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Contributors

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BISHOP AUCKLAND
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR
1971



BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COUNCILLOR W. RUDDOCK.

Chairman of Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR D. J. HEBDEN.

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Clerk of the Council :

J. R. PASSEY, LL.B., L.A.M.T.P.I.

Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health—

ELAINE M. OSBORNE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G., M.F.C.M.
Also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Council of
Shildon, the Rural District Council of Darlington, and Principal
Senior Medical Officer for Durham County Council.

Chief Public Health Inspector—

R. SNOWDON, D.P.A. (LOND.), D.M.A., M.INST.P.C., M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.,
DIP. (HONS.) R.I.P.H.H., DIP. S.A.A.
Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector,
Smoke Inspector and Shops Act Inspector.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—

R. BARRASS, T.D., M.A.P.H.I., DIP. R.I.P.H.H.
Qualified Public Health Inspector and Meat and Other Foods
Inspector.

District Public Health Inspectors—

P. J. NAYLOR,
Qualified Public Health Inspector and Meat and Other Foods
Inspector.
E. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I.,
Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector
and Smoke Inspector.

Office—

T. K. CROSBY, *Clerk*, deceased 12.9.71.
G. B. RICHARDSON, *Clerk*, from 1.12.71.
Miss DORREEN ROCHE, *Shorthand Typist*, resigned 28.2.71.
Miss VERA THOMPSON, *Shorthand Typist*, from 1.3.71.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1971

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for 1971.

The birth rate continues to fall, being 15.4 this year, compared with 15.7 in 1970. The percentage of illegitimate births remains at 8% which is the same as the national rate.

The death rate this year increased from 12.5 to 13.8, 107 of these being in the 65—74 age group and 183 being 75 and over.

The number of cancer deaths rose to 90. This includes 17 cases of carcinoma of the lung (12 men and 5 women) compared with 12 men and 3 women last year, and 5 cases of leukaemia (2 last year). Cancer of the intestine also rose this year from 8 to 15.

Deaths from ischaemic heart disease continue to rise in females, being 54 this year compared with 46 last year, but in males they decreased to 58 from 68 the previous year.

Whilst deaths from motor vehicle accidents remained at two; it is pleasing to report that deaths from all other accidents decreased from 10 to 6. Two of these were under 12 months and the rest 75 years and over, which demonstrates even on these small numbers, the vulnerable extremes of life.

Last year we had a very low infantile mortality rate, but this year there were unfortunately 11 deaths under 1 year giving a rate of 22 (National Rate 18). Four of these babies died in the first week of life, two from prematurity and two from congenital abnormalities. Of the remaining seven, three died of congenital abnormalities, two of pneumonia and two were accidental deaths. These two cases of accidental death, one at three months and one at five months were both certified as being due to asphyxia from inhalation of vomit. This condition may well be due to an acute infection of the upper respiratory tract and not necessarily to parental neglect as was once assumed to be the case. It is a subject on which research is still being carried out.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

This year new notifications of tuberculosis decreased to 8 from 15. 466 children were given B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis following Heaf testing during the first year in Secondary School.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit spent four days in Bishop Auckland during the year when a total of 709 people were X-rayed. No cases of tuberculosis were discovered, but six abnormalities were discovered necessitating referral to the chest clinic.

Notifications of infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis and food poisoning) decreased to 89 this year from 344, largely due to a fall in the number of cases of measles from 263 to 12. It seems as if the effects of our measles vaccination programme are at last reaping results.

Three cases of Salmonella food poisoning were notified this year. This was in a family who had returned from holiday in Scotland where the son had been in hospital suffering from food poisoning and was still positive on returning home. Both parents had positive stools but were symptom free. The infection soon cleared and there were no further cases.

In spite of the increased number of injections given against it this year, the number of cases of whooping cough increased from 55 to 66. This reflects a slight increase throughout the country as a whole. Luckily, in the majority of cases the disease was mild and without the characteristic "whoop". In Bishop Auckland it did not necessitate the admission of any child to hospital.

Routine influenza vaccination of all staff and workmen was carried out in the Autumn, 112 doses being given.

The Meals-on-Wheels Service continues to supply 36 meals to old people twice a week. Due to shortage of helpers the W.R.V.S. were unable to extend the town service as had been hoped, but this may be remedied next year.

