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BOROUGH OF BECCLES



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1964

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

FORUM OF THE

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B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1964

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	H.E. NUTTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 12th February, 1965)
ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	A.C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Lowestoft Corporation, Clapham Road, Lowestoft. (From 13.2.65)
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	E.H. CRANMER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
MEAT INSPECTORS (part-time)	J.C. TAYLOR, M.R.C.V.S. (Retired 31st December, 1964)
	P.F. ROE, M.R.C.V.S.
	P.A. WEETMAN, M.R.C.V.S. (Resigned 31st May, 1964)
	W.T. JAMES, B.V.M.S., M.R.C.V.S. (From 1st June, 1964)

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

JUNE, 1965.

Tel. No. Beccles 3113.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1922

1922



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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BOROUGH OF BECCLES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1964.

Dr. Nutton, having taken up another appointment in February, 1965, left the Borough before the time came round when this report was due for preparation. As your present Acting Medical Officer, the presentation of this report falls to me and being unaware of the details of the work of the Health Department during 1964, I can comment only on the statistics presented in the report.

The estimated mid-1964 population shows a rise once again, and reference to the Tables of Comparative Statistics will show that this rise continues a trend, which has gone on steadily for the past few years.

The Adjusted Birth Rate for the year is 18.0 which compares very favourably with that of 18.4 for England and Wales as a whole. The Adjusted Death Rate is 10.47 which again compares favourably with that of 11.3 for England and Wales.

Of the causes of death, those associated with diseases of the heart and blood vessels top the list as is customary these days, with the various forms of cancer taking second place. There were two deaths from motor accidents within the Borough during 1964.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was low throughout the year.

It is difficult to make any significance of the variations in the numbers of still births, and the deaths of infants within the various age groups, as these numbers are so small. No great variation however, occurs in the present group of statistics.

It is pleasing to note that there have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

I have been interested to hear of the Meals on Wheels Service run in Beccles by the Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence. Miss Pamela M. Hardy, the Centre Organiser, tells me that during the year, 55 people have been provided twice weekly with a total of 3,603 meals.

I congratulate them on this splendid example of voluntary social service. Its value lies not only in the actual meals provided, but the friendly chat and the frequent unrecorded acts of kindness to the senior citizens of the Borough.

The more detailed aspect of the Sanitary Work of the Borough during the year is shown in the Public Health Inspector's report, included herein.

May I take this opportunity of expressing to him my appreciation of his help and co-operation during this, and the previous periods when I have had the pleasure of being your Acting Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1964

ARTHUR C. GEE
Acting Medical Officer of Health

AREA HEALTH OFFICE,
LOWESTOFT,
SUFFOLK.

June, 1965.

Tel. Lowestoft 2171.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total	76	50	126
Legitimate	75	46	121
Illegitimate	1	4	5
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total	2	1	3
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	--	--	--
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	3	1	4
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	--	--	--
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total	3	1	4
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	--	--	--
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE</u>			
Total	3	--	3
Legitimate	3	--	3
Illegitimate	--	--	--
DEATHS - ALL AGES	48	42	90

<u>RATES</u>	Beccles M.B.	England & Wales
Adjusted Birth Rate	18.0	--
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..	11.9	11.3
Adjusted Death Rate	10.47	--

Comparability Factor (Births) 1.08
 Comparability Factor (Deaths) 0.88

Causes of Infant Deaths

Congenital Malformations - One Female
 Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases - Three Male

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	--	--	--
2. Tuberculosis, other	--	--	--
3. Syphilitic disease	--	--	--
4. Diphtheria	--	--	--
5. Whooping Cough	--	--	--
6. Meningococcal infections	--	--	--
7. Acute poliomyelitis	--	--	--
8. Measles	--	--	--
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	--	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	--	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	4	--	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	--	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	--	--	--
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	6	2	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	--	1
16. Diabetes	1	--	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	7	8	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	8	7	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	--	--	--
20. Other heart disease	7	6	13
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	4	6
22. Influenza	--	--	--
23. Pneumonia	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	--	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .	--	--	--
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	--	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	--	--	--
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	--	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	--	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	--	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	--	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34. All other accidents	1	--	1
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	--	--	--
TOTAL	48	42	90

