# [Report 1961] / Medical Officer of Health, Biggleswade R.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

Biggleswade (England). Rural District Council.

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BIGGLESWADE RURAL

COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

for the year 1961.



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

H. W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector



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# TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the Biggleswade Rural District for 1961.

The vital statistics in the first part of the report indicate a generally satisfactory state of affairs; the birth rate being above and the death rate substantially below, the National average. The infant mortality and peri-natal rates were exceptionally low and the maternal mortality rate again nil.

The only infectious disease that was at all prevalent during the year, was Measles and this, unfortunately, caused the death of one child, the first from this disease for many years.

Although there was a continued reduction in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified, the deaths from this disease registered, have not shown any diminuation recently. This is accounted for by the presence of long stay hospitals in the area and does not reflect the state of health of the local population.

In addition to maintaining the immunity of the population against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, the County Council under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, is now also giving protection against Tetanus and Poliomyelitis. No cases of the latter disease has occurred in this district since 1957.

Water supplies in the district continue to be satisfactory. The seven largest villages are now on main drainage and schemes are in hand for connection of another eight parishes.

The amount of meat slaughtered at the slaughterhouse at Arlesey continues to occupy a great deal of the time of our meat inspectors. Nevertheless, it has been possible to achieve One hundred per cent inspections. The amount of meat condemned as a result of these inspections shows how necessary this service still is.

The standard of Food Hygiene practised by food handlers in the district generally, is fairly satisfactory, but there are exceptions and these will need frequent visiting to improve their methods.

We are now having to care for an ever-increasing number

/of very

of very old and feeble persons and when relatives are unable to take them into their homes, it is humanly and financially preferable to keep these people in the community as long as possible, rather than banish them to Geriatric Hospitals and Old People's Homes. Their special needs have been occupying the attention of the Housing Committee during the year and it is hoped that provision will be made for them in the way of specially constructed, labour-saving dwellings where help can be given to them and where they can be assisted to maintain an independent life for much longer than has previously been possible.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their indulgence and the Council staff for their help and co-operation during the year, and particularly Mr. Pridmore, who has been responsible for the major part of the year's work recorded in this Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. BURY

Medical Officer of Health.

# BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1961.

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# 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres			49,153
Registrar General's estimate of home	popula	tion	
mid-year 1961			28,020
Number of inhabited houses			7,890
Rateable value			£246,537
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			£1.020

# 2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is mainly agricultural and is famous for it's market gardening industry.

Small industry includes light engineering, brick making, milling and the manufacture of fertilizers over 25 scattered parishes.

Several villages such as Potton, Shefford and Arlesey and Stotfold are quite large; others like Astwick and Eyeworth are only very small hamlets.

Housing generally is poor by modern standards; much of it is early Victorian terraced type and old rural cottage property.

The area is very prosperous and employment is plentiful.

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# 3. VITAL STATISTICS

# LIVE BIRTHS

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate				248	234	482
Illegitimate				13	9_	22
			Total	261	243	504
Crude birth r Adjusted birt Birth rate fo	h rate	per 1,	OOO Home		18 19 17	.4

# STILL BIRTHS

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate		 	6	4	10
TITESTOTURGE	•••	 			
		Total	6	4	10
Still Birth R Still Birth R					9.5 3.7

# DEATHS

			Males	Females	Total
All causes			 176	146	322
Crude death	oility E	actor	 		1.5 0.89
Adjusted deat Death rate for		-	populatio		0.2 2.0

# DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality ... Nil per 1,000 total live and still births.

Although the for 1,000 days produced about 19.00 ... 19.00 and the special state of the speci

# STATES ALTER

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#### DIFFERENCE

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# Vital statistics continued .....

# DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE Y ARS OF AGE

				Males	Femal	es	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate	:::		:::	2	1	_	3
		Total		_2_	_1		3_
Rate for all Rate for Engl				births	:::	6.0	
Neo-natal Mor (deaths unde	-		1,000 to	tal live b	irths)	4.0	
Early Neo-nat (deaths unde				al live bi	rths)	2.0	
Peri-natal Mo (Stillbirths per 1,000	and de	aths ur				21.4	