The Red Cross runs the "Meals from Neighbours" service for us in the villages around, and also in the town area when urgent cases arise. 1,056 meals were cooked by helpful neighbours this year compared with 492 last year.

The Red Cross also run an over-70 Tea Club catering for 48 persons once a week, there is still a waiting list of 48.

During the year 519 treatments were given in the town chiropody clinic which is run by the Red Cross and a voluntary chiropodist. 317 treatments were given in the St. Helens clinic staffed by a County chiropodist and run by the wardens of the bungalow schemes there.

We are very grateful to the voluntary organisations for their assistance in running these services.

Our own domiciliary chiropody service continues to run to capacity. During the year nine pensioners who are house bound received treatment every 8 weeks, 4 of these being over 90. There are 5 cases on the waiting list.

Christmas parcels were again distributed by the Old People's Welfare Committee assisted by various local voluntary organisations. They also carried out regular visiting throughout the year.

During the year 466 people received the services of a home-help, an increase of 18 over last year.

An anti-smoking clinic was held during the year run by the County Health Education Department for the Bishop Auckland and Shildon area. Despite wide publicity only 16 people attended. They appeared very enthusiastic at clinic sessions but so far no follow up has been arranged to discover if they have lapsed again into this dangerous habit.

173 houses were built by the Council, 93 by private enterprise and 10 houses and 1 flat were converted from other premises making a total of 277 compared with 216 in 1970.

The number of swimmers in the baths fell to 183,884 this year (277,720 in 1970). Repeated sampling of the water showed no contamination.

In giving my report I should like to thank the Council for all their help and my staff for their efficient hard work during the year.

Area and Social Conditions.

The area of the district is 9,336 acres. The estimated population in mid-1971 was 33,320 a decrease of 1,040 on the previous year's estimate.

The rateable value at the end of 1971 was £1,171,679 and the product of a penny rate was £10,540.

The number of houses according to the Council's rate book was, at the end of 1971, 11,576 plus 59 public houses.

Vital Statistics.

In the following extracts from the vital statistics of the district, the corrected figures as supplied by the Registrar General have been used and the rates quoted are based on the above-mentioned estimated population.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ...	465	243	222
Illegitimate ...	43	25	18
TOTAL ...	508	268	240

Comparability Factors—Births	1.01
Deaths	1.10
Standard Birth Rate for the District	15.40
Standard Rate for England and Wales	16.00

Births.

The total number of live and still births was :
 521; 274 Males; 247 Females.
 Illegitimate live births total 45; 26 Males; 19 Females.
 Illegitimate live births as a percentage of total live births=
 8 per cent. England and Wales 8 per cent.

Still Births.

Still Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ...	11	5	6
Illegitimate ...	2	1	1
TOTAL ...	13	6	7

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	25
Rate for England and Wales	12

Total live and still births 521; 274 Males; 247 Females.
 Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) 11; 6 Males; 5 Females.

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	22
For England and Wales per 1,000 total live births	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	24
For England and Wales per 1,000 legitimate live births	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
For England and Wales per 1,000 illegitimate live births	24

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	12
England and Wales	12

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births ...	8
England and Wales	10

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births	33
England and Wales	22

Deaths.

After correction for outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths a total of 417 (191 males and 226 females) deaths of residents was recorded during the year, giving a standard death rate of 13.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1971 was 11.6.

The following table gives the number of deaths recorded from the various causes during the year.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	1	1
(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	3	4
(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	8	11
(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	6	9	15
(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	12	5	17
(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	1	5	6
(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	3	3
(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	—	3
(10) Leukaemia	4	1	5
(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	13	13	26
Diabetes Mellitus	—	2	2
(1) Other Endocrine, etc., diseases	—	2	2
Anaemias	—	1	1
(5) Other diseases of Nervous System	3	3	6
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	3	7	10
Hypertensive Disease	2	2	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	58	54	112
Other forms of Heart Disease ...	4	4	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	23	51	74
(6) Other Disease of Circulatory System	12	21	33
Pneumonia	6	8	14
(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	21	6	27
(2) Asthma	—	1	1
(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1	1
(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	—	2
(11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	3	4
Congenital Anomalies	—	2	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	3	1	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	5	6
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	—	1	1
All other external causes	2	—	2
TOTAL ...	191	226	417

The table on Causes of Death is based upon information supplied by the Registrar General.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified (excluding tuberculosis) during 1971.