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life During 1964

	Age in Years										TOTAL		
	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74		75 and over	
MALES	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	9	28	48	
FEMALES	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	3	14	19	42	
												TOTAL	90

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS 1954-1964

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION</u>
1954	1	1	2	0.28
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	-	-	-	-
1959	4	-	4	0.57
1960	2	1	3	0.43
1961	3	-	3	0.40
1962	5	-	5	0.68
1963	2	-	2	0.27
1964	4	-	4	0.53
TOTAL	25	4	29	

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE : COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar-General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas, and therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar-General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population affects its comparison by sex and age groups are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS & PERCENTAGES

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	<u>NO. OF DEATHS</u>		<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	
	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Diseases of circulatory system	56	34	44.80	37.77
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	15	19.20	16.66
Malignant diseases	16	18	12.80	20.00
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	10	3	8.00	3.33
Influenza	---	---	---	---
All other causes	19	20	15.20	22.24
TOTAL	125	90	100.00	100.00

In 1964, 74% of all deaths fell under the first three headings. The comparable figure for 1963 was 76% and for 1962 was 80%.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	Y E A R													
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Population	6,829	6,965	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000	6,980	6,960	6,960	7,040	7,330	7,400	7,440	7,520
No. of houses inhabited	2,400	2,427	2,520	2,550	2,580	2,590	2,603	2,606	2,641	2,637	2,690	2,739	2,748	2,805
No. of live births	78	99	99	95	75	87	96	100	99	88	115	113	104	126
Birth Rate (Crude)	11.4	14.3	14.2	13.5	10.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3	14.2	12.5	15.6	15.3	16.7
No. of Still Births	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	1	3	3	3
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Infant Mortality rate	12.8	30.3	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	0	30.3	22.7	17.4	17.7	19.2	31.0
(No. of Deaths)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(4)
No. of Deaths (all ages)	108	92	82	103	107	112	81	95	97	81	97	104	125	90
Death Rate (Crude)	15.8	13.4	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6	13.9	11.5	13.2	14.0	16.8	11.9

NUMBER OF ALL CONFIRMED CASES OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1964 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

AGE	SCARLET FEVER			SONNE DYSENTERY			MEASLES			WHOOPING COUGH			PUERPERAL PYREXIA		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Under 1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	1

TOTAL = 9

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	SCARLET FEVER	SONNE DYSENTERY	MEASLES	WHOOPING COUGH	PUERPERAL PYREXIA
January	-	-	-	-	-
February	1	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	3	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-	-
June	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	1	-	-
September	-	-	-	1	-
October	1	-	-	1	-
November	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	2	3	1	2	1

TOTAL - 9

TUBERCULOSIS	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1963	23	3	6	4	36
No. of cases added during the year	1	--	--	--	1
No. of cases removed during the year	4	--	2	--	6
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1964	20	3	4	4	31

<u>CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER</u>		<u>CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER</u>	
New notifications	1	Recovered	3
Inward transfers	--	Died	--
		Removed to other areas	3
TOTAL	1	TOTAL	6

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	--	--
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	62	--	--
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	--	--	--	--
TOTAL	54	63	--	--

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

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

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There were four outworkers, three engaged on the stitching of leather gloves, and one on the making of wearing apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1964

To :-

His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Beccles Borough Council.

I present my sixteenth Annual Report since my appointment in May 1949 as the Council's Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Acts

Provision of Drainage and Sewerage

The Council's policy of progressively extending the availability of sewerage in the Borough was completed during 1964. Negotiations in respect of the few properties not yet connected are in progress.

There will remain only six properties which have not water borne sewerage available to them; they are in isolated positions where its provision would mean a vast expenditure for a very limited improvement.

The virtual disappearance of pail closets and the "night soil cart" from the Beccles scene must be a source of great satisfaction to the Council.

