

**[Report 1969] / Medical Officer of Health, Blandford Forum Borough.**

**Contributors**

Blandford Forum (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1969

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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR.....1969





STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

G.B. Hopkins M.B., CH.B., B. Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer )  
School Medical Officer. ) 5/11th of time.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.

Honorary Medical Officer to the Dorset Water Board

contributing roughly:-

Borough of Blandford Forum.....	1/5th day per week
Blandford Rural District.....	1/2 day per week
Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	1/3 day per week
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	1 3/5th day per week

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

H.L. Birkett, M.R.S.H.,            M.P.H.I.A.

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Area Office, 3  
Health Clinic,  
Rowlands Hill,  
Wimborne, Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1969.

In my last Annual Report I commented that the practice of commencing with mention of notifiable diseases was becoming doubtfully justifiable. This comment can be made with greater conviction this year especially in view of the fact that 1969 should have been a vintage year for measles. It is of course only a few specified diseases which are notifiable, the main mass of disease is not, but nevertheless as an indication of morbidity amongst children in particular the statistics on notifiable diseases speak volumes. The "umbrella" over the children grows bigger and bigger; there can be very few parents who would not be very shocked to see a list of notifiable diseases which even a small urban district would have produced about the year 1900. It is very desirable to remind ourselves that although much of this enormous benefit is established and unlikely to be lost except due to some unthinkable catastrophe such as H bomb warfare, some of it still depends upon hard routine slogging, especially in the sphere of immunisation. People have short memories.

There were many incidents in England and Wales during the summer of persons visiting exotic places and returning with more than suntan. They had in fact been infected with salmonella organisms, others had caught or narrowly missed typhoid. People are becoming more and more venturesome in their choice of holidays and the continent of Africa has not lost its mysterious fascination. Holidays in North Africa are in current vogue, and there are already signs of travel agents putting forward suggestions for venturing farther south in that Continent and also farther east into Asia Minor. It cannot be stressed too much that disease is still rife in these places, much of it quite beyond the knowledge and experience of most holiday makers and travel agents have a duty to their clients to warn them of the risks they run in entering the tropics. Malaria is only one of the diseases they must take very seriously.

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It has been reliably estimated that between now and the year 2000 AD the demand for water in the British Isles will double, and many authorities face a serious problem in this context, the re-circulation of sewage has even been mentioned, and many water supplies have for years been extracted from sewage polluted primary supplies. We are therefore doubly fortunate in this area to have such good primary sources of water and moreover plenty of it. All it lacks is flouride.

The fluoride controversy bears close similarities to that which attended the proposed introduction of pasteurisation of milk during the 1930's. Almost everyone now gratefully accepts pasteurised milk and one feels confident that in the future fluoridation of water will be accepted just as freely. I cannot in the meantime resist quoting a passage by Professor Sir Graham Wilson, formerly Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service and an eminent scientist, in his book on "The Pasteurisation of Milk" 1942 (Edward Arnold and Co.):-

"Unfortunately pasteurisation is a subject on which many people find it difficult to form an unbiased judgement. It is not infrequently regarded with such intense prejudice that no reasoned statement of the evidence is listened to, much less given adequate consideration. This attitude is the direct antithesis of that usually adopted by scientific workers, namely that of a dispassionate review of the whole of the available evidence with conclusions expressed in the form of cautious understatement. In view of this difference in mental approach, it is useless for men of science to expect that a careful presentation of the facts will make any impression on the minds of those who, whether from unreasonable conviction or from a repressed suspicion of the weakness of their own case, are prepared to resort to half-truths, unverifiable assertions, or, as experience has shown, actual falsehoods in support of their contentions. No matter how clear and well documented the evidence may be, there are always those whom Shakespeare must have in mind when he made Cicero say:-

"Men may construe things after their fashion, clean from the purpose of the things themselves."

How perfectly those words fit the subject of fluoridation?!

Also in the above book, Sir Graham Wilson quoted the late eminent scientist, Sir Edward Mellanby who said in the Report of the Medical Research Council for 1937 - 8:-

"It is not the duty of the Medical Research Council to guide the public on the importance of medical discovery in its practical application to human needs. Their task is wholly to promote discovery, and to announce it to the world when it is made. They cannot but view with regret, however, the delay which so often occurs between medical discovery and its application, especially when the discovery is one that provides an immediate opportunity of preventing or even eliminating disease. What the ultimate solution of this difficulty will be is not obvious, but with the present increase in knowledge of method of preventing disease, a better method of informing and educating the public becomes imperative."

We do not seem to have found it yet!.

