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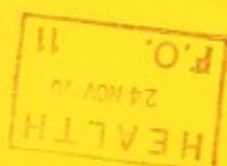
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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1969





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BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
"Eastlands",
London Road,
Basingstoke.

October 1970.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 1969 as directed by the Public Health Officers Regulations.

Vital Statistics - The increase in population during the year was 500, 80 less than the amount recorded for the preceding year. As in the previous year, this increase must be due to immigration as the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 4.

Mortality - The picture is as in previous years following much the same pattern, 77% of all deaths occurred over the age of 65 years.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - The main points of this section of my report are covered in the section prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector, to whom it is my pleasant duty once again to record my thanks for his contribution.

I should also like to express my thanks to the Council and staff of the Public Health Department, especially Mr. Box the Chief Public Health Inspector, for all their help during 1969.

Yours faithfully,

T.E. Roberts

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	74,390 acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate Mid. 1969 ..	22,260
Number of inhabited houses	6,438
Rateable Value	£732,145
Product of penny rate	£2,987

VITAL STATISTICS

	1962	1968	1967
Live births.....	322	333	332
Live birth rate per 1000 population	16.0	15.3	15.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ..	8.0	4.2	6.6
Stillbirths	6	5	4
Stillbirth rate per 1000 live and stillbirths	18.0	8.9	10.9
Total live and stillbirths	328	336	336
Infant deaths	5	8	9
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births			
Total	16.0	24.0	27.1
Legitimate	13.0	18.0	27.1
Illegitimate	40.0	6.0	0.0
Neonatal (first 4 weeks) rate per 1000 live births ..	12.0	18.0	18.0
Early neonatal rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births) ..	12.0	15.0	15.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week) ..	30.0	23.8	18.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and stillbirths ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comparability factors	1.10	1.10	1.10
(births)	0.53	0.48	0.54
(deaths)			

<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	164	133	297	316	318
	Illegitimate	15	10	25	17	14
Birth rate per 1000 population (corrected)					16.8	17.2
Average for England and Wales					16.3	16.9