Sewage Disposal

The inadequate and outmoded sewage disposal system of the Borough has been a source of comment in successive Annual Reports, perhaps to the point of tedium. It is a matter of regret that, due to no fault of the Council, it is still not possible to say that structural work has started.

Last minute difficulties are in the process of being resolved, and it is earnestly to be hoped that this long-overdue improvement in the environmental health services of the Borough will shortly be started.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection and disposal are the responsibility of the Borough Engineer, Mr. S.C. Bromley, M.I.M.E., M.I.H.E.

Collection is weekly, and disposal is by controlled tipping on the Council's Marsh Estate.

Water Supply

Under the Government's policy for the amalgamation of Water Authorities into larger units, the East Anglian Water Company assumed control of the supply and distribution of water throughout the Borough in April, 1962.

The provision of a mains supply of water throughout Beccles has progressed steadily in recent years, and as a result, piped

water is available to all except six properties, which are all in isolated positions. Since under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1961 the maximum sum which an owner can be required to expend on the provision of piped water is £60, there is no further action which the Council can take, as none of the properties could be connected for that sum.

The following information is supplied by Mr. John M. Boon, F.C.I.S., F.I.A.C., Manager of the East Anglian Water Company. We are grateful to him and his staff, not only for this information, but for their ready co-operation and immediate and willing service throughout the year;

"The supply has been everywhere satisfactory in quantity and quality.

"Four bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water from the Barsham Bores and twenty-two examinations were made of the water going into supply. All these analyses gave satisfactory results. The result of a recent chemical analysis of the treated water follows this report. The fluoride content of the water is about 0.2 parts per million.

"The water supplied to Beccles does not have a plumbo-solvent action which would be injurious to health.

"No new cases of contamination of the raw water or of the water distributed to the public arose during 1964.

"We have 2,776 domestic supplies for the population of Beccles of 7,520.

"There are no supplies by means of stand-pipes in Beccles."

Typical Chemical Analysis

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD LTD.

Clarence House,
6 Clarence Road,
NORWICH.

4th February, 1965.

Raw

Appearance	clear
Copper	very faint trace
Deposit	nil
Colour	nil
Taste	satisfactory
pH	7.2

Parts per million

Chloride as Chlorine	54
Total Hardness	330
Temporary Hardness	235
Permanent Hardness	95
Free Carbon Dioxide	17
Iron	0.17

Nitrogen

Ammoniacal	0.03
Albuminoid	0.02
Nitrate	0.5

This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution.

The analysis as a whole is satisfactory and in our opinion this water is fit for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincoln Sutton & Wood Ltd.
(Signed) Eric C. Wood.

Smoke Abatement

The Borough is fortunate in that its industries are "clean" from the smoke producing point of view, and it cannot be said that the pollution of the air by "soot, ash, grit or gritty particles" (to quote the Public Health Act) is a major problem.

There are odd industrial chimneys which periodically cause temporary nuisance, but this is usually found to be due to bad stoking techniques.

There can be little doubt that the open domestic fire is the major cause of smoke production, but generally speaking, Beccles is fortunate in the cleanliness of its atmosphere.

Bathing Pool

At the request of the Ministry of Health, a description of the Council's Bathing Pool is given.

It is situated in Puddingmoor by the River Waveney near the centre of the town, measures 100 ft. x 50 ft. and is 3 ft. deep at the shallow end. There is a 12 ft. diving pit at the deep end. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete, finished in blue enamel, with a perimeter scum channel. There is concrete decking, with turf and flower beds surrounding. There are footbaths at the entrance to the pool, and spectators are separated from the surround by a guard rail. Electricity and mains water supply are available.

The pool is filled at the beginning of the season by mains water supply. Treatment is by filtration, aeration cascade and breakpoint chlorination, with chemical dosage of soda and alumina to control pH. The water is changed every seven hours at a rate of 524 gallons per minute. "Topping up" is from the mains water supply.

The sanitary accommodation at the Pool is somewhat primitive, as there was no sewer available when it was built in 1959. Now that Puddingmoor is sewered, the Council as the Public Health Authority, will no doubt wish to set a good example by providing decent toilet and washing facilities at the earliest possible moment.

