal and, in regard to pumping, there was an adequate reserve of capacity provided by the temporary electrically driven pumping station in Basing Road. The construction of the trunk sewer along the Loddon Valley was continued and the works were nearing completion at the end of the year. It was decided to provide a temporary diversion with pumping station, in place of part of the sewer where it crosses the town centre redevelopment area, so that this length of permanent sewer can be redesigned to fit in with the redevelopment proposals. The completion of this contract will provide a new trunk sewer from the northern end of the Buckskin Valley right through to the temporary pumping station near Basing Road Hospital.

Short lengths of sewer were constructed in Cranbourne Lane and Cliddesden Road. As a result of the former, it became possible to drain an area around Meadow Road by gravity, thereby closing down a small pumping station.

Additional desludging and distribution trenches and other ancillary works were carried out at the sewage farm, in order to increase its capacity to deal with the increased flows which will have to be dealt with until the first stage of the new sewage treatment plant at Basing Lodge Farm comes into operation in 1966.

The design of the first stage of the new sewage treatment works was approved in principle, and detailed design work was proceeded with in order that tenders might be invited and the works commenced during 1964.

Public Cleansing

The weekly collection of house and trade refuse was maintained and materials were salvaged as far as sales warranted. About half of the refuse was burnt at the destructor to raise steam for sewage pumping. The remainder of the refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping in the Rural District's tip at Marnel Dell by agreement with the Rural District Council.

Public highways and footpaths were cleansed by mechanical and hand sweeping, and the staff engaged on this service was increased.

Cesspool emptying was continued as a rechargeable service at a flat rate, which does not represent the full cost to the Council. The Council started to operate its own cesspool emptier in November.

HOUSING

New Houses

I am indebted to the Borough Architect for the following information:

During the year 1963 the following new dwelling-houses were completed:

'Borough' Built

	1963	1962	1961	1960
Traditional Type Houses . . .	281	305	103	33
Traditional Type Flats . . .	86	45	43	20
Traditional Type Bungalows . .	9	19	16	9
Maisonettes	80	—	—	—
	<hr/> 456	<hr/> 369	<hr/> 162	<hr/> 62

'Group' Built

Traditional Type Houses . . .	16	—	—	—
Traditional Type Bungalows . .	6	—	—	—
	<hr/> 22	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —

Privately Built

Houses	81	200	226	291
Flats	52	—	—	—
	<hr/> 133	<hr/> 200	<hr/> 226	<hr/> 291

Housing Associations

Nil Nil 4 Nil

At the 31st December, 1963, dwellings under construction were:—

Borough Council	349	635	565	191
Development Group	460	Nil	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise	52	86	103	91
Housing Associations	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

During the year, the aged persons' scheme at "Sandringham Court", comprising 14 flats with Warden's accommodation and communal room has been completed. These are two-person flats, and a feature of the scheme is that it is heated by an electric under-floor system.

Good progress has been maintained in the redevelopment of the Sandy Close and Bolton Crescent area for 97 dwellings, and this should be entirely completed by autumn of next year.

It has been forecast that in 1964, the "Borough" and "Group" together will complete approximately 840 dwellings.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(A) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) Milk

There remains one H.T.S.T. Pasteurising Establishment in the Borough which is licensed and supervised by the Borough Council, on behalf of the County Council. In addition, 19 retail distributors of milk are licensed on behalf of the County Council in accordance with the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

Five retail premises are registered for the distribution of fresh cream.

The following table shows the designations, numbers and results of milk samples taken during the year:

<i>Types of Milk</i>		<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Pasteurised (T.T.)</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Samples . .		17	27	26	70
Phosphatase Test	Satis. . .	16	27	—	43
	Unsatis. .	1	—	—	1
Methylene Blue Test	Satis. . .	16	26	20	62
	Unsatis. .	1	1	2 4*	4 4*
Test for Myco. T.B.	Neg. . .	—	—	13	13
	Pos. . .	—	—	2 11*	2 11*
Test for Brucella Abortus	Neg. . .	—	—	25	25
	Pos. . .	—	—	1	1

* Details of Tests not available from Laboratory or Tests declared void.

With the exception of one sample of Pasteurised Milk which failed the Phosphatase Test and the Methylene Blue Test, and one sample of Pasteurised T.T. Milk which failed the Methylene Blue Test, all samples were reported as satisfactory. 26 samples of Raw Milk were examined for Brucella Abortus and all except one were reported as negative.