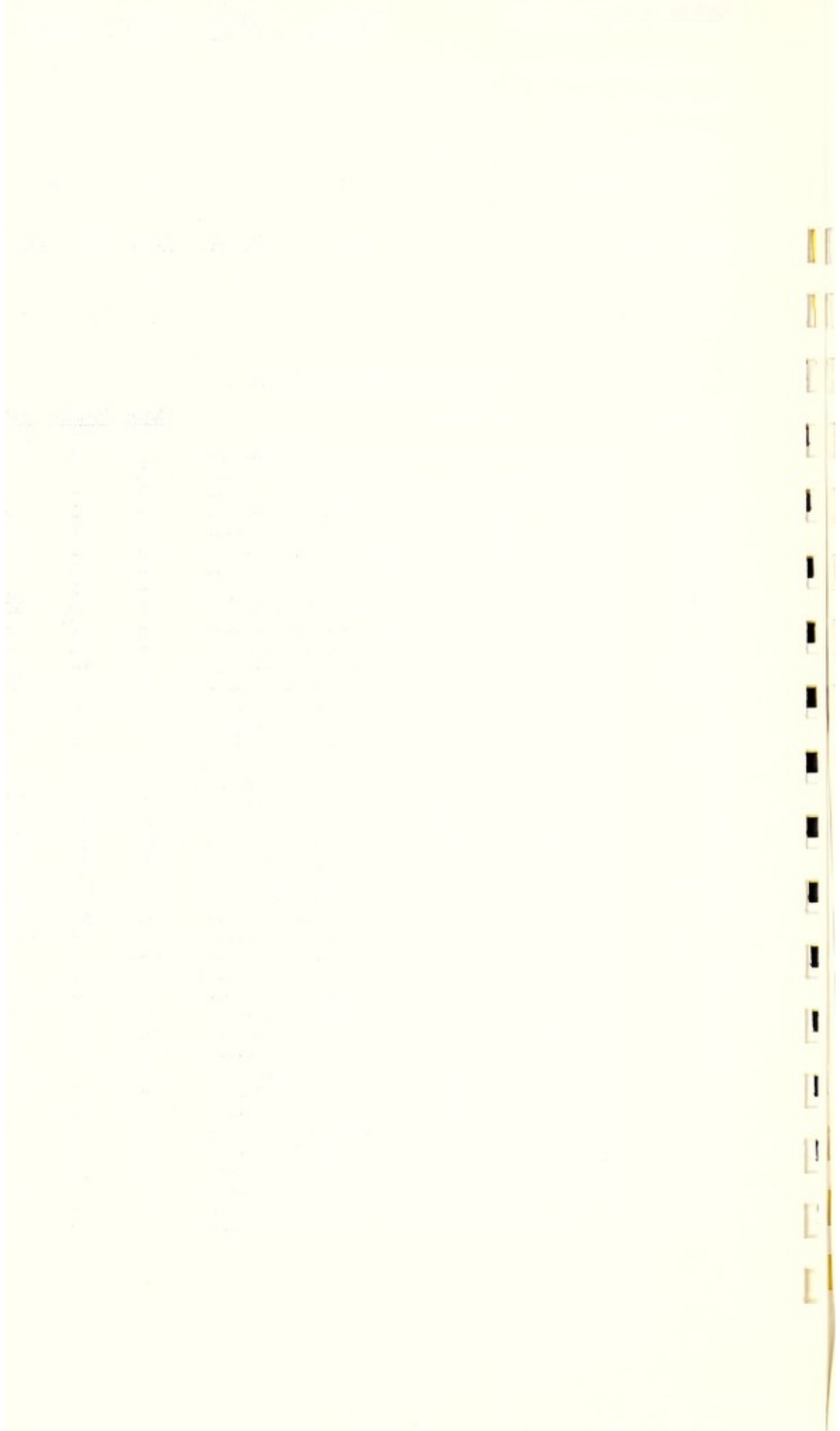
<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Deaths from all causes		160	205	363	387	332
Death rate per 1000 (corrected)				8.6	8.5	8.5
Average for England and Wales				11.9	11.9	11.2

<u>CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS</u>	<u>Under 24 hours.</u>	<u>Under 1 week</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks</u>	<u>1 - 12 months</u>
Congenital Abnormality	-	1	-	-
Prematurity	2	-	-	-
Asphyxia	1	-	-	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	1	-	-

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	1

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B4	Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases ...	-	1	1
B14	Measles	1	-	1
B18	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc., ...	-	1	1
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	4	4	8
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	1	4
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	1	5
B19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	-	1	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	2	10
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	6	6
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
B19(10)	Leukaemia	1	-	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	7	12
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
B23	Anaemias	1	-	1
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	-	2	2
B46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	2	4
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	1	3
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	6	8
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	35	32	67
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	11	23	34
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	20	36	56
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	7	12
B31	Influenza	4	6	10
B32	Pneumonia	18	39	57
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	4	12
B33(2)	Asthma	-	2	2
B34	Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
B35	Appendicitis	1	-	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	2
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
B46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	3	3
B42	Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.,	2	1	3
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal mortality	-	1	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2	7
BE48	All other Accidents	3	8	11
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	-	3
BE50	All Other External Causes	2	1	3



EPIDEMIOLOGY

Notification of Diseases

	1969	1968	1967	1966
Measles	37	31	310	91
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	2
Meningitis	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	2	2	2
Dysentery	1	-	13	2
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	2	6	5	5
Salmonella Typhimurium	-	-	-	2
Infective Hepatitis	-	2	-	-

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

a) B.C.G.

