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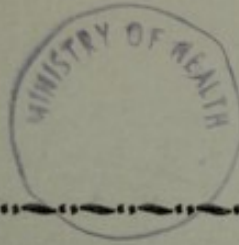
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URBAN DISTRICT
OF BOLSOVER

DERBYSHIRE

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1964



MOH. Botsonel VDC
Ail rphr 1964

Dr Ross A48 FH - 1 FEB 1966

2 FEB 1966

Handwritten text on a yellowed paper strip, oriented vertically. The text is written in a cursive script, likely a historical form of Chinese or Japanese characters. The characters are arranged in two columns, separated by a vertical line. The right column contains approximately 10 characters, and the left column contains approximately 10 characters. The paper shows signs of age, including discoloration and faint smudges.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1964)

Chairman	-	Councillor S. T. Fisher
Vice-Chairman	-	Councillor D. A. Coupe, J.P.
Councillor J. W. Bluff		Councillor R. Raben.
Councillor F. Brothwell,		Councillor W. B. Revill,
Councillor S. J. Clarke,		Councillor J. W. Savage,
Councillor F. Cross		Councillor J. Spray.
Councillor T. Fulleylove		Councillor W. A. Taylor,

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. A. R. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
'Dale Close', 100 Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.
(Telephone : Mansfield 811/2).

Clerk: Miss P. M. WILSON.

Deputy Medical Officer (Part time)

Dr. R. R. LANE.

Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

JOHN F. H. WALTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
(Tel. : Bolsover 3255/6)
Council Offices.

Clerk : T. G. WINNARD

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bolsover Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

Once again I have the privilege of submitting an Annual Report to you. As always I hope you will find it of interest.

The number of live births and the birth rate is virtually the same this year as last. I am pleased to report, however, a large fall in the number of infant deaths. Similarly, I am very pleased to see a large fall in the peri-natal mortality rate. The death rate and the number of deaths are the same this year as last. Although the total is the same, there has been a change in the male, female ratio. You will see this in more detail in the report.

Once again I would like to thank you as a Committee for all your help and encouragement. Also, my thanks to Mr Wright (Clerk of the Council) and to Mr Margerrison (Engineer and Surveyor). Finally, I must thank everyone on the staff of Bolsover U.D.C. for their help and courtesy throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. ROBERTSON
Medical Officer of Health.

'Dale Close',
100 Chesterfield Road, South,
Mansfield.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

During 1964 some of the general practitioners continued to notify home accidents to me. Below I attempt to analyse these accidents.

Number notified ... 130

Degree of Injury

Trivial	Moderate	Severe	Fatal
9	85	35	1

Accidents in Age Groups

Under 1	...	...	...	...	3
1	...	...	...	...	4
2	...	...	...	...	8
3	...	...	...	...	6
4	...	...	...	...	3
5-9	...	...	...	...	12
10-14	...	...	...	...	13
15-24	...	...	...	...	16
25-44	...	...	...	...	25
45-65	...	...	...	...	26
65 plus	...	...	...	...	13
Unknown	...	...	...	...	1

Cause of Accidents

Falls — 55.
 Burns and scalds — 18
 Putting too severe a strain on muscles — 8.
 Cuts — 8.
 Animal bites or insect stings — 8.
 Trapping fingers — 7.
 Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one — 7.
 Improper or careless use of tool — 4.
 Splinters — 3.
 Foreign body in ear — 3.

Swallowing poison — 2.
 Swallowing coin — 2.
 Foreign body in nose — 2.
 Electric Shock — 1.
 Trapping foot — 1.
 Too tight ring — 1.

Cause of Accidents in Age Groups

Under 1	Burns and Scalds	2
	Falls	1
Age 1	Falls	1
	Swallowing poison	1
	Too severe strain on muscles	1
	Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one	1
Age 2	Burns and scalds	4
	Falls	1
	Swallowing poison	1
	Foreign body in nose	1
	Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one	1
Age 3	Falls	2
	Burns and scalds	1
	Foreign body in nose	1
	Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one	1
	Animal bite or insect sting	1
Age 4	Falls	3
Age 5-9	Falls	3
	Cuts	2
	Swallowing coin	2
	Burns and scalds	2
	Animal bite or insect sting	1
	Trapping foot	1
Trapping fingers	1	

Age 10-14	Falls	4
	Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one	2
	Animal bites or insect stings	2
	Burns and scalds	2
	Improper or careless use of tool	1
	Foreign body in ear	1
	Trapping fingers	1
Age 15-24	Falls	8
	Putting too severe a strain on muscles	2
	Burns and scalds	2
	Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one	1
	Animal bite or insect sting	1
	Cuts	1
	Too tight ring	1
Age 25-44	Falls	8
	Putting too severe a strain on muscles	4
	Cuts	3
	Animal bites or insect stings	2
	Improper or careless use of tool	2
	Burns	2
	Splinters	1
	Trapping fingers	1
	Foreign body in ear	1
Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one	1	
Age 45-65	Falls	14
	Trapping fingers	4
	Burns	3
	Improper or careless use of tool	1
	Electric shock	1
	Splinters	1
	Cuts	1
Animal bite or insect sting	1	

Age 65 plus	Falls	9
	Splinters	1
	Putting too severe a strain on muscles	1
	Cuts	1
	Foreign body in ear	1
Age unknown	Fall	1

Comments

1. This year there have been 57 more accidents notified than last year. As I have pointed out previously, I do not know how complete the notifications are. However, we can certainly say that home accidents are not getting any less in number. I feel certain that there are very many home accidents occurring every year in my three districts. Again, I must repeat that I believe notifications of home accidents should be a statutory requirement and that the notifying doctor should be well paid for the notification. Apart from the number of accidents, the quality, as it were, is very important. These 139 accidents give a very good idea of the type and range of happenings which can cause accidents in the home.

2. One fatal accident was notified to me. This was a man of 48 who had been subject to dizziness for some time. He fell all the way downstairs, fracturing his skull and some ribs. He died as a result of the accident.

3. For the fourth year running, most accidents have been due to falls and burns. I forecast that this would be the case last year and I feel sure that we shall have a similar position next year. Falls and burns are without doubt the most frequent and important cause of home accidents. Everyone must be extremely careful when a naked source of heat is present and where there is any hazard which could cause a fall.

4. As you can see from the degree of injury table, only 9 of these accidents were classed as causing trivial injury. In other words, these accidents are important as a cause of injury.

5. Once again, no accidents due to domestic gas were notified to me.

6. A new cause of accident this year has been animal bites or insect stings. This just goes to show that pets can be a source of home accidents.

NEEDED, A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Derbyshire County Council is the Welfare Authority for my three districts. In two of the districts they have built very nice homes for old people. In the other district they have converted a former isolation hospital into a home for old people. These three places have been very much appreciated by my Councils and by all the inhabitants of the districts. My three district councils, as Housing Authorities, have done their bit. They have each provided some type of what I call sheltered dwellings for old people. I call them sheltered because they give as much independence as possible to the old people yet they provide shelter in the form of a warden who can help them and some communal facilities. It is surprising how much one gets to know about these homes. I have never heard a complaint about any of them but I have heard them praised very often. This praise has been applied equally to the District Councils' efforts and to the County Council's.

Soon after I came to this district I made the acquaintance of two men. They used to go out walking regularly whether it was hailing, raining, snowing or sunshining. The younger of the two men had been forced

to retire prematurely because of ill health. Obviously, he and his friend enjoyed their walks together and they were so regularly seen that you could almost set your watch by them. Very often they would stop and have a five minute chat with me. Unfortunately, the younger of the two men died some years ago. I did not see his friend again until very recently.

The above two paragraphs seem to be about completely different subjects. However, they dovetail in the following way. I did see the survivor of the two a short time ago. He fastened upon me rather like the Ancient Mariner in the famous poem. Admittedly, he was, and is, an old man, but, even so, time had not dealt kindly with him in the intervening years. He told me how much he missed his friend and this loss had been increased by the death of his wife. He had given up his house and was now living with some younger people. Unfortunately, he was not getting on at all well with them (I am not apportioning blame, I am merely stating that they were not getting on together). The result is that the old man is desperately lonely. He is handicapped badly with arthritis but when I saw him he was dragging himself along to the pub for a drink and more especially, for company (I wonder how often this happens). Several times he told me that he was not really bothered about a drink but he did crave the company. During the conversation he gestured with his thumb towards the County Council home for old people, and the sheltered dwellings provided by the District Council. He said he might have to go there but he did not want to unless he was forced. In the next breath he repeated how desperately unhappy he was at present.

Surely a change of attitude is needed here. We can all remember the days of the workhouse. These days have gone and we hope they will never return. Yet, here was a man who on his own admission was desperately unhappy but still used the word 'forced' in connection with the shelter provided by the Local Authorities. I am not suggesting that every old person should go into

a home or sheltered dwelling. Most of them do not need any help. However, I am appalled that a man should know that he would be better off in one, yet still refuse because of an old and mistaken belief.