# STATISTICAL TABLE 1952 - 1961

	DEATH R	ATE	BIRTH R	ATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE		
Year	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales		
1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961	9.1 10.6 12.2 13.2 11.4 9.4 9.7 9.6 10.7 10.2	11.3 11.4 11.3 11.7 11.7 11.5 11.7 12.6	13.4 14.4 15.9 14.2 16.2 16.7 16.7 15.5 17.1	15.3 15.5 15.2 15.0 15.7 16.1 16.9 16.5 17.1	25.0 15.9 25.5 8.0 17.2 22.2 23.8 9.4 13.8 6.0	27.6 26.8 25.5 24.9 23.8 23.0 22.5 22.0 21.7 21.4		

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# PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - 1961

		der	16	-65		ver 65	TO	TAL
	М	F	М	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	_	_	3	_	_	1	3	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	_	- 1	_	_	-	_	1 =	_
3. Syphilitic disease	-	- 1	_	-	1	-	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	- !	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
9. Other infective and parasitic								
disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	2	1	4	1	6	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lungs Bronch	18 -	-	4	1	7	-	11	3.
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic								
neoplasm	-	-	8	6	8	7	16	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous								
system	-	-	3	4	26	25	29	29
18. Coronary disease, angina	-	-	11	4	16	24	27	28
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	2	2	2	-	4	2
20. Other heart disease	-	-	2	1	22	19	24	20
21. Other circulatory disease	-	-	3	1	2	1	5	2
22. Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-	3 3	-	3	16	6	16
24. Bronchitis	-	-	3	-	9	2	12	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory								
system	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis & Diarrhoea	1	-	1	-	1	1	3	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostrate	-	-	-		2	-	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined							1 -	-
discases	1	1	4	-	1	13	6	14
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1	-	1	-	3	7
34. All other accidents	-	-	5	-	3	6	8	6
35. Suicide	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	1	60	25	111	120	176	146

# Causes of death in infancy

Congenital	abnormality				2
Septicaemia					1

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# 4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

#### GENERAL HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford North Herts & South Beds Hospital, Hitchin, Herts

#### GERLATRIC HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford Clapham Hospital, Near Bedford Biggleswade Hospital, Potton Road, Biggleswade

## MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITAL

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton

# PSYCHIATRIC HOSPIT L

Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey

#### MENTALLY SUB-NORMAL

Bromham Hospital, Near Bedford

#### CHEST CLINIC (For Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford

#### VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford

#### MINITURE RADIOGRAPHY

Biggleswade (The Lawns) Tuesdays 11.15a.m. to 11.45a.m.

#### PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC

Biggleswade (The Lawns) Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbalton Road, Bedford

AND DETERMINED AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY AND THE ORIGINAL PARTY AND THE PROPERTY AN

# BLANDSON ASSESSED

Bedford General Herrick, South Wing, Katpalen Road, Bedford Redford Genoral Houghts, North Wing, Elecated Fout, Bestore Horth House & South Bone Hospital, Hilshin, Horte

# CALIFFRON DESIGNATION

Radfurd Courted Maspiral, North Sing, Kishalten Ross, Belterd Clayben Hourited, Rear Bellerd Signamada Haspiral, System Ross, Signiferada

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#### DINLED SILVER DESIGNATION

Section Common Benefits, South Willy, Manual Street, Printed

# DELIGIES MANUAL

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# DINGS OF STREET

Bagglowens (fine Lamp) Monday, Sedmonly and Priday of concess

#### PROTESTORAL SERVICE CONTRACTOR

months diseased building that their leaded forest builded

#### PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transfort is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and clinics when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County:-

BIGGLESWADE (Chestnut Avenue) Tel: Biggleswade 2295
BEDFORD (Bedford Road, Kempston) Tel: Kempston 5335 and 5336

### DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

This Service is administered by the North Eastern Divisional Health Committee. The nurses employed are:-

# Name and Address of Nurse

Miss A. Pearson, 68 St.Neots Road, Sandy Tel: 105

Miss M.P.Stafford, (Midwifery only) 38 Mead End, Biggleswade Tel: 3266

Miss E. Dillistone, (General Nursing only) 127 Mead End. Biggleswade Tel: 3177

Miss F. Bishop, 11 Festival Road, Potton Tel: 234

Mrs. P.R.Corns, 143 Vaughan Road, Stotfold Tel: 372

Mrs. B. Blamire, 15 Groveside, Henlow Tel:Clifton 298

#### District

Blunham, Mogerhanger Sandy, Tempsford

Biggleswade, Dunton Edworth, Eyeworth

Biggleswade Dunton, Edworth, Eyeworth

Cockayne Hatley, Everton Potton, Sutton, Wrestlingworth

Astwick, Stotfold

Clifton Henlow

# DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE CONTINUED ....

# Name and address of Nurse

# District

Miss D. M. Collie, 47 Southfields, Shefford Tel: 356

Meppershall, Shefford, Gampton, Chicksands

Mrs. E.M.Wyer, Tel: 32, Stratton Way, Biggleswade 2028

Langford, Old Warden Northill, Southill

Mrs. E.M. Woodford, Chase Farm Road, Arlesey Tel: 362

Arkesey

# HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

# Name and Address of Health Visitor

#### District

Miss D.O. Cannon, The Green, Preston, Nr. Hitchin, Herts Astwick, Arlesey, Langford, Stotfold.