Year	No. of Children in selected group	Parental Refusal, Absent at Tuberculosis Testing or B.C.G. sessions.	Positives	B.C.G. Vaccinated
1969	-	-	-	-
1968	36	4	2	30

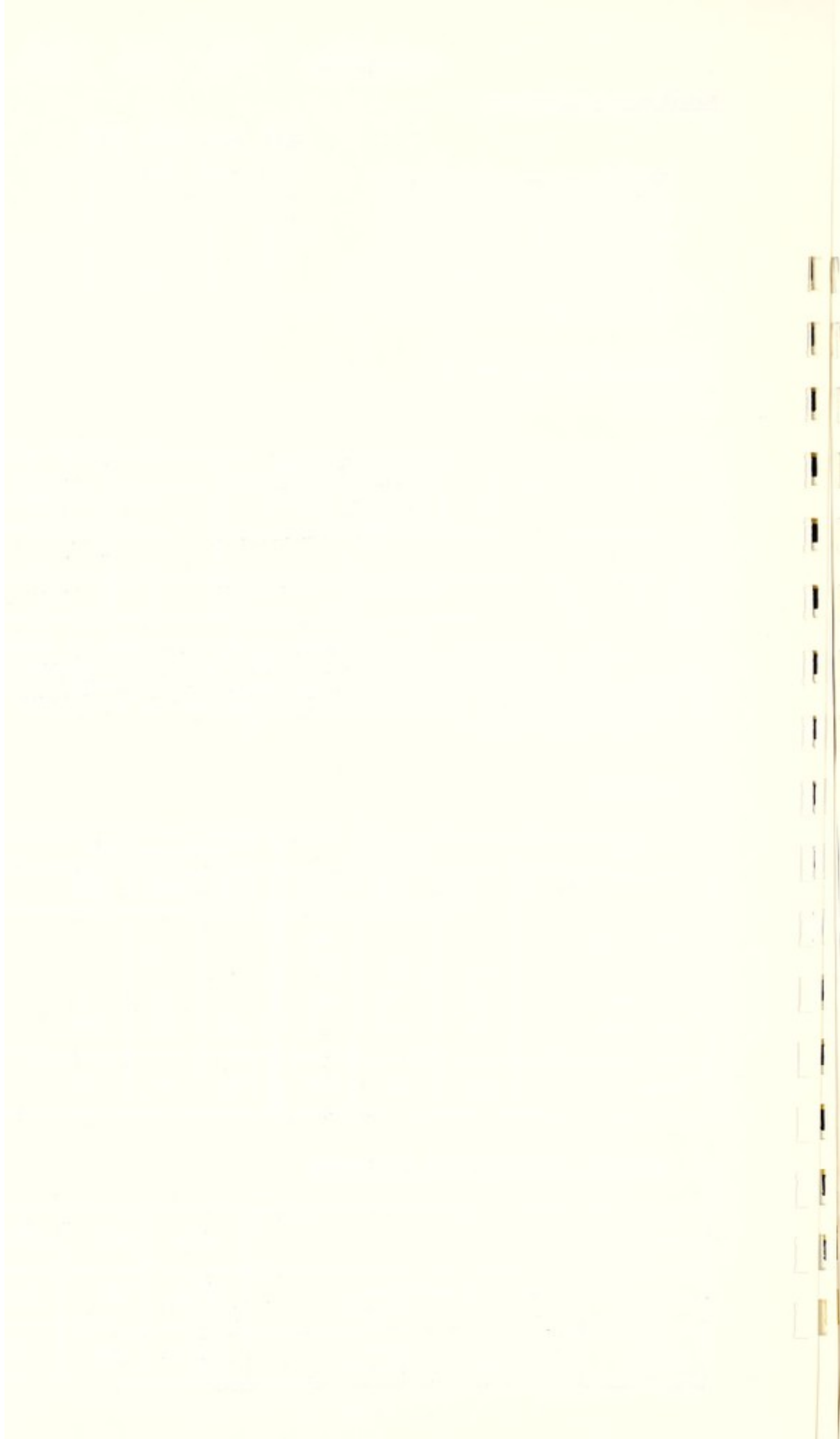
No. B.C.G. Vaccinations were undertaken during 1969 within the Rural District. This was due to the vaccination scheme having been suspended for the major part of the year to avoid any possibility of reaction arising in children who might be given both B.C.G. vaccinations and the measles vaccination close together.