I have said that I think a change of attitude is needed. It seems easy to decide this but the rub could be in trying to change our attitudes. I would like to make the following suggestions in the hope that they might help:—

First, we must see that all homes that are built are good and that they provide as much privacy as possible for the people in them.

Second, I would suggest that we try to open up these homes more. Visiting hours at hospitals are becoming more frequent throughout the country and I would like to see the same applied here. There are leagues of hospital friends, why not leagues of friends of old people's homes? What I really want to see is people (of all ages) visiting, whether they have relatives or not in the home.

Third, it is generally believed that the younger you are the easier it is to change your mind. Bearing this in mind it seems to me the time to show people these homes is in middle age and in youth. I know the school curriculum is overloaded as it is but I think that nothing but good (for both sides) would come from an association between a school and a home or sheltered dwelling.

Our homes are very much better than they used to be. Let us not hide them from sight. And let us hope that in the future no one who is **KNOWINGLY** unhappy in his present circumstances will shrink from the idea of entering a home or sheltered dwelling. I have

praised the homes and sheltered dwellings in my districts. They deserve it. In quality they are second to none. As always, quantity is a bit behind-hand but not for too long, I hope.

TYPHOID 1964

Without doubt the most publicised event in the Public Health year 1964 was the outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberdeen. Hundreds of people developed typhoid fever and some people died. It has been accepted that the cause of the outbreak was a large tin of contaminated corned beef. At a factory in South America, tins of corned beef were being cooled in contaminated and unchlorinated water. It is believed that sufficient water got in through seams of the tin to contaminate the meat and make it dangerous to health. Unfortunately, the water penetration was not in sufficient quantity to spoil the meat.

Obviously, one tin is not cooled by itself. Therefore, it is very likely that other tins could have been contaminated at the same time. Because of this, the Ministry of Health sent code numbers to every Medical Officer of Health. All establishments selling or purveying corned beef were visited and any tins bearing the suspected Code numbers were withdrawn from sale. This necessitated a fair bit of work. For instance, in Bolsover, 122 visits had to be made in connection with these enquiries. It can be taken that visits were made pro rata in Blackwell and Clowne. These visits were not without result; in Bolsover 17 x 6lb. cans of corned beef were withdrawn from sale (one had already been sold and consumed; fortunately, with no ill results). Similarly, cans were withdrawn in Blackwell and Clowne.

Now it is not known, and probably will never be known, whether any of these withheld cans had actually

been contaminated by water containing typhoid bacilli. Nevertheless, it is obvious that they were a potential danger to health. The work conducted by the Public Health Department at Aberdeen during the outbreak has already been praised and publicised. However, it has perhaps not been realised how much work went on in the background throughout the rest of the country. It seems to me that what my departments and every other Health department did is a perfect example of the functions of a Public Health department. The best way to maintain Public Health is by vigilance and care. The work which we all did seems to have been of benefit to the country in that there was no generalised spread of infection. That is why Public Health departments are there.

One point I must make. All the establishments and traders concerned were very co-operative in their dealings with us during the above investigations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their help, courtesy and co-operation.

DIRTY DOGS

During 1964 I noticed a lot of correspondence in the papers about dogs fouling pavements. Most of these letters were concerned from the aesthetic point of view. However, later on in the year there was a leading article in 'Medical News' about the same subject. This was written from a medical viewpoint and it listed the diseases which could be spread from dogs to humans. There are many.

In 1964 we had one case of paratyphoid in Blackwell. Naturally, I had to investigate this and many specimens were sent from the sufferer to the Public Health Laboratory. We kept doing this until it was proved in the laboratory that his bowel was no longer excreting paratyphoid bacilli. While I was visiting the family concerned, they told me that they had had their dog to the Vet. He said that he had recently seen a dog which was excreting paratyphoid bacilli. I have not checked up as to whether this is true or not. Indeed it does not matter

whether it is true, what does matter is that it could be true. If it were true there would be a danger to public health.

Every year the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health holds a large and important Conference. It is a very high powered affair and all up-to-date advances are reviewed each year. Yet a few years ago the most fundamental statement made at the Conference was one of the utmost simplicity. Professor Brockington (Professor of Public Health, University of Manchester) pointed out that if man's waste (in particular bowel waste) could be kept away from man's food, the death rates and the illness rates of the world would decline dramatically. In this country we have worked very hard towards this end for over 100 years. There is no doubt that we have achieved much as far as man is concerned. However, we do not seem to have got so far with man's domestic animals. I have mentioned dogs but there are also cows. In two of my districts it is common to see herds of cows walking up main and busy roads. Unfortunately, they leave evidence of their trip behind them (flies just love this). Surely, this is wrong. It seems stupid to me that we bother about ourselves and yet do nothing about those animals which can excrete the same pathogenic organisms as we ourselves.

I mention that we had a case of paratyphoid fever in Blackwell. If I, as Medical Officer of Health were to allow such cases to run around and foul pavements I would no doubt be deservedly sacked. Indeed, I am employed to try and prevent spread of infection. Yet it is quite possible that animals can do just that. As I have said, I think this is completely wrong.

Earlier in this report I have written about the typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen. That was caused by man's waste contaminating **ONE** tin of corned beef. So, you cannot be too careful. I have no doubt that whether you look at this subject from the point of view of health or amenity, the present practice of our domesticated animals leave much to be desired.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	4,526
Population (Census) 1961	11,770
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1964	11,800
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1964)	3,705
Rateable value (end of 1964)	£394,154
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1964	£1552 10 1

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	Total	Male	Female
Live births	203	105	101
Rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	16.5		
Illegitimate Live Births	12	6	6
(per cent of total live births)	5.8		
Stillbirths	6	1	5
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	28.3		
Total live and still births	212	106	106
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	3	2	1
Infant Mortality Rates :—			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			14.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			15.5
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)			9.7
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)			9.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)			37.7
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—Nil.			
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births—Nil.			

Comments

The number of live births and the birth rate are the same as last year but the percentage of illegitimate live births has risen.

The infant mortality rate, the neo-natal mortality rate, the early neo-natal mortality rate and the peri-natal mortality rate are all very much lower than last year. This is a very pleasing thing to see. Let us hope that we see the same progress next year.

Our figures compare with the national ones as follows :—

	Bolsover	England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rate	14.6	20.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	19.7	13.8
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	37.7	28.2

Our figures compare better with the national ones this year. Last year all three figures were higher than the national ones.

Two infants died under the age of four weeks. One death was from a congenital abnormality and the other was caused by birth injury. One infant died between the age of four weeks and one year and this death was due to acute tracheo-bronchitis.

At present we cannot prevent all infant deaths but we can try to prevent as many as possible. The best way of doing this is by providing good ante-natal care for expectant mothers. I can only say again how important it is to seek out and accept ante-natal care. General Practitioners and the Local Health Authority are only too keen to provide ante-natal care.

It is nice to see that there has been no maternal death and indeed we have not had such a death since 1957.

DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
111	59	52

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 12.9 (corrected). While the national death rate was 11.3 (provisional). The total number of deaths is the same as last year.

However, there has been a decrease of 9 in the number of male deaths and an increase of 10 in the number of female deaths.

Causes of Death	Male	Female
Cancer, stomach	1	1
Cancer, lungs	5	2
Cancer, breast	0	2
Cancer, Uterus	0	2
Cancer, other	5	4
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	7
Coronary disease, angina	16	10
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2
Other heart disease	4	6
Other circulatory disease	1	4
Pneumonia	3	3
Bronchitis	6	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
All other accidents	1	0
Suicide	0	1

Comments

There has not been any great change in the pattern of deaths this year. There has been an increase of four in the number of female coronary deaths. The total deaths from bronchitis is the same this year as last. This year there have been three deaths from suicides and accident. This is much less than last year and I hope this improvement will be maintained because I always think of these deaths as being avoidable. I am pleased to see that there has been no death from tuberculosis.

Causes of Death 1955-1964

	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer, stomach	2	-	4	3	4	2	3	4	2	4
Cancer, lung	7	6	6	4	3	-	2	1	1	1
Cancer, breast	2	1	3	2	1	2	5	-	2	3
Cancer, uterus	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	3
Cancer, other sites	9	7	7	8	6	6	17	6	7	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	-
Diabetes	1	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	13	17	14	7	19	14	12	15	15
Coronary disease, angina	26	22	14	15	20	17	25	7	15	8

	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	-	1	2	-	1	2	7	3	
Other heart disease	10	13	18	17	10	14	14	10	30	23	
Other circulatory disease	5	7	5	6	10	6	7	11	8	5	
Influenza	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	
Pneumonia	6	4	9	10	5	3	7	5	3	2	
Bronchitis	11	11	7	5	9	5	9	8	6	9	
Other respiratory diseases	1	2	4	4	1	3	2	-	-	1	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	-	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	3	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	2	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Congenital Malformations	2	3	3	3	-	4	2	2	-	2	
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	9	6	6	9	8	9	12	9	12	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	3	2	3	1	2	4	2	3	
All other accidents	1	6	4	6	3	4	6	2	5	4	
Suicide	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	1	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics

These are provided by the Derbyshire County Council

Ambulance

This service is provided by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities

1. **Analytical** — provided by the County Council.
2. **Bacteriological** — provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

I thank both for their courtesy and efficiency.