Disease	Total cases notified	Total number after corrected diagnosis	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Infective Jaundice	1	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	8	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—
Measles	12	12	—	—
Whooping Cough	66	66	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	3	—	—
TOTAL	92	92	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows in arrangement by age groups the number of new cases notified and of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the district during the year.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2- 4 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5- 9 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-74 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
75 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1971 ...	5	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
1970 ...	8	4	2	1	1	1	—	1
1969 ...	8	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
1968 ...	11	8	1	—	—	1	1	—
1967 ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966 ...	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1965 ...	8	3	—	3	1	1	—	1
1964 ...	7	4	—	2	2	—	1	—
1963 ...	7	7	—	2	—	—	—	—
1962 ...	9	6	1	—	4	—	1	—
1961 ...	12	8	4	3	2	3	—	—

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

Details of the Unit's visit are as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Number X-rayed	335	374	709
Number referred to Chest Clinic	3	3	6

Abnormalities Found

Healed T.B. No action ... ..	...	...	2
Emphysema ... ..	...	...	1
Lobar Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	1
Pneumoconiosis ... ..	...	...	1
Normal on investigation ... ..	...	...	1
		—	6
		—	

WATER

The Durham County Water Board took 48 samples of water during the year for bacteriological examination, all were satisfactory. The Board supplies 11,862 houses directly from the mains, the average number of persons per house being 2.81, no house being supplied from a standpipe. No case of contamination occurred in the district and the supply was satisfactory in quantity, and quality was maintained. So far as is known, no houses are without a piped water supply.

Chlorination is carried out after all mains repairs and bacteriological tests are made until a satisfactory result is obtained.

Only natural fluoride is present in the water and varies from 0.10 p.p.m. to 0.65 p.p.m.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage and sludge treatment continued to be dealt with satisfactorily and normally within the required river authority standard.

SEWERAGE

The sewerage system continues to work satisfactorily.

SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. PREVENTIVE SERVICES.

(a) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The following children were immunised during the year in their homes, doctors' surgeries, County clinics or schools.

493 children received primary full courses of immunisation treatment.

531 children received "booster" doses, either singly or in combination.

(b) Whooping Cough.

404 children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough either singly or in combination. 98 "booster" doses were administered.

(c) Smallpox Vaccination.

182 primary vaccinations and 20 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year. This fall on last year is because the Department of Health has recommended that routine primary vaccination in the second year should cease because of the danger of complications.

(d) Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was as follows:—

545 primaries.
502 boosters.

(e) B.C.G. Vaccinations.

605 children were Heaf tested.
39 children were positive.
471 children were negative, and
466 children were vaccinated.

These figures apply to children attending schools in the Bishop Auckland Urban District.

Of the five children who were not vaccinated one was suffering from a rash, two from Eczema, one was ill and one was postponed till next year.

(f) Tetanus Vaccinations.

The number of vaccinations given to persons under 16 years of age was as follows:—

533 primaries.

576 boosters.

(g) Measles.

396 children were vaccinated.

(h) Rubella.

216 girls were vaccinated in their fourteenth year.

2. HOME HELP SERVICE.

Number of cases receiving Home Help at 1.1.71	329
New cases served during the year	137
Total number of cases provided with help during the year	466
Cases terminated during the year	133
Cases receiving the service at 31.12.71	333

3. CHIROPODY.

(a) Bishop Auckland clinic.

Number of sessions	44
Number of persons attending	193
Total Number of treatments (this includes 146 free treatments)	665

(b) St. Helens (The Square) clinic.

Number of sessions	43
Number of persons attending	55
Number of treatments	317

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year the carcasses and organs of 1,488 animals were inspected in the course of 182 visits to the only remaining slaughterhouse.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered ...	254	22	—	501	711
Number inspected ...	254	22	—	501	711
1. TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Parts of carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	4
Percentage condemned	—	4.5	—	—	0.5
2. CYSTICERCOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Parts of carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage condemned	0.3	—	—	—	—
Number of carcasses refrigerated ...	—	—	—	—	—
3. OTHER DISEASES					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—
Parts of carcasses condemned ...	10	4	—	1	17
Percentage condemned	4.0	18	—	0.4	2.4

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

All slaughtered animals were examined in the manner prescribed by the Regulations, and the carcasses of those found to be fit for human consumption were stamped by the inspecting officer.