b) SMALLPOX

Age	Primary			Re-Vaccination		
	1969	1968	1967	1969	1968	1967
Under 1 year	1	9	20	-	-	-
1 year	33	199	197	-	-	-
2-4 years	84	68	55	-	1	2
5-15 years	12	25	6	23	54	51
TOTAL	130	301	278	23	55	45

c) DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Course		1969	1968	1967
Primary	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	69 126) 195	317	410
Booster	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	149 326) 475	755	701



d) MEASLES

	<u>1 year</u>		<u>2-4 years</u>		<u>5-15 years</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968
General Practitioners	45	21	30	133	30	37	105	191
Local Authority Doctors	81	27	48	83	68	53	197	163
TOTAL	126	48	78	216	98	90	302	354

e) POLIOHYELITIS

		1969	1968	1967
Primary	General Practitioners	71	508	385
	Local Authority Doctors	161		
		232		
Booster	General Practitioners	136	378	301
	Local Authority Doctors	198		
		334		

X RAY

Year	Total No. X Rayed	No. of cases of Significant P.T. Discovered	Incidence of Sign. P.T. per 1,000 exams.
1969	1,228	5	4.0
1968	1,225	3	2.4

The following table indicates the incidence of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year :-

Year	Category 0		Category 1		Non-Tuberculosis	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1969	3	0	1	1	2	0
1968	1	0	1	1	2	3

The category 0 and 1 are according to the Ministry Definition, which is :-

- 0 - Cases of Tuberculosis referred to Chest Clinic or Hospitals and considered on investigation, to require close clinic treatment or supervision.
- 1 - Cases of Tuberculosis requiring occasional outpatient supervision only.



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - Health Visiting

The Health Visitor is informed of all births to mothers normally resident in the Rural District whether they occur inside or outside the rural boundary. They assist the mother and offer advice on all matters regarding immunisation and feeding, working at all times in close liaison with the family doctor to enable the child to receive the greatest benefit.

During the year, one Child Health Clinic ceased to operate. There are 13 Child Welfare Clinics situated in the Rural District. 10 of these clinics also have a doctor in attendance.

<u>No. of Children attending born in</u>			<u>Total No. of Children</u>	<u>Total Attendances</u>
<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>		
228	267	369	864	5,058

DISTRICT MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

	<u>Midwifery</u>			<u>Visits</u>			<u>General Cases</u>			<u>Visits</u>		
Basing	77	(27)	(9)	566	(492)	(339)	81	(76)	(86)	1626	(1230)	(2204)
Sherborne St. John	81	(13)	(18)	886	(177)	(391)	26	(13)	(38)	952	(1035)	(2301)
Preston Candover	25	(4)	(3)	115	(51)	(169)	52	(35)	(15)	986	(790)	(284)
Silchester	40	(25)	(10)	488	(430)	(415)	39	(28)	(62)	694	(807)	(862)
Upton Grey	4	(15)	(13)	208	(113)	(359)	36	(9)	(21)	680	(564)	(564)
Oakley	-	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	104	(108)	(109)	1700	(2461)	(2273)

Figures in brackets refer to 1968 and 1967

HOME HELP SERVICE

Applications									Weekly Case Load			Home Helps on Register 31.12.69		
Total Received and Investigated			Assisted			Advance Bookings								
1969	1968	1967	1969	1968	1967	1969	1968	1967	1969	1968	1967	1969	1968	1967
71	72	68	36	37	36	1	4	4	54	53	56	25	31	33

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951

There was no application under these Acts during the year.