Chest Clinic

Sheffield Regional Hospital Board provide such a clinic in Chesterfield, another is held at the Victoria Hospital, Worksop (Watson Road Clinic) and Mansfield hold one at Kings Mill Hospital.

Venereal Disease

Treatment and advice can be obtained at Derby Royal Infirmary, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Victoria Hospital Worksop, and Mansfield and District General Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The water supply to the Urban District of Bolsover is provided by the North Derbyshire Water Board. This supply has been sufficient in quality and quantity throughout the year. The Engineer and Manager to the Board has very kindly sent me the following report. I would like to thank him for this and also for his co-operation throughout the year.

- (a.1) The area derives its source from Bolsover Moor and Hillstown works where treatment comprises softening and chlorination, distribution is from covered service reservoirs or tanks. The resultant quality of supplied waters is satisfactory.
- (2) The quantity proved adequate for normal household purposes although temporary restrictions were imposed on the use of hose pipes.
- (b) Chemical and bacteriological analyses are carried out in the Board's Laboratories. All raw treated and distributed waters are examined at least monthly. The number of examinations involved in 1964 being :—

Bacteriological	240
Chemical	240

Bacteriological results on treated waters have been consistent with standards laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Chemical results in view of the fact that two sources are involved, vary with location and approximate extremes of variation are :—

pH	7.4	8.2
Alkalinity (CaCo ₃)	90	260 mg/l
Hardness (CaCo ₃)	130	160 mg/l
Chloride (Cl)	40	130 mg/l
Fluoride (F)		0.1

- (c) There was no evidence of plumbo solvent action in treated waters.
- (d) Before being brought into service all new mains were washed out, sterilized and samples taken to ensure satisfactory bacteriological and physical results were obtained.

No action was necessary in respect of any other form of post treatment contamination.

The waters were monitored to detect any excessive amounts of radioactive substances.

Monthly reports of current bacteriological and physical results were forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

- (e) The number of dwelling houses in the area is 3,671 all of which are supplied from mains, the population is 11,772.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water

From Bolsover Moor S.P. (Blend)

Physical Examination

Appearance — clear.
Colour — Hazen
Taste — normal.
E. Conductivity — 910 units
Odour — nil.
pH — 7.6

Chemical Examination (Mg/lit)

Calcium (Ca)	32.8
Magnesium (Mg)	18.2
Sodium (Na)	173
Potassium (K)	1.1
Silica (SiO ₂)	6
Total Solid (180 C)	663
Sulphate (SO ₄)	164.6
Chlorides (Cl)	50.6
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃)	157
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	0
Total Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	255
Excess Alkalinity (Na ₂ CO ₃)	104
Carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	157
Iron (Fe)	0.04
Manganese (Mn)	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.02
Oxygen Absorbed (O)	0.05
Oxid N. (N)	10.5
Free chlorine (Cl) 0.40. Combined 0.04.	

Results of Examination of Sample of Water

From Hillstown S.P. (Blend)

Physical Examination

Appearance — clear.
Colour — (Burgess) 5 m.m.
Taste — normal.
E. Conductivity — 780 Units
Turbidity — 0.05 Units
Odour — nil.
pH — 8.0

Chemical Examination (Mg/lit)

Calcium (Ca)	30.8
Magnesium (Mg)	17.7
Sodium (Na)	130.3
Potassium (K)	2.0
Silica (SiO ₂)	7
Oxid N. (N)	7.9
Sulphate (SO ₄)	122.2
Chlorides (Cl)	69.6
Total Solid (180 C)	533
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃)	150
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	0
Total Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	182
Excess Alkalinity (Na ₂ CO ₃)	33.9
Carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	150
Iron (Fe)	0.04
Manganese (Mn)	00.1
Aluminium (Al)	0.05
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	00.2
Oxygen Absorbed (O)	0.10
Free chlorine (Cl) 0.02	Combined Nil.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Normal treatment of sewage continues.
2. The Whaley Common Plant is still in an unsatisfactory condition and cannot be repaired, as a period of stability has not yet arrived after the working of the second seam of coal under the site.
3. The Consulting Engineers Report, with regard to sewerage of the town and the sewage disposal works mentioned in last year's report has now been received by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The scheme envisaged allows for the general improvement of town sewers required by obsolescence and expansion of the town, as does the further provision for the sewage disposal works.

The main works continues to be heavily affected by subsidence. In view of the circumstances the effluent continues to be remarkably good, although there is an excess of suspended solids caused by limited settling and humus capacity.

4. The two small sewage disposal plants at Shuttlewood and Stanfree will come within the terms of reference of the Consulting Engineers after Bolsover Town has been dealt with and in the meantime allowance has been made for the rebuilding of part of the storm tank at Stanfree which has deteriorated owing to age.

HOUSING

This has been a very poor year for the provision of new houses in Bolsover U.D.C. The Council did not build any houses, but 18 were built by private owners. Thus, the total for 1964 is 18. This is less than the total for 1963 (26), which in turn was much less than the total for 1962 (61). Usually in this report I am pleased when the figures become lower (e.g. number of deaths and infant deaths and number of cases of infectious diseases); but this is one total which I would like to see increased year by year.

CONVERSIONS

No conversions were made during the year although this is not as bad as it sounds because there are only nine houses left in the district with pail closets. Nine out of a total of 3,705 is not bad at all.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Milk, Meat and Other Foods

An account of the supervision of milk, meat and other foods will be found in the Public Health Inspector's report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The Ministry has requested information about the above. There is no common lodging house in the Bolsover Urban District.

FACTORIES ACTS 1961

There are 28 Factories registered in the Bolsover Urban District which are inspected from time to time, and action taken as it is necessary. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	18	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	64	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises.)	4	19	1
Total	28	101	5

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Number of Cases in which defects were found.	
			Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total	5	4	—	—

3. OUTWORK — nil.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1964

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases notified.												Total cases rem'd to Hospital	Total Deaths			
	At Ages - years																
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			65 and up		
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
do. (Non-Paralytic)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	264	10	32	30	43	32	113	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	9	1	..	2	1	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Para-Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastro Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food Poisoning	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningococcal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	282	11	32	32	44	35	117	3	1	2	2	3	3	2	3	1	1

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

This year we had 264 cases. It is always accepted that each alternate year is a peak year for measles followed by a low year. Usually, there is a tremendous difference between the numbers notified in a peak year and those in a low year. This difference does not seem to operate in Bolsover. Our figures for the last four years have been 462, 60, 118 and 264. Yet the figure of 264 this year should really represent a low year. As you can see the accepted pattern has gone hay wire in the case of Bolsover. It will be interesting to see what happens in the future.

Whooping cough

We had the same number of cases this year as last.

Poliomyelitis

Again, there was no case of poliomyelitis. I can only repeat that it is my belief that all who are eligible for vaccination against this illness, should accept vaccination as soon as possible. Vaccination can now be done by mouth.

Scarlet Fever

The decrease between last year and this year is phenomenal. Last year there were 59 cases and this year there have only been 2. I would like to think that such a staggering improvement would continue but I doubt it very much.

Diphtheria

There has not been a case of diphtheria in Bolsover since 1948. We can keep this happy state of affairs by having our children immunised against diphtheria. In this connection I have to report that 140 primary immunisations against diphtheria were completed in 1964. This is the same total as in 1963. I would urge that all parents should have their children immunised.

Food Poisoning

There were two cases of food poisoning in Bolsover notified during the year. The people in question bought roast pork sandwiches in Chesterfield. There was quite an outbreak of food poisoning in Chesterfield caused by these sandwiches. In fact the disease did not arise in Bolsover and our actions therefore were confined to preventing any spread of infection from the two sufferers: Both people were quite poorly, but I am pleased to say that they recovered completely.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars :—

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...								
15 ...								
20 ...								
25 ...	1							
35 ...								
45 ...								
55 ...	1							
65 & upwards								
Total	2							

We have had only two new cases of tuberculosis this year. This is one less than in 1963. However, I look forward to the year when there will be no new cases of tuberculosis.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

for the year 1964

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the
BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1964.