2. Ice Cream

During the year 29 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for analysis, with the following results:

Grade 1 . . .	19	Grade 2 . . .	8
Grade 3 . . .	Nil	Grade 4 . . .	2

It is pleasing to note from the above results that ice cream samples produced and sold locally were reported in the satisfactory Grades 1 and 2.

The samples reported within Grade 4 were taken from Itinerant Vendors. These ice creams were prepared in other towns. The manufacturers were contacted in all cases in an endeavour to improve the bacteriological quality of their product.

The Borough has only one ice cream manufacturer as the bulk of this commodity is now supplied by the large ice cream manufacturers to local retailers. This method of ice cream production from a hygienic point of view has many advantages, the principal one being that ice cream being sold in pre-packed containers considerably reduces the risk of infection from contamination.

Summary — Food Unfit for Human Consumption

Weight of 'Other Foods' (including canned and packeted foods) condemned — 14 cwt. 17 lbs.

Food Complaints

During the year the Department dealt with 30 complaints from members of the public concerning purchases of food. These complaints require thorough investigation and interviews with retail traders, wholesalers and often manufacturers, in an endeavour to discover the origin and persons responsible for the offending food.

Frequently it is necessary to have a detailed examination of these foodstuffs carried out either by the Public Analyst or the Public Health Laboratory Service. This information very often assists the Health Committee in deciding the appropriate action which should be taken.

Legal Proceedings — Food and Drugs Act, 1955

One bakery firm was fined £15 for selling an angel cake with a soapy taste and the covering contaminated with hair and dust.

One grocery firm was fined £10 for selling a meat pie containing a moth.

One bakery firm was fined £15 for selling a loaf of bread containing a nail.

One bakery firm was fined £25 for selling a loaf of bread containing a plaster dressing.

Proceedings were taken against a grocery firm for selling apple puree containing mould; the firm was given absolute discharge on payment of costs amounting to £5.

One butchery firm was fined £25 with £10.10.0, costs for selling a tin of steak containing a blue bottle.

One grocery firm was fined £50 for selling bacon containing maggots.

One grocery firm was fined £20 for selling a biscuit containing a stone.

Total	Fines	£160. 0s. 0d.
	Costs	£15. 10s. 0d.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

I am grateful to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Sampling Officer for the Hampshire County Council for the following information relating to Food and Drug Sampling during the year 1962/63:

'1. During the year ended the 31st March, 1963, 325 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as affecting the Borough of Basingstoke.

2. MILK SAMPLES

305 samples of milk, including 28 of Channel Islands, were obtained from supplies to a wholesale dairy situated in the Borough or from milk intended for sale to consumers within the area.

All the samples of pasteurised milk intended for sale for consumption were of genuine quality but 32 samples of raw milk were unsatisfactory, particulars being as follows:—

Nine samples, all from the same source, were found to contain added water. Eight of these were from separate churns of milk comprising a single consignment of 80 gallons from the producer concerned to a wholesale dairy, the amounts of added water varying from 10 per cent up to as much as 28 per cent and accounting for $12\frac{1}{2}$ gallons in total. Further tests were made in similar circumstances on the following day but on this occasion the milk was satisfactory, with the exception of that in one churn which contained 2 per cent of added water. Subsequent "Appeal-to-Cow" samples showed the milk as given by the cows to be of good quality. Legal proceedings were taken in respect of each of the adulterated samples and fines totalling £180 were imposed. In addition, the defendant Company were ordered to pay £39 costs.

Of the remaining samples of milk, 23, including three of Channel Islands, were deficient of fat. These discrepancies did not call for further action, however, as the samples were all from separate churns of milk included in larger consignments and, in each, the average fat content of the whole of the milk was free from complaint. Furthermore, the milk in each consignment was being mixed together on arrival at the receiving dairy and, therefore, no question of prejudice was involved in these cases.

3. MISCELLANEOUS SAMPLES

Twenty samples of articles other than milk were taken, two being the subject of adverse report, as follows:—

A sample of Milk Bread was found to contain 3 per cent of milk solids, this being regarded as insufficient to warrant the reference to "Milk". The producer concerned was warned, as the discrepancy was not considered serious enough to call for further action.