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During the year I placed before the Council a report upon a survey of cream samples taken in East Dorset. The large and medium size firms were producing a good product but certain smaller dairies were producing a product which regularly contained fairly high numbers of faecal (type 1) coliform organisms. This report stimulated publicity in press and television, and I was struck by the difficulty of advising housewives in general terms what product to buy, one obviously could not mention individual products, and I felt that the housewife had of necessity to be left largely in the dark.

The remedy for this lies in enforceable regulations based upon accurate labelling requirements as to the nature of the process used, e.g. pasteurisation of the original milk or of the cream itself, or sterilisation of the latter product. Enforceable requirements of this nature depend upon the existence of analytical and bacteriological procedures capable of verifying the claims on the label, and once this step has been taken the housewife will be able to make an intelligent choice of product in the knowledge that the label meant what it said! The more important analytical and bacteriological procedures are already satisfactorily worked out and yet another survey is currently being conducted by the Public Health Laboratory Service on cream.

There seems no doubt that regulations will soon be applied and that they are overdue. The medium and large firms will welcome regulations requiring standards which they already observe. It remains only to add that some months after my report to Council a leading article in the B.M.J. on bacteria in cream reassured me as to the correctness of my views, in the expression of which I was obviously in good company!

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At the risk of vexation by quotation here is another which I could not resist, this time culled from an article by Professor C.R. Lowe in the B.M.J. early in 1969:-

"Throughout the country every morning the walls of bedrooms and bathrooms reverberate to the dawn chorus of our smokers as they light up the first cigarette of the day to help them on their way to work and, for a substantial proportion of them on their way to disablement and premature death. At a conservative estimate, probably three quarters of the toll of 32,000,000 working days and 30,000 lives taken each year by bronchitis is attributable to the cigarette."

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There follow the customary statistics and the annual report of the public health inspector - Mr. H.L. Birkett.

*f. B. Hopkins*

AUGUST, 1970

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Borough.....	253 acres.
Population as estimated by Registrar General - mid year.....	3670
Rateable value as at 1st April 1969.....	£166,950
Estimated product of penny rate for year.....	£640
Estimated number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1969...	1337

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALES.</u>			<u>FEMALES.</u>		
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Legitimate.</u>	<u>Illeg.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Legitimate.</u>	<u>Illeg.</u>
Live Births.....	26	22	4	40	36	4
Stillbirths.....	-	-	-	1	1	-

DEATHS

Number registered... 28 32

	<u>Blandford Borough.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative County</u>
Standardised birth rate.....	21.2	16.3	16.8
Standardised death rate.....	12.7	11.9	10.7

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

Births..... 1.18  
Deaths..... 0.78

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SECTION A

Prevalence of Infectious and Other Diseases.

Measles..... 2  
Tuberculosis..... 1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases on the T.B. register was as follows:-

PULMONARY

Males..... 5  
Females..... 3

NON-PULMONARY

Males..... 0  
Females..... 0

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS.

<u>Poliomyelitis.</u>				<u>Diphtheria.</u>		<u>Tetanus.</u>		<u>Whooping C.</u>		<u>Smallpox.</u>		<u>Measles.</u>
<u>Oral.</u>		<u>Salk</u>										
<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>
74	10	-	-	80	91.	82	123.	80.	54.	65	26	19

P = Primary  
R = Reinforcing dose.

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is situated at Dorchester and provides a free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water.

SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE HEALTH CLINIC, SALISBURY STREET.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held in the Health Clinic once a month, together with numerous services provided, or assisted, by the County Council. These include the School Dental Service, Speech Therapy, Hearing Assessment and Tuition, Home Help Organiser, Family Planning, Cervical Cytology, Registrar of Births and Deaths and Chiropody for old people.

## SECTION C.

STATISTICAL TABLES - 1969

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, intestine.....	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.....		1
Malignant Neoplasm, prostate.....	1	
Other Malignant Neoplasms.....	-	3
Hypertensive disease.....	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease.....	7	4
Other forms of heart disease.....	3	5
Cerebrovascular disease.....	6	9
Other disease of circulatory system.....	1	2
Influenza .....	1	-
Pneumonia.....	2	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema.....	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	2	-
All other accidents.....	1	-

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Action taken under Acts  
of Parliament

(a) Public Health Acts

Number of Informal Notices served .....	12
Number of Informal Notices complied with .....	10
Number of Statutory Notices served .....	2
Number of Statutory Notices complied with .....	1

(b) Housing Acts

Number of Statutory Notices served .....	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with .....	Nil

(c)

Number of unfit houses closed .....	5
Number of unfit houses demolished .....	Nil
Number of families rehoused .....	2
Number of persons rehoused.....	3

(d) Factories Acts and Regulations

Number of Informal Notices served .....	1
Number of Informal Notices complied with .....	1
Number of Formal Notices served .....	Nil
Number of Formal Notices complied with .....	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Closing Orders on three further cottages were made during the past 12 months. This brings the total of Demolition and Closing Orders made by the Council to 38 since 1960.