The report reveals a reduction in the number of new houses erected in the Urban District, and for the second consecutive year the number of houses lost through slum clearance and redevelopment schemes exceeded the number of new houses built. The last houses built by the Council were occupied during the first few months of 1963 and at the time of writing this report no plans exist for an early resumption of house building by the Council, or for large scale building by private developers. To provide for the normal replacement of houses, some 50 houses each year are required in a district of this size, and if it is necessary to cater for an increasing population and to secure an improvement in the standard of housing accommodation this number should be appreciably increased. There is no shortage of land suitable for housing development and two additional areas have been earmarked for future housing requirements, the main difficulties being financial considerations. Of course a reduction in interest rates or the payment of higher subsidies would

be welcomed by local authorities, but one cannot help but wonder whether any extra help in this direction would do much more than offset increased building costs in recent years. I am afraid we must be prepared to accept that good new houses will inevitably require higher rents and that the days when rents were in the teens of shillings have gone for ever. Nowadays, there is virtually no private capital being invested in new houses for renting, and local authorities will be called upon to provide more houses year by year as the number of privately owned rented houses gradually diminishes. It is to be hoped that an increase in house building, and especially of private houses, can soon be undertaken, permitting a drastic reduction in the number of families who are still occupying sub-standard accommodation, and providing homes for young married couples who, if the present conditions continue, will increasingly be compelled to look elsewhere.

In 1963, the implementation of a further stage of the Council's smoke control programme was postponed and in June, 1964, an Order was made to revoke the No 1 Smoke Control Order, following complaints of hardship being caused to persons living in the smoke control area. This Revocation Order is now awaiting the decision of the Minister of Housing and Local Government. It is now some 10 or 11 years since the Committee on Air Pollution reported that air pollution, as it occurs in this country, is a social and economic evil of the first magnitude, doing untold harm to human health and happiness and being a prodigal waste of material resources. It calculated that the cost of curing it would be a fraction of the savings which would result from the cure, and claimed that the expenditure of many millions of pounds a year, in eliminating smoke, would be a most profitable national investment. I appreciate that mining areas have peculiar problems, but it would be a great pity if the benefits to be derived from living in cleaner and healthier surroundings were to be ignored.

Improved facilities for handling and baling waste paper resulted in record sales and an increase in profitability — it is hoped that even better results can be achieved in the coming year.

I am, Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

Public Health Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Table showing inspections, etc. undertaken during the year 1964 :—

Inspection of houses for nuisances and defects	...	382
Revisits to houses	... ..	361
Vists in connection with improvement of houses	..	187
Visits re water supply	... ..	19
Visits to infectious disease cases	... ..	12
Milk Distributors and Dairies	... ..	49
Slaughterhouses — Meat Inspection	... ..	301
Butchers Shops	... ..	47
Bakehouses	... ..	7
Fried Fish Shops	... ..	9
Other Food Preparing Premises	... ..	70
Food Shops	... ..	219
Market Stalls	... ..	96
Ice Cream Premises	... ..	90
Inns and Other Public Buildings	... ..	10
Factories and Workplaces	... ..	101
Knacker's Yard	... ..	21
Schools	... ..	7
Controlled Refuse Tips	... ..	98
Colliery Spoil Banks	... ..	9
Clean Air Act — Smoke Observations	... ..	17
Clean Air Act — Smoke Control Area	... ..	72
re Atmospheric Pollution	... ..	22
Moveable Dwellings	... ..	36
re Keeping of Animals	... ..	21
Shops Act	... ..	14
Petroleum Licensing	... ..	49
Drainage Works	... ..	134
to Public Baths	... ..	12
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	... ..	38
Interviews with owners, contractors, etc.	... ..	185

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT DEFECTS

The following table shows the defects remedied as a result of action under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Defects in connection with :—

House roofs	...	...	...	...	48
Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	...	13
Eaves, gutters and rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	28
Pointing and brickwork of walls	...	...	...	...	19
Yard Paving	...	...	...	...	8
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	19
Internal wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	84
Windows and Sash cords	...	...	...	...	31
Doors	...	...	...	...	5
Floors	...	...	...	...	9
Staircases	...	...	...	...	6
Cooking ranges and fireplaces	...	...	...	...	37
Sinks	...	...	...	...	8
Washing coppers	...	...	...	...	4
Rising or penetrating dampness	...	...	...	...	53
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	10
Drains and inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	42
Water closet pedestals	...	...	...	...	19
Closet flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	34
Walls and fences	...	...	...	...	1
Dilapidated dustbins	...	...	...	...	131

In connection with the foregoing defects 262 informal notices and 9 statutory notices were served.

HOUSING

One of the prime responsibilities of any local authority is to protect and promote the health of the inhabitants of its area by ensuring that enough good houses are available to allow them to live contented and healthy lives. It is a responsibility which will not diminish, for as the general standard of living is raised, so the people will expect a corresponding rise in the standard of housing.

To ensure sufficient good houses requires action on several fronts: by the erection of new local authority houses and old persons bungalows for letting; by ensuring that those persons who aspire to own their own houses are able to do so and are given a reasonable choice; by properly repairing those older houses which still have a useful life and providing modern amenities which are now universally accepted as essential to a decent life; and by the removal and replacement of houses which, by present day standards, are unfit for habitation and no longer capable of providing satisfactory homes.

We shall probably never reach a state of Utopia, and even that would only be of temporary duration, but the objective is to provide good living conditions for as high a proportion as possible of the residents in this area.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

1964 was a rather disappointing year, as only 18 new houses were completed, and all these were privately owned. The second stage of the Council's housing development on Valley Estate was completed in the previous year and at the end of 1964, there were no immediate plans for the resumption of large scale development by the Council, or of any large scale building by private developers.

To the end of 1964, the number of post war houses in the Urban District had risen to 1,262, of these 824 had been erected by the Council, 256 by the Coal Industry Housing Association and 182 by private developers. These 1262 new houses represent a quite satisfactory 34% of the houses in the district, but the striking feature is the comparatively small number of houses erected in recent years, when house building on a national basis has been at quite high levels, and the very limited private development when compared with other areas where private building has risen sharply in recent years. During the past five years, only 149 new houses and bungalows have been erected in the Urban District (72 by the Council and 77 by private developers) compared with 474 new houses during the previous five years (356 by the Council, 44 by private developers and 74 by the Coal Industry Housing Association). Fluctuations in interest rates and subsidies for house building are particularly important in a small district and these seriously affect the rate of local authority building. It is perhaps fortunate that most of the post war housing development undertaken by the Council was carried out at a time when interest rates were lower than they are at present, but the hopes of a return to lower rates or higher subsidies do not appear to be forthcoming in the very near future.

Plans exist for the redevelopment of former clearance areas in the centre of the town, and during the year the Consultants reported on sewerage schemes for proposed housing development areas in Oxcroft Lane and Moor Lane. These areas are capable of providing large scale residential development in attractive parts of the Urban District, and the decision to undertake further house building or to positively encourage extensive private development cannot be delayed indefinitely. We are approaching, in fact we may already have arrived at, the period when the increased number of children born in the immediate post war period will be getting married and if these young men and women are to be encouraged to continue to reside in this district, quite considerable house building must be undertaken. A few years

ago a major school building programme was required to cater for the children of "the bulge", very soon many more houses will be required for their entry into adult and family life.

During the past decade or so, quite a large number of young couples from this area have sought and purchased houses in the neighbouring rural areas, and one wonders whether most of them would have been prepared to continue to live in this district had a wider selection of houses been available. In the Urban District a large number of administrative workers are employed in the Headquarters offices of the National Coal Board and the Coalite Group of Companies, and it is indeed disappointing to see such a very high proportion of them driving to their homes outside this area at the end of each day. It is to be hoped that in the future much greater private development can be positively encouraged to attract many of these people to live in the Bolsover Urban District and this can be achieved without placing undue burden on rates or existing rent levels.

The overall climate in this country in the post war period has been one of inflation, and as land values, building costs and interest rates have risen, local authority houses must inevitably be more costly to provide. The problems facing small local authorities anxious to provide new houses at rents which tenants are prepared to accept, have been most worrying. I suppose it is only natural for people to want to pay as little as possible in rent or mortgage repayments, but I sometimes wonder whether we are prepared to pay a sufficient proportion of our income in providing good homes for ourselves; certainly if we want good new homes these can only be secured by paying more, whether in rents, rates, mortgage repayments or taxes. Inevitably the older people who can remember pre-war rent levels or the rent of their particular house when they first went to live in it, will have a different attitude from the young couples who are anxious to rent or purchase a house at

the start of married life, but these differences will have to be reconciled and of course there will always be the particular difficulties of the less well-off families. If local authority house building is to be continued and expanded it seems inevitable that some system of rent rebate scheme to help the less fortunate must come into general operation.