Miss D. M. Towers, 36a Radcliffe Road, Hitchin, Herts Broom, Caldecote, Campton Clifton, Henlow, Meppershall, Old Warden, Shefford, Southill

Miss D.A.Hipkiss, "Clocelly", Cottage, Road, Sandy

Biggleswade, Dunton, Edworth, Eyeworth.

Miss M.C.Ramsay, 30 Bedford Road, Sandy Blunham, Caldecote, Cockayne Hatley, Everton, Mogerhanger, Northill, Ickwell, Potton, Sandy, Sutton, Tempsford, Wrestlingworth.

#### PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORD HIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

# CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

ARIESEY Methodist Schoolroom

BIGGIESWADE "The Lawns Health Centre"

BLUNHAM Village Hall

HENLOW CAMP Henlow R.A.F. Station

HENLOW VILLEGE Parish Hall

LANGFORD Ivy Leaf Club Room

POTTON Church Hall
S.NDY Church Room
SHEFFORD Digswell House
STOTFOLD Unionist Club

TEMPSFORD Stuart Memorial Hall

WRESTLINGWORTH Memorial Hall

Monday afternoons fortnightly
Tuesday afternoons weekly
Thursday afternoons monthly
Thursday afternoons fortnightly
Thursday mornings fortnightly
Thursday mornings, fortnightly
Wednesday afternoons fortnightly
Wednesday afternoons fortnightly
Wednesday afternoons weekly
Monday afternoons fortnightly
Thursday afternoons weekly
Thursday afternoons weekly

# ANTE NATAL CLINICS

BIGGLESWADE The Lawns Health Centre

SHEFFORD Digswell House

STOTFOLD Unionist Club

Tuesday mornings fortnightly Wednesday mornings fortnightly Monday mornings fortnightly

Tuesday afternoons monthly

## HOME HELP SERVICE

Organizer:- Mrs. V. Van Berckaler, 3 St. Peters Street, Bedford Tel: Bedford 2207

#### DENTAL CLINIC

BIGGLESWADE The Lawns Health Centre four mornings per week

#### SPEECH THER PY CLINIC

BIGGIESW.DE The Lawns Health Centre Thursday afternoons weekly.

#### 5. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

It is now possible to protect persons against an increasing number of infections by the use of vaccines and toxoids. The Bedfordshire County Council is responsible for the provision of this service which is given direct at clinics and schools or through the General Medical Practitioners. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis are the diseases dealt with.

The tables printed below are supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer and indicate the work carried out in the district during the year.

#### DIPHTHERIA ONLY

Age Groups	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Totals
Primary injections	_	16	39	13	68
Booster injections	_	9	273	224	506

## DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH COMBINED

Age Groups	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Totals
Primary injections	202	68	8	3	281
Booster injections	-	5	36	12	53

## DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Age Groups	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Totals
Primary injections	65	20	1	-	86

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# SMALLPOX VACCINATION CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

alge	Under				15 and	
Groups	1	1	2-4	5-14	over	Totals
Dud ma see						
Primary Vaccinations	137	48	16	16	21	238

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

During the year the following injections against Poliomyelitis were carried out in the North Eastern Division...

No. who had the first two injections	4,775
No. who had the third injection	6,068
No. of children in the age group 7 - 11 years who had a fourth injection	5,634

## B.C.G.V.CCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis is now available to senior schoolchildren and students and the following table shows the work carried out in the North Eastern Division during the year ...