The charges imposed brought an income of £85.84.

The income from meat inspection since the Regulations came into force is £3,945.00.

ICE CREAM

During the year thirty-seven samples were taken and graded for purity. The gradings are shown in comparison with previous years.

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	Total
Grade 1	11	24	10	13	12	8	8	14	16	15	18	149
Grade 2	4	8	6	9	7	3	3	12	12	4	11	79
Grade 3	12	4	1	2	4	1	—	6	15	8	5	58
Grade 4	11	8	3	2	3	2	2	18	26	9	3	87
Totals	38	44	20	26	26	14	13	50	69	36	37	373

MILK (Special Designation) REGULATIONS, 1960

Milk samples are taken by the County Public Health Inspector, and the results for the Urban District in 1971 were :

Designation	Number Examined	Tests Applied	Test Results		
			Passed	Void	Failed
Pasteurised	157	Methylene Blue	146	—	11
		Phosphatase	157	—	—
Sterilised	15	Turbidity	15	—	—
Untreated	23	Methylene Blue	23	—	—
		Biological	9	—	—
		Anti-Biotic	23	—	—

FOOD PREMISES

One hundred and twenty-three visits were made to food premises and it was necessary to serve 16 notices to remedy defects and/or supply amenities.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At 31st December, 1971, the total number of premises registered was 292 all of which had received a General Inspection.

(a) Registration and Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises receiving a General Inspection during the year	No. of Notices Served
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Offices	1	81	4	—
Retail Shops	2	180	3	3
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	10	—	—
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	20	—	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	292	7	3

(b) Persons Employed.

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	596
Shops	1683
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	106
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	121
Fuel Storage Depots	5
TOTAL ...	2511

Total Males 890; Total Females 1,621

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS AND DEFECTS for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspec- tions (3)	Number of Defects (4)	Number Remedied (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	152	40	27	27
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	4	4	—	—
TOTAL	159	44	27	27

HOUSING

(a) Clearance Areas

Twelve Clearance Areas were reported to the Council for subsequent transmission to the Department of the Environment. These areas were :

Clearance Areas	Number of Houses
1. Southgate Street and Frederick Street, Bishop Auckland, No. 23	3
2. Bridge Street, Bishop Auckland, No. 24 ...	11
3. Newton Cap Bank, Bishop Auckland, No. 25	6
4. Newton Cap Bank, Bishop Auckland, No. 26	20
5. Little Tenters Street, High Tenters Street and West Road, Bishop Auckland, No. 27 ...	8
6. High Tenters Street, Bishop Auckland, No. 28	5
7. High Tenters Street, Bishop Auckland, No. 29	18
8. Leonard Terrace, Coundon Grange, No. 3 ...	4
9. Jackson Street, Coundon Grange, No. 4 ...	32
10. Brook Street, Coundon Grange, No. 5 ...	23
11. Stone Row, Leasingthorne, No. 4	25
12. Park Terrace, Witton Park, No. 22	14
TOTAL ...	169

(b) Individual Orders.

Housing Act Orders were made in respect of :

Houses	Order Made
10, Park Terrace, Coundon Grange ...	Demolition
12, Park Terrace, Coundon Grange ...	Demolition
13, Park Terrace, Coundon Grange ...	Demolition
14, Park Terrace, Coundon Grange ...	Demolition
16, Park Terrace, Coundon Grange ...	Demolition
20, Southgate Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
31, Low Queen Street, Witton Park ...	Closing
13, Staindrop Road, West Auckland ...	Closing
1, Brancepeth Terrace, Bishop Auckland	Demolition
23, Newton Cap Bank, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
33b, Tenters Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
24, Brook Street, Coundon Grange ...	Closing
10, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
10, Park Terrace, Witton Park	Closing
22, Front Street, Etherley Dene	Demolition
9, Southgate Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
10, Southgate Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing

3, West Bridge Street, Bishop Auckland	Closing
73b, Collingwood Street, Coundon	Closing
17, Gomer Terrace, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
3, Brancepeth Terrace, Bishop Auckland	Demolition
55, Manor Road, St. Helens, Auckland ...	Closing
15, Front Street, West Auckland	Closing
14, Southgate Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
2, Brancepeth Terrace, Bishop Auckland	Demolition
3, Viaduct Terrace, Witton Park	Closing
7, Grainger Street, Bishop Auckland ...	Closing
2, Gaunless Cottages, St. Helens, Auckland	Closing

A TOTAL OF 28 HOUSES

In addition the following were reported to the Council as unfit, but Orders were not made in 1971 :

Rose Cottage, Etherley Moor.
38, Woodside, Witton Park.

(c) Houses where defects were remedied under Public Health Acts

1. After informal action	21
2. After formal action	22

(d) Qualification Certificates.

(1) Where dwelling satisfies the conditions :	
Applications received	14
Applications withdrawn	3
Applications refused	3
Applications approved	8
(2) Where improvements are proposed :	
Applications received	2
Applications provisionally approved ...	2
Applications approved	—

(e) Inspections.

(i) Under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	1,999
(ii) Under Acts relating to Improvement Grants	787

(f) Houses Demolished.

In Clearance Areas	150
Demolition Orders	14

(g) Improvement of Houses.

	Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
(i) Number of applications received in 1970	87	50
(ii) Number of applications received in 1971	184	36
(iii) Number of applications refused in 1971	2	—
(iv) Number of applications approved in 1971	145	32
(v) Total number of grants paid since inception	597	528

(h) New Houses.

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Built by Council	—	40	245	332	146	201	116	117	173
Built by Private Enterprise ...	63	123	22	61	99	64	149	97	93
Built by Durham County Council...	3	—	—	1	—	4	4	—	—
Converted into Flats	11	—	—	1	4 to 8 Flats	2 to 4 Flats	1	—	—
Converted from other premises ...	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	2	10 houses & 1 Flat
TOTALS ...	77	163	268	395	250	272	274	216	277

(i) Rehousing. - Housing Allocations.

	New Dwellings	Re-lets of Existing Accommodation	Total
Slum Clearance ...	80	55	135
General List ...	44	83	127
Aged Persons List...	3	13	16
Keyworkers ...	11	4	15
Transferred Sitting Tenants	25	55	80
TOTALS ...	163	210	373

- (ii) Overcrowded Families.
Of the 373 families rehoused during the year, 89 were statutorily overcrowded.
- (iii) Families suffering from Tuberculosis.
No cases rehoused in 1971.

(j) House Waiting Lists.

As at 31st December, 1971.

Category of Applicant	Tenants	Sub-Tenants	Total
General Waiting List ...	268	112	380
Aged Persons Waiting List ...	314	7	321
TOTALS ...	582	119	701

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMARY

Visits made by Public Health Inspectors

Particulars	Number of Visits
Factories Act	44
Public Health Acts	822
Housing Acts	1,016
Grants—Improvements	787
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	43
Drainage	118
Public Cleansing	195
Food Premises	123
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	46
Slaughterhouses	182
Clean Air Act	6
Civic Amenities Act	125
Animals Act	4
TOTAL ...	3,511

Number of Interviews—769.

CONVERSIONS TO WATER CARRIAGE SYSTEM

There were no conversions of ash closets to water carriage in 1971. At the end of the year—the numbers of the various sanitary conveniences in the Urban District were as follows :

Water Closets	...	...	...	...	13,689
Ash Closets	...	...	...	...	131

Since 1954, 2,131 conversions have been carried out.

CONVERSIONS

Year	Owners	Local Authority	Total
1961	42	—	42
1962	40	161	201
1963	16	79	95
1964	20	—	20
1965	6	—	6
1966	2	30	32
1967	5	—	5
1968	1	—	1
1969	2	—	2
1970	4	—	4
1971	—	—	—
TOTALS	138	270	408

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in District	11,342	69
2. (a) Total Number of properties inspected following notification	286	12
(b) Number infested by—		
(i) Rats	221	12
(ii) Mice	65	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	89	—
(b) Number infested by—		
(i) Rats	80	—
(ii) Mice	9	—

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON PUBLIC CLEANSING

Working Parties are formed to apply concentrated thought, study and experience to a particular problem. They are usually composed of representatives of interested bodies and experts in the subject under study. Facts, opinions and knowledge are synthesized in order to arrive at logical conclusions culminating in recommendations.