We are being continually warned of the pressing need to modernise the country, of the approaching age of increased automation, of the necessity to accept change and greater mobility in the working population. An adequate supply of good modern rented houses is a fundamental necessity if greater mobility of labour is to be secured and it seems inevitable that much more emphasis will be placed on local authority house building. We are approaching the era when there will be only two kinds of houses, local authority rented houses and owner occupied houses. I have previously stated that potential owner occupiers should have a reasonable choice of houses to purchase, it is equally desirable that a wider selection of rented houses should be available for prospective tenants. This could require the erection of much better houses than most local authorities have provided in the past, but of course rents would be much higher than those charged for the types of houses which have been built in the past.

For too long we have regarded our houses and our homes as lasting almost indefinitely, and houses which were built generations ago and now contain no modern amenities continue to be occupied. We must be prepared to replace our houses at shorter intervals, just as we accept replacement of cars, washing machines and other household appliances. It is hoped that industrialised building will produce more houses and eventually cheaper houses to allow easier and quicker replacement.

REMOVAL OF UNFIT HOUSES

To coincide with the erection of houses by the Council on Valley Estate in 1962, a further stage of the slum clearance programme was commenced that year. During 1964 action continued in removing these unfit houses which were dealt with during the previous two years.

The individual details are given below.

Hill Top (No. 4) Clearance Area

This area comprised the three houses 4, 6 and 8 Hill Top, and a compulsory purchase order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1963. The tenants were rehoused during 1963 and the clearance of the site was completed early in 1964.

Church Road (No. 1) Clearance Area

A clearance order in respect of the six houses 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 Church Road, Stanfree was confirmed in 1962. The demolition of the properties had not been completed by the end of 1963, and during 1964 clearance of the remaining houses was carried out in default.

Castle Street (No. 1) Clearance Area

This area comprised the four houses 10, 12, 14 and 16 Castle Street, which were purchased in 1963, together with three adjoining houses in the same ownership. Early in 1964 the seven houses were demolished. This site is in the central area of the town and contiguous to cleared sites already owned by the Council; the whole area is ripe for redevelopment.

Castle Street (No. 4) Clearance Area

This area comprised twelve houses and was purchased together with two adjoining houses. Eleven of the

houses were demolished in 1963, but three houses, 15, 17 and 19 Cotton Street, were of architectural and historical value, and were retained with a view to being repaired and improved. During 1964 one of the three tenants was rehoused and plans to recondition the three houses were prepared and approved, though no work was actually undertaken during the year. It is hoped that satisfactory completion of this scheme can be reported in next year's report.

Individual Unfit Houses

One individual unfit house — 6 Church Road, Stanfree, dealt with in previous years, was demolished during 1964.

During 1964 a total of 17 houses were demolished, one house was closed and a further house was lost by conversion to shop premises. For the second successive year the number of houses lost through slum clearance, redevelopment or conversion exceeded the number of new houses erected in the district: it is earnestly hoped that this trend can quickly be reversed.

In the past the implementation of the various stages of the Council's slum clearance programme has been very closely allied to new house building schemes, but the special subsidies which used to exist for rehousing families displaced by slum clearance action have now been replaced by a general subsidy. The Council now own 1159 houses and towards the end of 1963, approval was given to a further small stage of the slum clearance programme allowing for displacements to be catered for by normal vacancies. Early in 1964 official representations were submitted for two small clearance areas.

Woodhouse Road Clearance Area comprising eleven houses numbered 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 2, 4, 6, 8; 10 and 12.

Middle Street Clearance Area comprising three houses numbered 3, 9 and 11.

The Council entered into negotiations to purchase the houses in these two clearance areas, together with the two houses 5 and 7 Middle Street, but these had not been completed by the end of 1964. At the end of 1964, these two clearance areas were the only cases where action in respect of unfit houses remained uncompleted. There are, however, almost 80 unfit houses remaining to be dealt with and this will require further house building before positive plans can be prepared for drastically reducing the number of sub-standard dwellings.

In addition to those houses which may be classified as unfit for habitation under the existing Housing Act standard, there are many houses which do not make very satisfactory homes and many of them do not readily lend themselves to being modernised and improved. The question of raising the existing standard and dealing with this type of dwelling will inevitably have to be faced in the not too distant future, and this will have a great effect on the number of new houses required. It clearly demonstrates that the drive to secure better housing conditions is a continuing problem facing the country and each local authority.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

During 1964, 34 houses were improved with grant aid, 3 under the discretionary grant scheme and 31 under the standard grant scheme. This represents a rather disappointing reduction when compared with the figure of 61 houses improved during each of the two previous years. Of the 34 houses improved, 10 were tenanted houses and 24 were owner occupied.

The total amount paid in grants was £4,207, an average of £113 per house for standard grants and of £238 per house for discretionary grants. Under the standard

grant schemes, 31 inside water closets were provided, 29 hot water systems, 29 wash-hand basins, 27 baths and 17 ventilated food stores.

The following table shows the number of houses in the Urban District which have been improved under the grant scheme :—

	Owner-Occupied Houses	Tenanted Houses	Total Houses Improved
1954	3	—	3
1955	25	40	65
1956	23	6	29
1957	15	4	19
1958	19	6	25
1959	32	—	32
1960 (Standard Grants)	15	—	
(Discretionary Grants)	3	6	24
1961 (Standard Grants)	15	1	
(Discretionary Grants)	6	1	23
1962 (Standard Grants)	27	22	
(Discretionary Grants)	4	8	61
1963 (Standard Grants)	40	20	
(Discretionary Grants)	1	—	61
1964 (Standard Grants)	22	9	
(Discretionary Grants)	2	1	34
	252	124	376

At the end of 1964 there were 25 cases where applications for grant had been approved, but where the works had not been completed; of these 10 were owner occupied houses and 15 were tenanted.

One particularly pleasing feature of the grant aided work carried out in this district has been the fact that

one third of all the houses improved have been tenanted houses, and to the end of 1964 only 8 houses were owned by large property owners like the National Coal Board. This percentage of tenanted houses improved is appreciably above the national average and it is to be hoped that this proportion can be maintained and possibly increased.

I reported last year on the rather disappointing response to requests made to the owners of over 300 tenanted houses to consider the provision of modern amenities in the houses they owned. During the year under review the Housing Act, 1964, came into operation and this provided powers for local authorities to require the installation of standard amenities in houses which are capable of providing satisfactory accommodation for a period of at least 15 years. The procedure is rather complex and can involve appreciable time in producing results, and there remain considerable advantages in achieving results by the voluntary co-operation of owners of suitable houses. No compulsory improvement schemes have so far been planned by this authority, but I am pleased to report that during the early months of 1965 there has been a very satisfactory increase in the number of applications received from the owners of tenanted houses and I am hopeful that next year's report should provide details of good progress made in improving rented accommodation.

It is, of course, quite right that the best possible use should be made of older houses and that as many as possible of them should be made comfortable and attractive houses by the provision of modern amenities. Many of these older houses are occupied by middle aged and elderly people, who, under the present house letting system, have little prospect of being offered the tenancy of a Council house. As the proportion of new and improved houses in the Urban District rises year by year, the comfort and welfare of those families who live in houses without modern amenities must become an increasingly

urgent problem. The grants available afford to the owner a satisfactory return on his outlay and give the tenant an improved house for a modest increase in rent.

It is more than likely that cases will exist where landlords, possibly because of advanced age, are unwilling or unable to bear the cost of improving their houses, and some local authorities are now purchasing suitable houses and improving them. This is a practice which is likely to grow, indeed the new 1964 Housing Act provides for Councils being required to purchase houses in improvement areas. These schemes relate only to houses which are suitable for improvement and would not involve local authorities in the purchase of sub-standard houses which are incapable of being transformed into good homes at reasonable cost.

It should, however, be borne in mind that the improvement of housing accommodation, especially the standard grant scheme, is basically designed to provide modern amenities in older houses and to make them into more comfortable homes where people can live happier and healthier lives. Improving a house does not necessarily prolong its life beyond a certain point, or completely eliminate the effects of age on its fabric. By all means every effort should be made to provide more comfortable homes for families, but the scheme is not a substitute for the erection of new houses.

HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

For the second year there was no addition to the number of Council bungalows or flats for elderly persons, there now being 59 one bedroom bungalows and 83 two bedroom bungalows. In addition, there are 16 two bedroom ground floor flats and 25 two bedroom temporary bungalows, though these are not reserved specifically

for older tenants. The Council thus own 183 bungalows and flats suitable for elderly persons who require small homes without stairs.

The proportion of older persons in the community grows year by year and there remains a considerable demand for Council bungalows: no doubt many people look forward to moving to small well equipped homes later in life. It would be beneficial if the number of bungalows available, especially with two bedrooms, were such that many more tenancies could be offered to couples in their middle or late fifties, enabling them to settle down in their new homes while they still enjoy good health and strength.