No. skin tested	826
No. found positive	89
No. found negative and vaccinated	710
No. of absentees carried forward to following year	27

# 6. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Notification by Age Groups								
	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Over 15	Total			
Erysipelas	_	_	-		1	1			
Food Poisoning	-	-	- 1	- 1	2	2			
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	1			
Measles	3	123	158	4	3	291			
Pneumonia	-	-	-	_	19	19			
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	- 1	- 1	1	1			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	-	-	4			
Whooping Cough	-	1	4	1	-	6			
Tuberculosis - Resp	-	-	-	-	5	5			
" Non-Resp	-	-	- 1	_	2	2			

# NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

	Erysipelas	Food	Jaunlice	Measles	Pheutonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet	Tuber rulosis Respiratory Non-Respiratory	Wh. Toing Cough	Totals
Arlesey Astwick Blunham Clifton Caldecote Dunton Everton Eyeworth Henlow Ickwell Langford Mogerhanger Meppershall Northill Old Warden Potton Sutton Stotfold Shefford Stanford Tempsford Upper Stondon				2 1 19 21 2 19 2 19 2 35 5 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	714	1		- 1 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -		11 2 24 21 2 1 5 3 19 2 36 6 4 1 19 3 117 44 1 7 3
Totals	1	2	1	291	19	1	4	5 2	6	332

# CERTIFIC REDUCTION TO THE MADE AND THE PARTY AND

# SHEETING IN PROCESSION

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# 7. TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1950 - 1961.

NEW CASES								DEATHS		
Year	Pul	nonary	Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulm	onary	Non-Pu	lmonary	Total
	M	F	M	F		М	F	М	F	
1950	13	6	4	-	23	2	2.	1	-	4
	13	6	2	5	26	-	3	-	-	3
1952	5	5	2	1	13	-	-	1	-	1
1953	14	11	2	2	29	2	7	-	-	2
1954	18	11	2	5	34	5	2	1	_	6
1956	1	6	-	_	7	2	ī	_	_	3
1957	2	2	-	1	5	1	_	-	-	1
1958	7 8	2	-	1	10	1	1	-	1	3
1959		6	3	-	17	-	-	-	-	-
1960	4	5	3	-	12	2	-	-	-	2
1961	. 2	3	1	1	7	3	1	-	-	4

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit visited Biggleswade and a total of 2,819 persons were examined.

Of the five Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified, three of these were referred by the Mass Radiography Unit.

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed at "The Lawns" every Tuesday morning, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

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# 8. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE ARE.

# (a) WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. It is not plumbo-solvent.

The following report by the County Public Health Laboratory of a sample sent for examination is typical:-

# Chemical Examination in parts per million

Appearance - Bright with very few particl	.es.
Colour	Nil
Turbidity	Less than 3
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH neutral	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	16
Electric Conductivity at 20 degs. C.	330
Dissolved Solids dried at 180 degs. C	255
Chlorine present as Cholorides	10
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	165
Hardness Total	185
Carbonate	165
Non Carbonate	20
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.3
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen X	0.000
Oxygen absorbed	0.000
Alubuminoid Nitrogen X	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals Iron	Lbsent
Other metals	Absent

#### X To convert to ammonia multiply by 1.21

Samples were taken from various parts of the distribution system during the year for bacteriological examination and all proved satisfactory.

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(a) WHERE SEVER

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# (b) DISTRIBUTION OF WATER

	Est. Popu-	Number of ho	houses at 31st December, 19		
PARISH	lation supplied from mains	With direct mains supply	Mains supply to standpipe	Dependent on other source	
Arlesey	3060	1070	-	-	
Astwick	38	12	-	-	
Blunham	615	202	-	-	
Campton	335	119	-	3	
Chicksands	900*	124	-	-	
Clifton	1330	479	- 110	-	
Cockayne Hatley	106	36	-	-	
Dunton	440	156	- 6.6	2	
Edworth	50	25	- 111	-	
Everton	220	96	-	-	
Eyeworth	90	28	-	1	
Henlow	3950*	872	-	-	
Langford	1250	527	-	-	
Meppershall	710	238	-	-	
Mogerhanger	585	183	-	-	
Northill	1450	512		3	
Old Warden	430	105	-	7	
Potton	2060	782	-	3	
Shefford	2010	749	-	1	
Southill	1075	343	-	2	
Stotfold	5220	1319	-	2	
Sutton	280	90	-	-	
Tempsford	480	152	-	-	
Upper Stondon	70	27	-	-	
Wrestlingworth	385	138	_	-	

<sup>\*</sup> These figures include Service Personnel

STATE OF BUILDING

Thomas figures tectual described would

- 35 --

# (c) RAINFALL

Rainfall is normally recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works at Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold. Unfortunately, the rain gauge at Arlesey was stolen during the year and so the records from this Station are incomplete.