The water in the Pool was sampled regularly and both Chemical and Bacteriological reports were uniformly satisfactory, the following being typical :-

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Woodbridge Road,
IPSWICH.

4th June, 1964.

Report on Bacteriological Examination of Water sample from the Council Bathing Pool, Puddingmoor.

Probable No. of Coliform
Bacilli per 100 ml.

Plate Count
24 hours at 37°C.

NIL

NIL

(Signed) J.M.S. Dixon

Typical Chemical Analysis

"pH	8.1
Free residual chlorine	4.0 parts per million
Combined residual chlorine	1.0 " " "
Total residual chlorine	5.0 " " "

These results are satisfactory"

for Lincoln Sutton & Wood Ltd.
(Signed) Eric C. Wood

When they recall the condition of the water in which the youth of the Borough learned to swim but a few years ago, the Council cannot but feel a modest pride in the improvement they have effected.

One enterprising local school, primarily by the efforts of its staff, and pupils and their parents, has provided its own Pool, complete with circulating, chlorinating and water heating equipment. Mr. R.E. Law, the County Health Inspector, has advised on Public Health implications there, and he reports what a first rate job is being done.

Housing

The Provision of Houses

During the year, the Council completed four blocks containing a total of 42 flats.

The Council now owns 724 dwellings.

A total of 29 houses was built by private enterprise.

The demolition of the pre-fab housing estate at Clerk's Piece was almost completed, and discussions are in progress as to the type of Municipal housing which should replace them.

The Housing Officer (Mr. J.A. Scettrino) reports that there were some 151 applicants for Council accommodation at the end of 1964, and that they were being re-housed between two and three years after making application, with priority being given in cases of extreme urgency.

When one considers the number of houses built by the Council and private enterprise since the War, it is at first thought surprising that any demand for housing accommodation still remains. The explanation is, of course, that families are much smaller than some years ago, and are quite rightly demanding separate homes. The average number of persons per house in Beccles in 1964 was 2.7.

The Demolition of Unfit Houses

Demolition Orders were served in respect of three houses during the year, and six houses were demolished.

A summary of the work of Slum Clearance since the War is as follows :-

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under the Housing Acts - 66

Houses thoroughly re-conditioned as an alternative to Demolition - 4

Premises the Subject of Demolition Orders vacated but not yet demolished - 13

Condemned property still occupied - 6

Closing Orders on Parts of Buildings - 4

—
93

Not only has this work resulted in the removal of the occupiers of the worst houses in the Borough to decent houses, but it has enabled worthwhile developments in the way of re-building, car park provision, road improvement and the provision of open spaces to be effected.

The Repair of Unfit Houses

Notices were served requiring works of repair in forty-two instances, and it was possible to secure compliance without resorting to statutory action.

Improvement Grants

Standard Grants were made in 17 instances, and Discretionary Grants in 27.

They were almost all in respect of owner-occupied houses, and the fact must be faced that in Beccles as throughout the country, there are far too many rented houses without such rudimentary amenities as a bath or a constant hot water supply, and that Improvement Grants are making little impression on the problem.

It will be interesting to see whether the "Improvement Area" provisions of the Housing Act 1964 will hasten the day when a fixed bath is universally deemed to be as necessary as a television set.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1958

Most food preparing establishments were visited during the year, though it was not possible to devote the time to this work which is desirable.

The co-operation of the owners of food preparing premises in rectifying matters when their attention was drawn to them was very much appreciated.

Milk Supply and Dairies

There are two large Dairies in the Borough with modern pasteurising, bottle washing and filling equipment. The primary responsibility for the inspection of such premises rests on the County Council, and the closest liaison was maintained with their Officers.

The third Dairy, being that of a producer of tuberculin-tested milk, is controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Council has no jurisdiction over it.

Slaughterhouses

There were three slaughterhouses in operation in the Borough during 1964.

Two were relatively small establishments, serving local butchers' shops supplying meat to Beccles and the immediately surrounding area.

The third was built in 1958 and is among the largest in East Anglia, almost all of its products being distributed not only throughout this country, but also to the Continent.