During the year work continued on erecting the County Council Welfare Committee's old people's home in Oxcroft Lane. This will occupy a level site quite close to the centre of the town providing accommodation for those older and more infirm people who are no longer able to look after themselves in their own houses. In the past there has been very great reluctance on the part of quite a number of old people who were very much opposed to entering a County home, presumably they were afraid of the old fashioned "work-house". The erection of this new home in this district will at least give people some idea of the type of accommodation the Welfare Committee is endeavouring to provide for those people who are in need of care and attention.

CARAVANS — MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During 1964 there was no alteration in the number of occupied caravans in the Urban District. There were five licensed sites containing individual caravans and 11 standings on the Council's caravan site continued to be occupied.

The Council's Housing and Planning Committee had previously decided to close down the Council's caravan site, in view of the improvements which would be necessary to comply with the recommended standard, but no progress was made in this direction during the year.

There are now more houses available for sale than was the case a number of years ago and it seems likely that the residential occupation of caravans will tend to decline. Enquiries continue to be made at the Council Offices regarding occupation of caravans on a temporary basis until the applicants can make more permanent arrangements, but when the requirements of the new Act are pointed out (these require planning consent and properly laid out and equipped sites before licences can be issued) most enquirers can see the advantage of deciding to secure a more permanent home.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

Particulars will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health of the number of cases of infectious diseases during the year and 12 visits were paid to houses where cases occurred.

Terminal disinfection is no longer carried out but disinfectant is available free of charge.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

There was again virtually no evidence of bed bug infestation, though several houses experienced trouble from cockroaches and control measures were carried out; suitable powder and liquid insecticides are available free of charge to affected properties.

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply of the North Derbyshire Water Board. Six samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported as suitable for drinking purposes.

PREMISES USED FOR PREPARATION or SALE OF FOOD

During 1964, 146 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food (excluding slaughterhouses)—these comprised one bakehouse, five fish and chip shops, two ice cream manufacturers and ten manufacturers of sausages, etc.

392 visits were paid to food shops and market stalls including 46 shops registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream, this being an increase of one compared with last year.

During the year action continued to be taken to secure compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and to impress on all food traders and their staff the vital importance of strict attention to cleanliness and hygienic practices in all aspects of the preparation and handling of food. The vast majority of shops are combined shop and house premises of restricted size where the hygienic storage and display of a large variety of food and other goods give rise to many problems. Many of the shops in the central area of the town are in old premises which have been converted into shops. It is pleasing that the redevelopment of the town centre is due to take place fairly soon and that the resultant new premises will have been properly designed for the purpose. Modernisation of several shops in the town centre has already been completed and these offer more hygienic conditions and better facilities for the shoppers.

There was again no case of food poisoning resulting from food manufactured or processed in the Urban District.

During the early summer of 1964, visits were paid to all canteens and food shops in the Urban District checking on stocks of large cans of corned beef similar

to the one responsible for the outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberdeen. As a result of these visits over 170 6 lb. cans were traced and 17 of these cans withheld from sale. One can from a particular South American canning establishment had already been sold without any harmful results.

Slaughterhouses

Regulations regarding Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty came into full effect in the Urban District on the 1st October, 1961, and by that date the three private slaughterhouses had been repaired and improved to comply with the requirements of the Regulations. The effect of the new Slaughterhouses Act and Regulations is to ensure the lairing, handling and slaughtering of animals in a humane manner, and to secure hygienic conditions for the handling of carcasses and offal and for efficient inspection of meat.

There was a slight decrease in the number of animals passing through the three slaughterhouses during 1964, the inspection units decreasing from 11,483 in 1963 to 10,772 in 1964. Most of the slaughtering continues to be done in small lots and slaughtering was carried out on 247 days during the year, an increase of 11 when compared with 1963. The three slaughterhouses provide facilities for nine butchers, six of them with shops in the Urban District and three with premises in adjoining rural districts.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods

The following table gives particulars of meat inspection carried out during the year, and although most of the slaughtering is done during the evenings and at weekends, once again all the carcasses were inspected. An arrangement exists with the Chesterfield Corporation Public Health Department whereby their inspectors carry out meat inspection in the Bolsover Urban District during my absence.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	732	—	—	1704	20	—
Number inspected	732	—	—	1704	20	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	84	—	—	39	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	11.5	—	—	2.3	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the year an estimated 805 lbs. of meat and offals were rejected as unfit for human consumption and were disposed of to the local knacker's yard for sterilisation. This figure is almost identical with that for the previous year. A table showing the amount of rejected meat at local slaughterhouses in recent years is given below :—

1954 (six months only)	4,232 lbs rejected
1955	3,754 " "
1956	4,501 " "
1957	3,293 " "
1958	2,312 " "
1959	1,708 " "
1960	1,014 " "
1961	806 " "
1962	521 " "
1963	802 " "
1964	805 " "

The small amount of meat rejected pays adequate tribute to the quality of animals purchased and slaughtered by local butchers and the trend established in previous years is being well maintained in the early months of 1965.

For the third successive year no bovine animals inspected in local slaughterhouses were found to be affected by tuberculosis. The most striking feature of meat inspection in the past decade has been the virtual elimination of bovine tuberculosis and this illustrates the remarkable success of the national scheme to eradicate this disease from the cattle in this country.

The following table gives the percentage of bovine animals, slaughtered in this area, found to be affected by tuberculosis :—

1954	16.40%
1955	10.39%
1956	7.82%
1957	5.71%
1958	5.51%
1959	3.06%
1960	2.11%
1961	0.15%
1962	Nil
1963	Nil
1964	Nil

This represents truly great success when we remember that in 1954 one in six of all cattle and nearly one in three of all cows slaughtered locally were found to be tuberculous. It is now seven years since the disease warranted the rejection of an entire carcass.

On the 1st October, 1963, the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, came into operation. The main effect of Regulations was to place a duty on local authorities to ensure that all animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected and marked before they are moved from the slaughterhouse and to allow local authorities to introduce charges for meat inspection as a means of recouping the cost of the service. The introduction of the Regulations created no difficulties as a 100% inspection service has been maintained since the re-opening of local slaughterhouses in 1954 and the services of the Chesterfield Corporation meat inspectors have always been available during my absence. The Council introduced charges of 2/6 per bovine animal, 9d. per calf or pig and 6d. per sheep or lamb, and during 1964 charges amounted to £134 13 0d.

Unfortunately, the Regulations gave local authorities no power to control the hours or days of slaughter, and Councils were urged to meet the reasonable requirements of the trade as regards times of inspection. There is no great volume of slaughtering carried out in this district, in fact, the number of animals dressed during 1964 represented 60% of local meat requirements, but the three slaughterhouses are rather small and it is the practice for slaughtering to take place in small lots on several days per week. During the year slaughtering was carried out on a total of 247 days, these included 50 Saturday afternoons, 3 Sundays, 1 Bank Holiday and normally 3 or 4 evenings each week, with the result that most of the meat inspection is undertaken outside normal working hours.

The following amount of food, apart from meat arising in slaughterhouses, was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered, being disposed of by burial at the Council's tip:—

- Canned meats—45 tins totalling 96 lb. 6 oz.
- Canned fruits—128 tins totalling 123 lb. 4 oz.
(including tomatoes)
- Canned vegetables—22 tins totalling 17 lb. 11 oz.
- Canned milk and cream—10 tins
- Canned soup—9 tins totalling 6 lb. 11 oz.
- Canned fish—10 tins totalling 4 lbs. 10 oz.
- Other Canned Foods—72 tins totalling 44 lb.
- Frozen Foods—435 packets

Sampling of Food

Sampling of food under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Derbyshire County Council and Mr J. Markland, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., the County Analyst, has kindly supplied the following report.

"70 samples of Food and Drugs were taken under the above Act in the area of the Bolsover U.D.C. during the year 1964. None of these samples were milk.

One sample of Lime Juice Cordial and two further samples from the same stock, contained sulphur dioxide in excess of the permitted amount. The manufacturers were cautioned.

Samples of Canned Sparkling Orange Drink contained lead in excess of the limit laid down for Soft Drinks and stocks were withdrawn from sale. These samples were part of a survey of canned soft drinks sold throughout the County. As a result of this survey the manufacturers readily agreed to change from cans sealed with the normal lead solder to cans sealed with pure tin solder. In addition the older types of packs were withdrawn from sale.

The remaining samples were satisfactory".

Milk and Dairies Administration

The sale of non-designated milk is prohibited in this district by virtue of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order, 1953, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1954.

One producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk bottles his milk at the farm and retails it locally, but from all other dairy farms the milk is collected by dairy companies for pasteurisation or sterilisation.

Five samples of milk were obtained from the one producer who retails his milk locally and all satisfied bacteriological examination:

One sample of pasteurised milk was submitted for examination and was satisfactory.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations

There were in the Urban District on the 31st December, 1964, 10 registered distributors of milk.