For some years now, there has been no statutory standard for Milk Bread but such articles have normally been found to contain 5 per cent or more of milk solids, an amount approximating to that which was originally required under the terms of the Bread Order, prior to 1956. New regulations, under which 6 per cent of milk solids will be required in Milk Bread, will come into force next September, however, and these should help to avoid misconceptions and ensure that bread which is sold with an indication that it includes milk, does, in fact, contain a substantial proportion of milk solids.

The other unsatisfactory sample under this heading consisted of so-called Chicken Fritters, the meat content of which was only 44 per cent. Here again, the position was complicated by the absence of

any legal standard, although it was considered that a product of this description should contain meat to the order of approximately 70 per cent. The matter was not regarded as one in which legal proceedings under the general provisions of the Food and Drugs Act would have been advisable. Prolonged discussions did, however, take place with the manufacturers, with some slight success. The situation with regard to meat products generally, will no doubt be improved when anticipated new regulations, prescribing minimum standards for canned meat products, come into force.

Two other articles, for which analysis was not required, were the subject of complaint. One affected a tin of Luncheon Meat, which contained a sizeable piece of metal and legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturer, who was fined £10 and ordered to pay five guineas' costs. It was perhaps, a little unfortunate for the manufacturer that the article in question had been purchased by the wife of one of the Department's Inspectors.

A vegetable salesman was prosecuted in respect of excessive soil and stones in a quantity of potatoes. Three pounds of the potatoes had been purchased at a market stall but they were found to include half a pound of soil and stones. The case was really one of short weight but, for a technical reason, it could not be dealt with under the Weights and Measures Acts and the proceedings were taken under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, the allegation being that the food was not of the substance demanded. The stall-holder was fined £5 and ordered to pay five guineas costs.

4. GENERAL

Attention was, as usual, given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, with regard to the application to the labelling and description of food and drugs, during inspection visits to traders and by reference to advertisements.

Food Premises

A total of 263 visits were made during the year to various food premises. Generally the standard of hygiene of premises was found to be satisfactory. Twenty-three infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found, but these were of a minor character and received the necessary attention.

SUMMARY

Total number of visits to food premises	263
Number of premises where infringements were found	23
Number of preliminary notices served by structural defects	6
Number of verbal notices	16
Number of defects and other infringements remedied	20

(B) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

4. Notices

The Health Committee authorised the serving of one Statutory Notice during the year, in accordance with the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1936.

129 Informal Notices (written and verbal) were served during the year.

5. Complaints

541 complaints were received and dealt with.

6. Housing Acts, 1957/1961

(a) Unfit Houses

(i) Slum Clearance

Clearance Areas	2
Individual Demolition Orders	1
Closing Orders	3
Undertaking	3

(ii) (a) Houses Demolished — In Clearance Area	Nil
Not in Clearance Area	1

(b) Unfit Houses Closed	6
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(c) Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18

Housing Act, 1957	Nil
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(d) Unfit Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:

(i) By informal action	39
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(ii) By formal Notice	Nil
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(iii) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
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(e) Unfit Houses in temporary use under Section 17 (2)

Housing Act, 1957	Nil
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(b) Improvement Grants

During the year Improvement Grants for a further 44 properties were approved by the Council. This compares with 34 in 1962 and 43 in 1961.

Jointly with the Surveyor's Department, inspections of properties are made in connection with both the Discretionary and Standard Grant Schemes. With few exceptions all improvements were to owner/occupied houses.

7. Rent Act, 1957

No application for Certificates of Disrepair by occupiers, or applications for Cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair by landlords, were received during the year.

8. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

There are 10 licensed caravan sites in the Borough upon which 178 caravans are sited. In addition, there is accommodation for 95 caravans on the Corporation's Caravan Site in Attwood Close. This site is proving its worth in providing alternative sites for caravan occupiers who are being displaced from private sites which are now being run down. The Health Committee have decided in the case of two private caravan sites which have long term licences, that the owners should provide proper toilet, washing and laundry facilities.

9. Rodent Control

231 complaints were received during the year and in this connection 1,804 visits were made. This figure included visits to dwelling-houses, sewage farm, schools, agricultural, industrial and business premises.

In all, a total of 1,858 poisoned baits were laid, with 270 complete takes and 654 partial takes; therefore it can be assumed that a considerable number of rats and mice were destroyed.