In 1971 the Report of the Working Party on Refuse Disposal was published—after four years preparation. This Report, full of facts and figures, produced one pearl of wisdom by stating that there is no universal solution to the problem of refuse disposal—there is no single best method.

Almost all shades of opinion about refuse disposal are confirmed, and we are left to assume that our opinions and methods are the best.

Nevertheless, some very useful recommendations were made, and it is to be hoped that these will be implemented sooner than many in the 1967 Report on Refuse Storage and Collection—which are still awaiting legislation.

For those responsible for the provision and maintenance of public conveniences the damage by vandals is a constant worry, as in many instances conveniences are sited in out of the way places.

Well-lit toilets in positions where they can easily be seen make the destructive work of these social outcasts very difficult.

We can all wonder if the people who dump cars and rubbish indiscriminately in the hedgerows and on open spaces consider that they have committed an act of vandalism. Probably not, and many guilty ones will certainly be “highly reputable” people. But it really is amazing how some will transport various items by car to some deserted spot especially to dump them, when many local authorities, like our own, make available a free collection service, and all that is required is a request by telephone, letter or personal visit to the Department. Perhaps the ever increasing number of requests for this service may indicate a faint glimmer of hope that one day this form of pollution will discontinue.

House and Trade Refuse Collections.

During the year the paper sack method of storage and collection was again extended at the rate of 500 to existing Council houses, and a unit to each new one occupied.

By the end of the year there were 2,178 sack holders in use.

Ash closets continue to diminish in numbers. Although there were no conversions to water carriage system in 1971, the number of ash closets was reduced by 51 to 131, this being due entirely to the demolition of unfit houses.

By 31st December, we were collecting weekly refuse from 12,233 dustbins; removing 2,178 paper sacks and cleansing 131 ash closets. In addition to this, was all the extra refuse that is put into boxes and placed next to the bin at the majority of premises. Also, it is now estimated that approximately 12% of domestic dwellings use two or more bins.

The collections from commercial and industrial premises vary from daily to once weekly.

The trade refuse charges, which are obligatory, were increased in 1971, the first time since 1962.

Collection, by way of Trade Refuse Agreement, now costs £1.50 per bin per half year.

Casual Collections, are charged for on a Labour/Vehicle Time basis, now at £2 per hour for two men with one vehicle.

Civic Amenities Act.

The number of special collections of bulk waste such as furniture, beds, pianos, garden refuse, rubble, etc., continue to increase.

In 1968 there were 192 collections. This increased to 283 in 1969, and 509 in 1970.

In 1971 the number of collections was 716.

The number of abandoned cars that have been removed by Contractors engaged by the Department since the Act came into force was by the end of 1971—146.

Refuse Disposal.

The discussions relating to the Council's decision to investigate disposal by incineration stopped in 1971 due to the local government reorganisation proposals. After 1974 disposals of refuse will be a function of the New County Council.

All refuse is currently disposed of at the Council's tip at Gurney Valley. It is now estimated that there will be Tipping Capacity available only for the next three to four years.

Salvage.

Despite one of the highest sickness rates for ten years, in this section the recovery, baling and sale of waste paper and fibre-board was almost double 1970, and the best since 1965.

In 1971, 91 tons 14 cwts. 2 qtrs. of fireboard and 27 tons 10 cwts. 3 qtrs. of mixed papers, a total of 119 tons 5 cwt. 1 qtr. were despatched to Board Mills.