The rainfall recorded has been as follows:-

	ARLES	ΞY	POTTO	N	STOTFOLE	2
	Rainfall in inches	Days	Rainfall in inches	Days	Rainfall in inches	Days
January	1.71	14	1.98	24	1.58	15
February	2,20	14	2.10	18	2.22	1/4
March	0.10	3	0.14	6	0.06	3
April	Not avail	able	1.96	25	1.86	18
May	- do -		0.71	10	0.61	5
June	- do -		1.10	9	0.54	8
July	- do -		1.16	10	0.90	7
August	- do -		2.63	18	1.87	17
September	1.74	9	2.68	17	2.35	14
October	2.40	17	2,22	23	2.46	18
November	1.50	11	1.92	1,	1.80	12
December	3.22	15	2,70	17	3.29	14
TOTAL	-	-	21.30	192	19.54	145

- 100 -			
		8.6	

#### (d) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewering of Langford was completed at the beginning of the year - thus completing the original "Four Parish" Scheme. This includes approximately 12 miles of sewers ranging from 6" to 15" in diameter, and 7 Pumping Stations.

Provision has also been made in the scheme for the drainage of Campton, and it is hoped that this work will be commenced in the early part of next year. The sewering of Everton is also well in hand and this scheme should come into operation during the coming year.

The effluent discharged from the small sewage plant at Etonbury School proved unsatisfactory and the County Council are taking steps which are calculated to effect an improvement. The effluent from the Arlesey Sewage Disposal works has on occasions proved unsatisfactory mainly on account of high suspended solids. This matter has been referred to the Council's Consulting Engineers.

As a further step towards implementing their programme made in 1947, the Council have decided to sewer Blunham, Meppershall, Northill, Tempsford and Wrestlingworth and preparatory work is in progress in connection with all these schemes.

## (e) NIGHTSOIL HEMOVAL AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING

This service has functioned satisfactorily during the year and although the amount of work involved decreases as public sewers become available and more properties are connected thereto, the saving in costs which would otherwise be effected, is more than offset by increases in labour and running costs.

Nightsoil continues to be satisfactorily disposed of by composting on agricultural land, whilst the contents of cesspools are irrigated on land adjoining the Sewage Farn at Potton.

# (f.) WATERCOURSES

Unfortunately, there are still many polluted watercourses in the area and these are normally cleansed regularly twice per year by the Council. Weeds are trimmed and obstructions removed in the spring and the ditches thoroughly cleansed in the autumn. The contractor for this work resigned during the year, with the result that the ditches received attention once only.

A total length of 409 chains were cleansed at a cost of £231. 4s. 2d.

#### (g) REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates a scheme of refuse collection by contract, and throughout the district refuse is removed at fortnightly intervals. It is becoming increasingly obvious, however, that a fortnightly removal service is inadequate, and a detailed report will shortly be submitted to the Council in which the shortcomings of the present system will be pointed out, in the hope that any decisions made as a result of that report, may be implemented at the beginning of the next financial year.

Disposal continues to be by means of controlled tipping at a disused gravel pit at Henlow. An attendant, who also operates the bulldozer, is employed by the Council.

The Rodent Operator visits the tip at regular monthly intervals and carried out any necessary treatment for rat infestations. Warfarin is normally used for this purpose. During the summer months regular spraying with a power operated spray is carried out as a precaution against infestation by flies etc.,

### (h) SANTTARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	754
Houses re-inspected under the Public Health Acts	227
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts Houses re-inspected under the Housing Acts	271 76
Visits re number of occupants	23
Moveable dwelling visited	135
Investigations re sewers and drains	379
Inspections of watercourses	91
Inspections of places of entertainment	6
Visits to new buildings and drainage works in progress	1,725

#### (i) Eradication of Bed Bugs

One case of infestation was reported during the year and was effectively dealt with by fumigation and spraying with "Zaldecide".

#### (j) PETROLEUM ACTS

109 visits were made to premises at which petroleum, cellulose and carbide of calcium are stored. 92 licences were granted in respect of which fees amounting to £64. 15s. 0d. were received.

NORTHER DESIGNATION (6)

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# ( k) RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ one Rodent Operator who is responsible for the survey of the area and treatment of premises, domestic and business, in which infestations are found. Domestic premises are treated free of charge.

In addition, regular inspections and treatments are carried out at the refuse tip and sewage disposal works. Routine test baiting of sewers is also undertaken, and where infestations are found, the necessary treatment is carried out.

The following table indicates the amount of work undertaken during the year under review.