Treatment to private dwellings was a free service as in previous years, and business premises requiring treatment were charged at full cost.

Treatment of sewer manholes by baiting continued to show satisfactory results. Following the 10% tests of manholes, only six showed evidence of 'takes'. Maintenance treatments were carried out during May and October, when a total of 24 manholes were chosen for treatment. As a result it is very satisfying to report that only three baits were found to be 'part takes'.

It is apparent that the use of modern baiting techniques and materials has justified this satisfactory result.

The Council are members of the North Hants Rodent Control Committee, together with representatives from Aldershot Borough, Alton, Farnborough and Fleet Urban District Councils and the Rural District Councils of Alton, Basingstoke and Hartley Wintney, also Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Meetings are held Quarterly in the districts of the constituent authorities, which are attended by Members and Officers of the authorities concerned.

10. Clean Air Act, 1956

70 inspections and observations were made to ensure compliance with this Act. This included advice to boiler house staff and stokers with regard to efficient stoking and use of fuel. Managements are usually appreciative of the interest taken in their boiler installations as correct stoking results in maximum fuel efficiency—resulting in a saving in the running costs.

Eighteen applications and notifications were submitted to the Health Committee together with the necessary plans and specifications for the Council's approval to install boiler and incinerator installations.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued a Memorandum on "Chimney Heights" to which Section 10 of the Clean Air Act applies. This Memorandum is proving a great help in deciding the appropriate chimney height for the various boiler plants now being installed in the numerous factory premises under construction in connection with the Borough's Town Development Scheme.

11. Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Two complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year. One complaint concerned noise from geese in an adjoining property. The other was from residents of dwelling houses concerning noise from an extraction fan unit and engine testing house of a nearby factory.

12. Factories Act, 1961

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	29	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	113			
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	47			
Total	174	29	—	—

2. DEFECTS :

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	
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	2	2	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

Part VIII

Outwork — Wearing apparel (Making, etc.) 18

13. Drainage

Smoke tests 2
 Coloured water tests 2
 Systems exposed Nil

14. Infected Rooms and Articles

Rooms disinfected 16
 Miscellaneous articles disinfected 1

15. Infestation

- (a) Rooms disinfested 33
 Bedding disinfected 6 lots
 Miscellaneous disinfestations Nil
- (b) During the year 40 complaints resulting in the destruction of 52 wasps' nests were carried out. The Council has approved that no charge should be made for this service.
- (c) The Department continued to give advice regarding the identification and treatment of various types of insect infestation (as distinct from vermin) and this service has been much appreciated by the general public.

16. Table I

Classified Statement of Premises Inspected:

Inspections under the Housing Act	75
Inspections under the Public Health Act	228
Works in progress	8
Re-inspections	256
Food Premises	263
In connection with Infectious Diseases	55
Shops Acts	18
Petroleum Act	112
Factories Act	29
Outworkers	6
Overcrowding	1
Dairies and milk shops	73
Schools	20
Common Lodging House	1
Verminous Premises	24
Drain Tests	5
Moveable Dwellings	192
Ice cream premises	17
Watercourses and Water Sampling	114
Clean Air Act	70
Miscellaneous visits	872
Interviews	1,044
Rodent Control	1,804
	<hr/>
Total	5,287
	<hr/>

17. Table II

Defective Conditions Recorded:

Water Supply—

Provided, improved, and repaired	11
--	----

Water Closets—

Defective flushing cisterns	2
Reconstruction and repairs	7

Drains—

Choked drains	42
Defective drains	2
Gullies cleansed and repaired	5
Inspection Chambers repaired	1
Cesspools repaired	1

Dustbins—

Defective	1
---------------------	---

Dampness—

Defective roofs	23
Defective gutters and rain-water pipes	21

Food Hygiene Regulations—

Food rooms repaired	6
Miscellaneous infringements	17

General—

Defective, etc., walls and ceilings	20
Defective doors	3
Defective floors	11
Defective stoves and fireplaces	2
Defective chimneys	5
Defective windows	19
Accumulations	3
Yards repaired and cleansed	5
Smoke nuisances	1
Defective sinks and baths	6
Miscellaneous	21

I should like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and support during the year; also for the co-operation of the Corporation Officers and for the loyalty and assistance of the Health Department Staff.

C. H. DAVID,
Chief Public Health Inspector