OLD PEOPLES' WELFARE

Both the statutory and voluntary welfare services work individually and co-operate when necessary to bring the greatest benefit to the elderly people of the District. During the next year, the administration of this service will be administered centrally by the Hampshire Council of Social Service from Winchester.

VISITS, APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO WELFARE ACCOMMODATION

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
No. of cases visited	79	51	56
Applications	28	11	31
Admissions	24	9	18
Aged, Registered Handicapped Persons	29	29	22

INVESTIGATIONS MADE AND REFERRED TO :

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Ministry of Local Security	-	1	-
Hospital Bed Service	-	-	2
Home Help Organisation	1	-	3
Miscellaneous	18	12	14
Placed in Private Accommodation (under County Placement Scheme)	-	-	1
Visits in Relation to Group Dwelling Scheme - Cavalier Close, Basing	3	1	15
Protection of Property	2	-	1
Meals on Wheels	38	28	-
Section 47, National Assistance Act	3	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 is as follows :-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Private	1,759	219	73	108
Council	845	14	47	Nil

MAIN DRAINAGE

During the year the Chesham scheme and an extension to sewers at Oakley were completed. Ministry approval for the Monk Sherborne and Pamber Heath schemes to proceed was obtained.

WATER SUPPLY

Piped water is supplied by the Mid Southern Water Company and the Thames Valley Water Board. Two non-statutory undertakings provide piped supplies in the Candovers and Stratfield Saye. All supplies are bacteriologically and chemically satisfactory.

FOOD SUPPLIES

The Department continues to liaise with school kitchen supervisors, catering and hotel managers responsible for the large scale catering at establishments in the area.

For the time being existing facilities at Park Prewett Hospital will provide meals for the new hospital under construction.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-second annual report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Department.

FOOD PREMISES

Inspections regarding food and food premises were as follows:-

	<u>No. in District</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
General Provision Shops	50	94
Butchers Shops	5	19
Inns and Off Licences	42	51
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.,	7	36
Bakehouses	2	8
Registered Ice Cream Premises	64	112
Registered Sausage Manufacturers ..	4	15
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes ...	4	17
Premises Licensed for Sale of Milk.	20	41
Schools	20	18
Clubs	11	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	229	423
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Routine inspections continue to be made, with emphasis given to premises where open food is handled. In this connection, it was again noted that the amount of catering in public houses continued to increase. Indeed, many now use one of the bars as a dining room during the day and there is a tendency for permanent dining facilities to be provided.

Difficulties connected with the inadequacy of storage space in a shop recently constructed on a new housing estate were noted during routine inspection and it is difficult to see how this problem can be overcome. There is no control in the planning stage over the size of food premises and there is no direct infringement of Food Hygiene Regulations. The Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act regulates the air space for employees only, and has no bearing on food hygiene.

It has become a universal practice in recent years to provide flat or maisonette accommodation on new housing estates for essential shops e.g. grocers, butchers, newsagents and post offices and household supplies. It is readily apparent that the requirements for these shops in terms of space and layout are vastly different. Yet it is the usual practice to construct lock up shops of a shape and size governed by the design of the flats or maisonettes built above them. Thus, a butcher's requiring shop space, room for preparation and cold storage, and grocer's needing a large area for self service, space for warehousing and food preparation, for the reception of bulky goods and the storage of re-turnable containers, are offered the same accommodation as a shop wishing to sell newspapers and stationery. Invariably, food preparation and storage suffers and in no time, small sheds and back additions are formed to accommodate the overspill.

Since the shops required on estates are usually of the same type, developers' architects ought to design for individual requirements.



MILK SAMPLING

<u>Grade of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
Pasteurised	34
Untreated	4
	<hr/>
	38
	<hr/>

All samples were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district.

23 samples were taken from registered premises selling pre-packed ice cream and from travelling vendors. All were satisfactory.