	Local Authority	Dwellings	All others including business premises	Total
No. of properties inspected	32	480	15	519
No. of properties found to be infested	24	261	15	400
No. of infested properties treated	24	261	3	388

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#### Inspection and Supervision of Food

# 9. (a) Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the area. One is used solely for the occupier's own retail business and the other is operated by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation where large numbers of animals are slaughtered for the wholesale trade. In order to maintain the complete inspection of all meat, a very considerable amount of your Officers' leisure time, including weekends, is occupied in this work and it seems clear that this unsatisfactory state of affairs will continue until much needed legislation is introduced to restrict the hours of slaughtering.

The following summary shows the number of animals slaughtered during the year, and the carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:-

THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE					
	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	4,180	317	35	9,802	11,256
Number inspected	4,180	317	35	9,802	11,256
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI					
Whole carcases condemned	2	4	4	148	29
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3,042	133	2	785	2,397
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	72.82	43.21	17.1	9.51	21.55
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	2	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	93	4	_	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected					
affected with tuberculosis	2.27	1.57		-	2.18

# Inspection and Square also of Pecal

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Meat Inspection contd .....

AND	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcases of which some					
part or organ was					
condemned	19	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to					
treatment by					
refrigeration	19	-	-	-	-
Generalised and					
totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The carcases of beef affected by Cysticercus, which is the cystic stage of a tapeworm found in human beings were subjected to approved cold storage treatment, which destroys the cysts.

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed was 32 tons. 1 cwt. 0 qrs. 25 lbs.

# (b) Other food premises

All other food premises in the area are visited regularly and it is gratifying to find that food traders and handlers are generally conscious of and responsive to the requirements of The Food Hygiene Regulations. It was necessary to warn two traders of contraventions during the year, but otherwise a satisfactory standard of hygiene has been maintained.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

632 tins various foods.

28 lbs. frozen kidneys.

14 lbs. fish.

34 packets cheese.

# (c) Ice Cream

There are 72 retailers of Ice Cream in the area, but only one who manufactures the commodity. Otherwise all ice cream is pre-packed and manufactured by firms of national repute.

All premises have been satisfactorily maintained and managed during the year.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food contd .....

### (d) Milk Supply

The whole of the district is a Specified Area, and only designated milk (Pasteurised, sterilized or tuberculin tested) can be sold.

Routine control sampling and licensing of dealers is carried out by the County Council as the Food & Drugs Authority. The dairy farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### 10. HOUSING

### (a) New Buildings

575 plans were submitted for approval during the year, of these 483 were approved, 59 were refused, 12 were withdrawn and 21 were outstanding at the end of the year.

172 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

#### (b) Housing Conditions

A further survey of unsatisfactory property in the area is in progress at the present time, and a detailed report will be submitted in the near future.

In the meantime, the Council's Building Programme continues at a steady pace, and during the year a further 67 dwellings were completed. Of these 14 were bungalows for aged. persons. 7 families occupying houses included in the Slum Clearance Programme were rehoused by the Council.

67 houses were made fit for occupation as the result of informal action and 30 dwellings were demolished.

#### (c) Improvement Grants

The number of applications for Improvement Grants has shown a decrease during the year. The number received and approved was as follows:-

Applications for Standard Grants 15
Applications for Discretionary Grants 31
The value of work carried out was - £19,795

HOUSING CONTINUED .....

#### (d) CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

In one case it was decided to issue a certificate in respect of all the defects, and in the other, a certificate was issued in respect of some of the defects.

One Certificate of Disrepair was cancelled.

# 11. ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 193". (PART 1.)

 Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Fublic Health Inspectors):-

	Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices and Occupiers Prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	29	18	_
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	31	_
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	2	_
	Total	110	51	-

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# HARRIST TO STREET (6)

Two applications for Cartificates of Disreptin word

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1. Inspections for the provinces as to health (including tangenties, and by Explic Health Inspectors):-

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## 2. Cases in which defects were found:-

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which pro-
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspec- tor		secutions
Want of cleanliness	_	_	_	_	-
Overcrowding	_	_	_	_	_
Unreasonable temperature	_	-	-	_	-
Inadequate ventilation	_	_	-	-	_
Ineffective drainage of floors	_	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences: (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or	1	1	-	1	-
defective (c) Not separate	7	7	-	7	-
for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	8	_	8	_

# 3. OUTWORK (Section 110)

Nature of Work	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sec. 111(1)c.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises
Wearing apparel	10	_	-	_

# OUTWORK (Section 111)

Notices served Prosecutions
Nil Nil

General Lie which defects were french-

					70	