Bacteriological Examination of Samples

During the year there were two small manufacturers of ice cream and seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination with results as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	4
Provisional Grade 2	1
Provisional Grade 3	2
Provisional Grade 4	-

On five occasions samples from the inlet and outlet ends of the Public Baths were submitted for bacteriological examination. Three of the samples were reported as completely satisfactory, but on two occasions adjustment of the chlorine dosage was recommended to remedy slight contamination.

Six samples from the main supply of the North Derbyshire Water Board were submitted for examination and all were reported as satisfactory.

Four samples of locally bottled orange juice were all reported as satisfactory.

Slaughter of Animals Act

At the end of 1964, 12 persons held licences to slaughter or stun animals in Slaughterhouses or Knacker's Yards.

KNACKER'S YARD

21 visits of inspection were paid to the Knacker's Yard. This is a rather small business in a very remote

part of the district, and it was conducted in as satisfactory a manner as its nature and location permits.

These premises have recently been enlarged and improved to afford much better facilities for storage of meat, offals and waste products and to allow for sterilisation of diseased meat.

Two buildings in Mill Lane, Bolsover, are licensed for lairage of animals.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One shop is licensed under the provisions of the above Act, but very little business is done there.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, but no premises in the Urban District were licensed.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

14 visits were paid to shop premises regarding sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, closing hours and the employment of young persons.

OFFICES, SHOPS and RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act came into operation during the year—its main effect is to make provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in non-industrial premises, in a similar way to the Factories Act requirements concerning employees in factories. All premises covered by the new Act were required to be registered between 1st May, 1964 and the 31st July, 1964, but offices at factories, local authority offices and schools were required to register with the Factory Inspectorate.

The table below sets out details of registrations as at 31st December, 1964, and a very considerable amount of work remains to be done in securing compliance with the requirements of this new legislation.

TABLE (a) — Registrations and general inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	21	21	5
Retail shops	60	60	19
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3	3	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	9	9	2
Fuel storage depots	1	1	-

TABLE (b) — Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises

38 — these included one reported accident and a number of visits regarding registration procedure.

TABLE (c) — Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	700
Retail shops	184
Wholesale departments, warehouses	14
Catering establishments open to the public	22
Canteens	10
Fuel storage depots	2
TOTAL	932

Total Males — 561

Total Females — 371

PETROLEUM LICENSING

49 inspections were made of premises used for the storage of petroleum spirit.

At the end of 1964, 19 licences were in force covering a maximum storage capacity of 286,268 gallons.

In recent years detailed inspection of all storage installations have been undertaken to secure strict compliance with the Home Office Model Codes. During 1964, nine underground storage tanks which had been in use for rather a long time, were subjected to pressure test before renewal of licences for the following year would be considered.

RODENT CONTROL

The Department has two trained rodent operatives and one of these men undertakes rodent control work regularly. During the year one of the operatives died and a further workmen underwent training at a course organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Council undertake free treatment of domestic premises infested with rats or mice, but business premises are charged with the cost of treatments carried out. Four business premises were the subject of annual contracts and systematic inspections and treatments as and when required have resulted in these premises being kept well under control. Most of the other industrial and agricultural premises in the district have annual contracts with a private operator who was once an employee of the Ministry's rat and mouse destruction service.

The systematic survey of the district for rats and mice was continued throughout the year and the treat-

ment of the sewers revealed very little evidence of infestation. Permanent baiting points were maintained at the refuse tips, sewage works and in certain lengths of public sewer and this method of treatment has been found to be highly successful.

**Rodent Control Report for Year ended December 31st,
1964**

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Business Premises	Agricultural
Total properties inspected ...	21	1333	164	46
Number of treatments carried out				
Rats ...	13	31	7	4
Mice ...	—	12	6	—

The number of treatments carried out shows a slight increase on the previous year. There was no major infestation, and those found were of a minor character. The general public now realise that a free service is offered for rodent control and co-operate wholeheartedly in the task of exterminating rats and mice.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS, ETC.

During recent years sewerage schemes serving houses in Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, and slum clearance action under the Housing Act powers, have drastically reduced the number of pail closets in the Urban District and very few now remain. The nine remaining houses without water closets are in widely scattered parts of the district, most of them far removed from public sewers.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric pollution in this district was commenced on the 1st February, 1959, and the instruments were sited with the co-operation of officers of the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. One deposit gauge was sited at Hall Farm, in fairly close proximity to the Bolsover Colliery and the carbonising plant of Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd., which are the main sources of industrial pollution in the Urban District; the second gauge was sited in Moor Lane to the east of the town centre, to give records of deposited matter in the residential area. Two lead peroxide instruments were sited in Cundy Road and Moor Lane.

The results obtained since 1st February, 1959, are set out below:—

Deposited Matter

(Total solids, tons per square mile)

Hall Farm, Woodhouse Lane, Bolsover

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
January	—	14.44	24.34	28.35	8.35	10.27
February	8.50	12.65	15.14	—	9.04	9.24
March	13.11	12.45	10.87	7.58	13.71	11.63
April	16.49	14.74	23.75	47.16	11.26	11.69
May	16.10	8.38	11.76	14.67	13.55	11.43
June	19.74	17.39	13.74	10.69	13.15	8.08
July	16.73	17.29	16.16	14.51	11.59	18.32
August	16.79	15.63	14.98	12.55	12.52	14.67
September	17.22	13.74	13.22	13.94	14.01	10.10
October	13.14	11.29	15.87	12.65	9.17	13.78
November	16.43	13.18	11.29	15.37	13.48	9.24
December	12.22	20.86	16.69	16.23	7.16	13.74

1959 monthly average — 15.32 tons per sq. mile.

1960 monthly average — 14.35 tons per sq. mile.

1961 monthly average — 15.65 tons per sq. mile.

1962 monthly average — 17.57 tons per sq. mile.

1963 monthly average — 11.44 tons per sq. mile.

1964 monthly average — 11.85 tons per sq. mile.

96 Moor Lane, Bolsover

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
January	—	11.24	13.05	13.42	7.25	7.38
February	12.15	11.41	9.29	7.35	5.87	11.07
March	12.86	10.67	6.10	9.53	14.39	14.36
April	12.58	9.87	15.14	12.59	12.15	9.30
May	10.60	17.89	8.25	11.27	11.98	13.69
June	16.01	13.49	8.52	6.27	8.66	13.35
July	11.78	8.49	9.19	9.16	8.36	27.28
August	10.60	10.59	13.19	13.39	10.20	14.26
September	11.00	10.60	9.30	9.53	4.63	14.33
October	10.17	—	8.26	6.55	12.51	16.88
November	12.45	9.36	7.45	10.23	12.12	7.52
December	11.38	9.96	7.51	11.74	7.85	10.07

1959 monthly average — 11.96 tons per sq. mile.
 1960 monthly average — 11.23 tons per sq. mile.
 1961 monthly average — 9.60 tons per sq. mile.
 1962 monthly average — 10.09 tons per sq. mile.
 1963 monthly average — 9.66 tons per sq. mile.
 1964 monthly average — 13.29 tons per sq. mile.

Estimation of Sulphur by the Lead Peroxide Method:
(Mg. of SO₃ per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch
A PbO₂) (Louvered cover)

	2 Cundy Road, Bolsover					
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
January	—	2.21	2.47	2.89	2.11	2.31
February	2.28	2.62	2.78	2.13	2.04	1.96
March	1.56	1.22	2.87	1.97	1.70	1.05
April	1.87	1.90	1.36	1.64	1.44	1.55
May	1.17	0.98	1.14	1.15	1.19	0.96
June	1.43	0.33	1.31	0.82	0.83	0.80
July	0.87	0.97	1.27	0.67	0.71	0.87
August	1.13	1.12	1.10	0.95	0.97	1.01
September	1.20	1.03	1.05	1.01	1.21	1.08
October	1.58	1.18	1.40	1.40	1.36	1.35
November	2.32	2.12	1.90	2.00	1.65	1.92
December	2.47	2.87	2.89	2.76	1.62	2.20

1959 monthly average	1.62
1960 monthly average	1.55
1961 monthly average	1.79
1962 monthly average	1.61
1963 monthly average	1.40
1964 monthly average	1.42

96 Moor Lane, Bolsover

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
January	—	2.30	2.30	3.08	3.23	3.22
February	2.11	2.51	2.47	1.78	3.33	2.36
March	1.43	1.07	2.34	1.94	2.48	1.57
April	1.62	1.63	1.53	1.54	1.88	1.76
May	0.98	1.10	1.14	1.20	1.58	1.44
June	0.88	0.83	1.16	1.06	1.20	1.34
July	0.69	0.90	1.10	0.98	1.13	0.93
August	0.84	0.95	0.94	0.96	1.07	1.18
September	1.05	1.12	1.33	1.31	1.60	1.61
October	1.49	1.39	1.65	2.26	2.03	0.89
November	2.57	2.27	1.91	3.12	2.33	2.43
December	2.59	2.88	3.18	3.75	2.78	2.49

1959 monthly average	1.48
1960 monthly average	1.53
1961 monthly average	1.75
1962 monthly average	1.91
1963 monthly average	2.05
1964 monthly average	1.35

When the measurement of atmospheric pollution was commenced it was expected that the gauge at Hall Farm would reveal a greater concentration of deposited matter than the one at Moor Lane, and for the first four years this proved to be correct. During 1962, work of electrifying one shaft at Bolsover Colliery was completed and the following year mechanical stokers were fitted to the boilers; the effect has been to appreciably reduce the amount of deposited matter at Hall Farm and the definite improvement which was recorded in 1963 has been well maintained in 1964. The average monthly amount of deposited matter at Moor Lane rose during 1964 to a higher level than the Hall Farm average, but this was to a very great extent due to an abnormally high figure during the month of July.