HOUSING ACTS

Towards the end of the year, a re-survey of lower rated, pre-war houses was commenced to obtain information regarding unfitness, suitability for improvement and overcrowding. Early impressions are that only a small number of dwellings remain unfit and incapable of repair at reasonable cost, many lack amenities and are capable of improvement, and only exceptionally, is overcrowding present.

Improvement and Standard Grants

Enquiries regarding grants available for the improvement of property have increased considerably since more generous assistance became available under the Housing Act, 1969 and national publicity may have misled owners into believing that central heating systems, the replacement of worn out fittings and the rectification of minor defects now attracts grants from public funds. Many tenants remain unaware that they may request the Council to require landlords to improve houses which lack modern amenities and others, when informed of their rights, refrain from applying, fearing rent increases they cannot afford.

The Council has now approved 611 Discretionary and 318 Standard grants since legislation was introduced and this considerable number represents one quarter of the privately owned pre-war houses in the district.

Slum Clearance

During the year :-

- 3 houses were demolished
- 4 houses awaited demolition
- 7 houses became subject to owners' formal undertakings.

55 houses were repaired as a result of formal and informal action by the Council and its Officers.

One new case of overcrowding came to the notice of the department during the year, and the family were housed by the Council.

Housing Act, 1969

3 tenants made representation that dwellings lacked amenities and appropriate notices were served upon the owners and 3 applications for Qualification Certificates were received.



CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES

The Council agreed to provide an additional two standings on the Caravan site at Forest Lane, Pamber Heath and accommodation for 32 dwellings will be available. The site was fully occupied throughout the year, but a large number of applicants remained on the Council's waiting list at the end of the year.

At the same time the number of applications made for planning permission in respect of single caravans, continued unabated. Generally speaking, County policy not to grant permission was adhered to, but in cases where permission to station a caravan next to a relative's house was sought, temporary permission was granted. No application was received for permission to establish a large caravan site in spite of an obvious demand. In this respect, the County policy to discourage what is regarded as sub-standard accommodation is singularly successful. In view of the continued housing shortage, the high price of land and the difficulty experienced by young married couples to obtain a mortgage and in view of the revolution that has occurred in the design and construction of caravans, one questions whether this policy should not be reviewed. Modern caravans are provided almost invariably, with bathrooms, and W.C.'s and require nothing more than a flexible connection to main services. The days of the toilet block and bath house appear to be numbered. This may possibly encourage site operators to consider developing new sites.

One case of harassment was reported. Electricity was out, allegedly because of dangerous wiring, and repairs involving considerable inconvenience to the occupiers were proposed.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Inspection of premises during the year revealed remarkably little change either in the type of business or the number of people employed. Accidents reported were of a minor nature only. It is still found necessary to remind business owners of the requirements of the Act and indeed in many cases of the Act's existence. In all cases where plans are deposited for the construction of new premises or the alteration of existing premises, owners are notified of the requirements of the Act and their attention is drawn to deficiencies or errors in their proposals. Owners generally appreciate this information at this early stage and administration of the Act is made much easier.

There are 265 persons employed in 78 registered premises in the district. Approximately 75% of these are employed in retail shops, canteens etc., which received regular visits in respect of food hygiene. Most of the remainder are employed in small offices which continue to comply with requirements.

WATER SUPPLIES

All samples taken from ^{public} private supplies were proved satisfactory. There are still a number of isolated properties which rely on wells and rain water tanks. Several of the wells are sampled regularly as their purity remains doubtful.



Refuse and Salvage Collection

By the end of the year, 23 of the 34 parishes in the district were served by a weekly back-door paper sack collection and by the Autumn of 1970 the whole district will be transferred to this service.

With very few exceptions, householders appreciate the improved service the Council has introduced and in particular the discontinuance of 'kerbside' collections, but it is unfortunate that some mis-use the paper and plastic sacks for purposes other than refuse and salvage containers. Employees prefer collecting paper sacks to dustbins, but find the additional walking involved more tiring. The development of new estates, a general increase in the volume of refuse, together with absenteeism and above average sickness among employees, placed the regular weekly service the ratepayers expect under severe strain, at times. Difficulties remained in recruiting and retaining suitable labour and, with more congenial and remunerative employment so readily available in the locality, little improvement can be foreseen.