OVERCROWDING

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at 31/12/69 .....	4
(b) Number of families therein .....	5
(c) Number of new cases .....	1
(d) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved .....	3
(e) Number of persons involved .....	13
(f) Number of renewed cases of overcrowding .....	1

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF AREA

Summary of Inspection and re-visits made in the course of routine work during the year 1969 by your public health inspector:-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Houses .....	104
Other premises .....	62
Housing Inspections .....	41
Infectious Diseases .....	0
Markets .....	42
Factories.....	15

FOOD

FOOD INSPECTIONS:

Meat inspection .....	3
Cafes .....	17
Ice cream premises .....	10
Grocers .....	18
Butchers .....	15
Bakeries .....	3
Fried Fish .....	4
General.....	36

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The number of food premises subject to the above Regulations are as follows:-

	Fitted with Washbasins	Premises to which Sec.19 Applies	Premises complying with Sec. 19
Bakers and confectioners	3	3	3
Butchers	6	6	6
Fishmongers	2	2	2
Cafes	7	7	7
Fried Fish	3	3	3
Grocers	14	14	14
Public Houses	12	12	12
Sugar confectionery	12	8	8

FOOD

### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Two successful prosecutions were taken for contraventions under the above Regulations during the year 1969.

1. The proprietor of a local cafe was prosecuted for (a) failing to take all steps reasonably necessary to protect food from risk of contamination (b) failing to keep clean walls, floors and other parts of the structure used for the preparation of food (c) failing to keep clean articles of equipment liable to come into contact with food

The Court found the defendant not guilty on the first charge but he was found guilty on the other two charges and fined £60 for dirty conditions in the cafe and £20 for unclean food equipment and £20 costs

2. The proprietor of a mobile "Hot Dog" van was prosecuted and fined £40 with costs of £10 for the following contraventions of the above Regulations:

- (1) Insufficient wash hand basins for persons engaged in handling food
- (2) Inadequate supply of hot water to wash hand basin
- (3) Insufficient sinks for washing of food
- (4) Failing to provide adequate hot and cold water to the sink

### WATER SUPPLY

All dwelling houses, shops, offices and factories are connected to the mains water supply from the Poole and Dorset Water Board.

### MEAT INSPECTION

The only slaughter house which was privately owned closed during the year 1962.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following foodstuffs were examined and found unfit for human consumption:

Canned cooked meats .....	82 lbs
Canned fruit .....	63 lbs
Meat .....	10 lbs
Frozen foodstuff .....	262 lbs

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

No complaints were received by this Department under the above Act during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Successful negotiations with the Rural District Council have resulted in the two Councils using a joint tip where controlled tipping is now being carried out in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations.

Arrangements are also made for the disposal of bulky rubbish and derelict cars.

CLEAN AIR ACT

No complaints received and no action necessary.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All houses with the exception of two are connected with the main sewage system.

COMMON

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the Borough.

PIGEONS

Following many years of complaints of the damage caused by the large congregation of pigeons on the Church and other buildings, it is gratifying to note the numbers are greatly reduced and relatively few complaints are now received.

This is mainly due to the efforts of Mr. Hole, the Pests Officer.

RODENT CONTROL

Total number of visits made by Rodent Officer .....	186
Number of premises surveyed on notification .....	69
Number of premises surveyed under Act .....	112
Number of premises found to be infested with rats .....	37
Number of premises found to be infested with mice .....	9
Number of premises found to be infested with rats and mice .....	1

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A large number of complaints were received from the public of wasps nests and ant infestations. All of these were effectively dealt with by the Pests Officer.

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FACTORIES

FACTORIES ACT 1961Part 1 of the Act1 - INSPECTIONS

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 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
Iii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	2	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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.	
	<u>Found</u> 2	<u>Remedied</u> 3	<u>Referred</u>	
			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u> 4	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u> 5
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to out-work	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. on List</u>	
Wearing apparel - Making etc. cleaning and washing	6	There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, no prosecutions for failure to supply lists, no instances of work in unwholesome premises, no notices served and no prosecutions.
Curtains and furniture hangings	2	
<hr/> <b>TOTAL</b> <hr/>		<b>8</b> <hr/>