Paper Tonnage Despatched 1961—1971

				Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.
1961	...	...	...	170	6	1
1962	...	...	...	159	17	0
1963	...	...	...	196	19	3
1964	...	...	...	181	18	3
1965	...	...	...	140	16	1
1966	...	...	...	99	9	1
1967	...	...	...	84	2	2
1968	...	...	...	70	5	2
1969	...	...	...	49	10	0
1970	...	...	...	61	4	1
1971	...	...	...	119	5	1

Income

(a) Waste Paper and Fibreboard	...	...	...	£1,460·80
(b) Trade Refuse	...	...	...	£1,918·20
(c) Disposal Charges	...	...	...	£189·61
TOTAL				£3,568·61

Income 1961-1971

Year	Paper Sales		Trade Refuse		Total	
	£	p	£	p	£	p
1961	1,128	73	1,015	25	2,143	98
1962	1,359	39	1,034	45	2,393	84
1963	1,575	36	1,156	40	2,731	76
1964	1,455	87	1,258	99	2,714	86
1965	1,326	36	1,179	03	2,505	39
1966	929	25	785	16	1,714	41
1967	799	55	758	43	1,557	98
1968	623	96	859	53	1,483	49
1969	494	57	1,164	83	1,659	40
1970	706	31	1,720	30	2,426	61
1971	1,460	80	1,918	20	3,379	00
TOTALS	11,860	15	12,850	57	24,710	72

Staff.

The following table shows days lost due to sickness, absenteeism, and holidays in 1971.

Month	Sickness	Absent	Holidays	Total
January	95½	2½	1	99
February	83	1	—	84
March	65	4	27	96
April	48½	—	8	56½
May	90	3½	6	99½
June	89	3	56	148
July	92	3	71	166
August	11	3	93	107
September	13	1	63	77
October	6	5½	51	62½
November	25	10	21	56
December	29	—	1	30
TOTALS ...	647	36½	398	1,081½

Time lost during 1971 due to sickness and absenteeism was :
683½ days.

The following table compares time lost due to sickness in 1971 with the previous 10 years.

Month	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Jan. ...	30	35	16	52½	67	73	64	99	52½	145	95½
Feb. ...	84	109	25	99	73	81	39½	67	51	86	83
Mar. ...	31	54	31	59	91	82	39	70½	35	66	65
Apr. ...	48	60	13	74	84	28	99	68	74½	61¼	48½
May ...	42	88	1	63½	60	27	121½	76	70	36	90
June ...	50	41	5	55¼	100	—	77	34½	51	48½	89
July ...	31	37	13	30	48	—	36	37	40½	53	92
Aug. ...	11	27	10	30	48	25	51	30	64½	30	11
Sept. ...	10	22	20	70¾	55	32	46	5½	19¾	56	13
Oct. ...	15	45	35	67	39	—	51	46	33	56½	6
Nov. ...	18	11	20	66	24	26	108	44	5½	37	25
Dec. ...	22	3	1	67¾	30	24	31	19	38½	11½	29
Totals	392	532	190	734¾	719	398	763	596½	535¾	686¾	647

An Annual Report, apart from being a soul searching exercise to improve ends by improved means, is also an opportunity to express my appreciation of the Council's resolve to improve the Service; and of the efforts each year by Health Department staff, Supervisor, Mechanics and Refuse Collectors which result in maintaining a regular and efficient service to householders, commerce and industry.

APPENDIX

Comparisons in Vital Statistics during the years 1962-1971.

Vital Statistics	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Birth Rate ...	18.0	18.9	19.2	19.7	17.6	17.9	16.9	16.6	15.7	15.4
Death Rate ...	14.2	14.4	14.1	13.7	14.0	13.6	13.8	13.4	12.5	13.8
Infant Mortality Rate ...	47.0	24.8	35.2	36.8	33.8	26.1	17.2	16.0	6.0	22.0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases Notified	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Pulmonary Cases...	15	14	11	11	11	10	19	11	12	7
Non-Pulmonary Cases ...	1	2	2	3	—	—	1	—	3	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES — Notifications and Deaths (excluding Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)

N = Notifications. D = Deaths.

	1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971		
	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	127	1	664	—	4	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	—	371	—	765	—	61	—	657	—	82	—	434	—	263	—	12	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	9	—	5	—	39	—	1	—	14	—	20	—	10	—	28	—	15	—	8	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	3	—	97	—	40	—	72	—	46	—	34	—	9	—	18	—	55	—	66	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	—	1	—	—
* Infective Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	142	1	778	—	454	—	865	—	124	1	715	—	112	—	481	—	343	1	89	—	—

* Notifiable from 4th October, 1968.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS—1971

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over	
Total All Causes ...	M	191	3	3	—	—	3	3	7	10	40	61	59	
	F	226	3	2	—	—	3	2	5	12	29	46	124	

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