Standard Bedford open lorries used for collections are much less costly to maintain than conventional refuse vehicles fitted with complicated mechanical equipment. Each load of refuse is weighed at the destructor and, based upon readings taken since last October, it is estimated that some 4,320 tons are collected annually. In addition the Council undertakes the collection free of charge of bulky household articles, and this does much to prevent spoliation of the countryside.

Refuse Disposal

Since the Autumn when the Corporation's Destructor commenced receiving crude refuse, Marnel Dell has been used only for the disposal of about 120/140 tons of destructor ash weekly and for incombustible material. The latter consists mainly of trade refuse for which charges are imposed, and bulky household articles collected by both Councils on special collections or as part of Civic Amenities Act responsibilities.

During the year the following materials were salvaged :-

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
	Tons	
Paper	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	} £1,316.
Rags	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Metal	13	

Cesspool Emptying Service

It is unlikely that demands made upon this service will begin to decrease until the Bramley main drainage scheme is completed. In due course, and after proposed schemes in several other parishes are in operation, the Council will probably wish to consider whether charges for this work can be discontinued. In the meantime work is performed at the following rates :-

In the Financial Year : 1st and 2nd loads	£2. 0s. Od. each
3rd/5th loads	£1. 11s. Od. each
6th/10th loads	15s. Od. each
11th load	10s. Od.
12th and subsequent loads	5s. Od. each.

cont'd ...



Cesspool Emptying Service cont'd ...

For the first time since this service commenced, disposal difficulties have eased. The Corporation's sewers are used regularly for this purpose, and the Council has by agreement with an owner, disposed of vehicles' contents by broad irrigation on land at Wootton St. Lawrence. In addition local loads are discharged into convenient pits at Dummer and Preston Candover and on arable land when convenient to farmers.

Lay-Bys

In April, the Public Health Committee considered the condition of lay-bys on major roads in the district and in July, by arrangement with the County Council, provided sack holders and containers and commenced the twice weekly removal of litter.

80% of the labour and transport costs are recovered from the County Council. This service has done much to improve the condition of the lay-bys, but in particular those sited on trunk roads continue to receive regular attention from vandals.

Several lay-bys provide popular overnight stays for long distant haulage drivers and for caravanners. Large quantities of refuse are produced and much of the serious fouling of adjoining land and hedgerows can be attributed to them. A few years ago the Council considered the cost of providing and maintaining mobile toilets on lay-bys to be excessive. It is probably inopportune to reconsider this decision for the time being, as the opening of the M3 motorway is likely considerably to reduce the volume of traffic now using the A.30 road.

Coronation Road Depot

Adequate welfare facilities are available for employees at this depot which continued to meet the Council's needs.

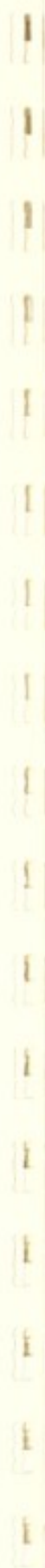
PEST CONTROL

Conducive weather conditions during Autumn and Winter together with an abundance of acorns and other foods, resulted in an increase in rat infestations, particularly in fields and woodlands.

It was disconcerting to learn that warfarin resistant rats have been detected only a short distance from our north-western boundary. As rats are known to advance about three miles annually and one pair produces four litters each of seven or eight young and these too, begin breeding at an age of three months, there is a distinct possibility that migrations into this area will follow, but indications so far, are that efforts to contain them have been successful.

No doubt research being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will produce an alternative to warfarin, that is equally harmless to other animals, but in the meantime alternative poisons will be used as the occasion arises.