As a result of the implementation of the Slaughterhouse Act 1958, they are all in a satisfactory state, and include cold storage accommodation.

Meat Inspection

This duty continues to increase yearly, and to demand the almost full-time attention of one of the Council's officials. During 1964, there was an increase of over 50% in the total number of carcasses inspected (from 24,227 to 37,262).

It is carried out on alternate weeks by the Council's Public Health Inspector and one or more of their part-time Veterinary Officers.

As far as the Public Health Inspector is concerned, he is still virtually a half-time official for all duties other than meat inspection.

Representations were made that the increase in the work, and the more exacting demands of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, had resulted in the adequate coverage both of meat inspection and other Public Health duties being a physical impossibility, and the Council hopes shortly to implement certain proposals which will improve the position.

The Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 authorise a Local Authority to charge for the services of its Inspectors when engaged on meat inspection, and the Council was re-imbursed for its expenses on this work during the year.

It would obviously be unfair if the cost of inspecting meat - practically none of which is consumed in the Borough - fell on the ratepayers, but it should in my opinion be met by Exchequer Grant. It puts an Inspector in a thoroughly undignified position if the value of his services is the subject of bargaining between his employer and the person whose meat he is inspecting. It is greatly to be regretted the demonstrable independence which he formerly enjoyed has been eroded in this way.

The following are details of meat inspection carried out during 1964, in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. killed	9,585	286	4,645	22,746	37,262
No. inspected	9,585	286	4,645	22,746	37,262

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcasses condemned	75	11	20	164
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,419	4	167	1,884
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	25.8%	5.2%	4.0%	9.0%

<u>Tuberculosis only</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcasses condemned	---	---	---	1
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	16	1	---	184
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.16%	0.34%	---	0.81%

Cysticercosis

Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration	4	---	---	---
Generalised and totally condemned	---	---	---	---

It will be noted that the decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis found in the course of routine meat inspection continues.

The Common Lane Abattoir has been used by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the reception of animals suspected on ante-mortem examination to be suffering from Tuberculosis, and the Council's Inspectors have been pleased to cooperate in the post-mortem examinations.

This accounts for the fact that Tuberculosis still figures in the condemnations of bovine organs, for in no instance was Tuberculosis found in a bovine other than those admitted because it was suspected that they were suffering from the disease.

With the exception of one carcass found to be affected with generalised Tuberculosis, the disease in pigs was invariably localised lesions of the sub-maxillary, or mesenteric lymph nodes, usually isolated "pin-head" lesions.

Other Foods

Approximately 200 items of foodstuffs were voluntarily submitted to the Public Health Department during the year, and where appropriate were certified as being unfit for human consumption and condemned.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Condemned meat from slaughterhouses was stained and disposed of in the By-Products Plant in Common Lane, where it is converted for industrial use, fertilizer or animal feeding.

Certain organs are kept in a cold store under lock and key for use for pharmaceutical purposes.

Other condemned foodstuffs are rendered inedible, burned and buried on the Council's refuse tip.

Rodent Control

The Council employs one full-time Rodent Operator, who also assists in numerous other duties, such as the destruction of wasps' nests, fly and mosquito control, and the disinfection and disinfection of premises.

The sewers of the Borough were surveyed in detail and treated twice during the year in an effort to reduce rat infestation.

Factories Act 1957

There are 53 factories in the Borough with Mechanical Power and one without.

The duties of Local Authority Inspectors under the Factories Act in respect of powered factories are trivial, and there would seem to be no logical reason why they should not be transferred to Her Majesty's Factories Inspectorate, following the precedent set by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. No notices were served in respect of provisions enforceable by the Council.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

This Act came partially into effect on 1st October, 1964, and work on it was largely confined to collecting the relevant information in respect of premises to which it applies in the Borough.

The following registrations were received :

Offices	122
Retail Shops	389
Wholesale Depts., Warehouses	16
Catering Establishments open to the Public	26
Fuel Storage Depots	15
	—
Total	<u>568</u>

June, 1965.

E.H. CRANMER
Public Health Inspector