In December the Council decided to continue to treat other pest infestations such as wasps, flies, cockroaches and ants free of charge where a health hazard is involved, but in other cases a standing charge of £1. per treatment is made.



MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEMES

During the year the main drainage scheme at Chineham and a sewer extension at Oakley were completed, and with few exceptions, householders wasted little time in availing themselves of these facilities.

Ministry approval for the Monk Sherborne and Pamber Heath schemes to proceed was obtained. The Council approved a scheme to serve 92 properties at Cliddesden with connection to Corporation sewers, and instructed Consultants to prepare a scheme for Little London drainage to discharge into the Bramley system.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

By the end of the year the Basingstoke Borough refuse destructor was in full operation and no difficulties were experienced with regard to grit and dust emission.

The only furnaces installed during the year were in factories and warehouses immediately adjoining the Borough of Basingstoke and directly connected with town expansion. In all cases the furnaces were oil fired.

Complaints were again made regarding smoke emitted in connection with a charcoal burning business in the north of the district, although it is sited approximately half a mile from the nearest village. It is difficult to see how this process can be conducted without infringing the requirements of the Clean Air Act, but the proprietor of the site is attempting some experimental work, in an endeavour to design a smokeless furnace. From enquiries that have been made it appears that none of the bodies directly concerned with clean air had any detailed knowledge of the problems connected with this rural industry.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

As anticipated, complaints were received regarding roadworks in connection with the construction of the M.3 motorway. Other complaints were of a more domestic nature arising usually from barking dogs or from people being thoughtless in the use of tools or machinery. In no case was it found necessary to serve a notice.

M.3 MOTORWAY

In view of the number of different aspects in which this department has become involved in connection with the construction of the motorway through the district it was felt this should receive special mention.

Initially, during site clearance a pall of black smoke was seen almost daily as result of the use of old motor tyres to facilitate the burning of scrub and other rubbish. The quantity of tyres used by contractors engaged in this type of work appears to be out of all proportion to the amount of rubbish to be burned. That this practice contravened to Clean Air Act was ignored.

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The noise of earthmoving equipment operating during the entire hours of day light was considerable and it was apparent that complaints of nuisance would be received. Fortunately, the motorway crosses the southern part of the district where the density of population is lowest.

Noise readings taken on a typical day outside one house affected showed peak readings of 85 dBa at intervals of 1 minute against a normal reading of 60 dBa. Noise levels inside the house with all doors and windows closed (on a hot day) were 65 dBa on average with peaks of 70 dBa.

Complaints were also made regarding the large quantities of chalk dust arising from the roadworks.

The contractor's main offices and depot were sited in the area involving the erection of several mobile office buildings, a canteen, toilet facilities and associated services and the Council were asked to arrange for the emptying of the cesspit provided.

Canteen facilities on this type of site are often primitive and require constant supervision.

On arrival of the main labour force, a large number of caravans were stationed along the route of the motorway. As accommodation for persons employed on engineering operations stationed on or adjoining land on which the operations were being carried out, these sites were exempt from licensing under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. No application for the withdrawal of this exemption was made to the Ministry as the caravans were generally provided with similar facilities to those which would normally have been required under conditions of licence. In one case, permission was sought to use land away from the motorway as a caravan site. Temporary permission was granted and provision has been made for a mains water supply and water closets with cesspit drainage.

There have been many problems, but the Contractor's agents have so far proved co-operative. Since the motorway is not due to open until 1971, problems are likely to continue to arise.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT AND REMOVAL OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS

Under this heading the Council arranges regular collections of bulky household articles free of charge. Much of this work involves overtime.

In addition, abandoned vehicles are removed from the highway, stored pending enquiries regarding ownership, and eventually disposed of. During 1969, 19 vehicles were removed from highways and a further 61 were collected by a vehicle breaker.

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My thanks are due to the staff of the Public Health Department for the ready help and support I have received in all matters.

P. C. BOX
Chief Public Health Inspector