With regard to the measurement of sulphur the monthly average for the Moor Lane residential area showed an improvement for the first time in six years. In this part of the district most of the pollution results from domestic sources where the products of combustion are emitted from house chimneys not far above ground level. Sulphur recordings at Cundy Road have tended to decline in recent years and the monthly average for 1964 is very nearly the same as the lowest figures which were recorded in 1963.

Very considerable quantities of coal are burned at the Colliery and carbonised at the Coalite Works and these are the main sources of industrial pollution in this district. The fitting of mechanical stokers at the Colliery has resulted in a reduction of pollution, but cases still occur where, because of human failings, the emission of dark smoke is greater than one would wish. Much has been done in replacing and improving the older and more smoky carbonising retorts at the Coalite Works, but there remain considerable technical problems to be overcome, especially in reducing pollution from the waste heat boiler chimneys, and the company's research department is constantly striving to effect improvement. These carbonising processes are under the control of the Alkali Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and regular liaison is maintained with the District Inspector, who has given assurances that every effort will continue to be made to reduce pollution from this source.

The Council's first smoke control order was made in March, 1962, and confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in November, 1962, to operate from 1st July, 1963. The order relates to a housing development area of some 86 acres lying to the South of New Station Road and to the windward side of much of the central part of the Urban District. This area when fully developed could contain up to 750 houses, and the introduction of the smoke control area would allow development to take place without adding to the general

level of smoke pollution. To the end of 1964, there had been very little development in the area and the number of houses totalled 148, of which 116 were new Council houses and 25 were new private houses.

This is a mining area in which a high proportion of householders are supplied with concessionary fuel and, although an agreement exists whereby the National Coal Board supplies smokeless fuel in place of coal to miners, etc. living in a smoke control area, it soon became obvious that there was considerable dissatisfaction with the agreement. Previously, mineworkers, retired miners and miners widows had a sufficient allowance of coal for their requirements and the quantities of smokeless fuel being supplied in place of coal were appreciably less. It was noticeable that after the quarterly allocation of smokeless fuel had been used, many of the Coal Board beneficiaries were using coal until the next allocation became due and they were extremely reluctant to purchase extra amounts of smokeless fuels. A report on this problem was submitted to the Council in January, 1964, and soon after a number of residents living in Council aged persons bungalows in the smoke control area complained that smokeless fuels did not provide sufficient heat and were too expensive. The Council subsequently appointed a sub-committee to review the operation of the Clean Air Act and the smoke control programme in this district, and although they were recommended to restate their belief that the reduction in atmospheric pollution and the introduction of smoke control areas were in the interests of the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the district, the Council decided to make an Order to revoke the Smoke Control Order and to seek the Minister's confirmation of the Revocation Order on the grounds of hardship being caused to persons living in the smoke control area. Although the Minister subsequently asked for details of the hardship being caused, no decision on this Revocation Order had been made at the end of the year, and the Council's request for a suspension of the Smoke Control Order, until a decision had been made, had not been granted.

In this area there has been a long tradition of heating homes by means of open grates burning coal and the newest Council houses have been provided with two open grates. It is acknowledged that this method is the least efficient and one of the most expensive forms of heating, but in this area the cost has been more than countered by the plentiful supply of cheap or concessionary coal. One wonders whether the introduction of a smoke control programme would have been more welcome if all new houses had been supplied with room heaters which are capable of providing a great deal more heat in the home and of using the cheaper grades of smokeless fuel, thereby reducing heating costs. At very little extra cost these same appliances can provide a degree of central heating in other parts of the house, doing away with our rather stupid practice of overheating the living room while the rest of the house remains far too cold for comfort. In the past two or three years the number of central heating systems installed in both new and older houses has increased enormously and it is very noticeable that the younger married couples, especially where both are at work, are demanding a higher standard of home comfort and labour saving appliances. It seems more than probable that a greater degree of heating and a reduction in atmospheric pollution from domestic sources will march forward together, and some means must be devised of including the older people in this progress, even though they are usually more resistant to change.

During the previous year, the Minister of Housing and Local Government and the Minister of Power instituted a review of domestic fuel supplies and it is now necessary to make greater use of room heaters using the more readily available hard cokes in all future smoke control programmes. This is a step in the right direction which will ensure that coal is used more efficiently. For too long we have wasted coal which is our one remaining natural asset, and the time must be approaching when we regard coal as a chemical to be processed to release its great variety of by-products, rather than to be used

wastefully on an open grate, giving off only some 25% of its available heat and contributing a great deal to the level of atmospheric pollution, with all its resultant evils.

Presumably when next year's report comes to be written, the thorny problem of the smoke control programme in this area will have been decided one way or the other. I have repeatedly confessed to a deal of sympathy for the retired mineworkers and the elderly widows who have not been treated very generously by the concessionary fuel agreement, and I do not believe that this agreement could not be amended to remove some of the difficulties which now cause resentment, even if this were to be secured at the expense of concessionary fuel supplied to new entrants to the mining industry. Given reasonable good will on both sides the National Coal Board and the trade unions representing the various mineworkers ought to provide a scheme which would enable the benefits of cleaner air to be extended to mining districts, where a large proportion of the working population earn their living in dusty and dirty conditions below ground. If we truthfully believe that cleaner air is desirable and beneficial and that the incidence of chest diseases is too great in this country, we ought to strive to remove all those difficulties which hinder progress. We must be prepared to accept that the benefits will accrue more to our children and their children too, than to ourselves. This, after all, is the very essence of social progress and surely the older people have the opportunity as well as the duty and responsibility of securing improved conditions for succeeding generations.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE

The Council operate two refuse collection vehicles—one 18 cubic yard Karrier Dual Tip purchased in 1960 and a Karrier Bantam Dual Tip Junior, purchased in 1963. A 1,000 gallon gully/cesspool emptier was purchased in 1961, enabling cesspools to be emptied more speedily and economically, and this machine has also undertaken cleansing of street gullies and the removal of

sludge from the sewage disposal works without any increase in the labour force engaged on public cleansing. Apart from the two men who operate the gully / cesspool emptier, there are 11 men engaged on the collection and disposal of refuse and the collection, sorting and baling of waste paper. In addition, the working foreman carries out rodent control measures, operates a free drain rodding service and is responsible for vehicle maintenance

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Towards the end of the year a report on the free cesspool emptying service was considered by the Council. This free service, except in the special case of some 42 properties on the Oxcroft Estate, had been in operation for many years and in recent years there has been some increase in the number of new houses not connected to sewers and especially an increase in the amount of sewage to be dealt with resulting from the provision of bathrooms, water closets, etc. at those houses with cesspools, etc. A careful check was made on the frequency with which these cesspools were required to be emptied and a revised programme of cesspool emptying was approved to operate from the Spring of 1965 — this new arrangement also permitted the free service to be extended to include 42 properties on Oxcroft Estate.

Weekly emptying of the few remaining pail closets is also carried out by this vehicle.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The regular and efficient collection and disposal of refuse are duties of vital public health importance. A weekly collection was maintained throughout the year and remarkably few complaints were received. Last summer was most noticeable for a high rate of sickness, which unfortunately, coincided with the holiday period and this placed a severe strain on those men who were at

work. I should again like to pay tribute to the men who provide this service, their's is not an easy or pleasant task, in fact in a district such as this with high yield of refuse with a high ash content, it is frequently a dirty, and far from pleasant job. No undue labour difficulties were experienced during the year, apart from the almost impossible task of obtaining temporary labour during the summer holiday period, and the workmen engaged on public cleansing continued to receive a plus rate of 3½d. per hour. This plus rate was introduced a number of years ago at a time of acute labour difficulties, and without it, it is very doubtful whether the service would be able to recruit and retain decent workmen.

During August, 1964, a new Fordson Major tractor fitted with a hydraulically operated shovel and blade was purchased for use on the Council's refuse tip. This machine has resulted in considerable saving of labour on tip levelling work and has proved most useful in service. The disposal of all refuse is now undertaken in a disused portion of the clay pit at the New Byron Brick Company's works, just outside the boundary of the Urban District. A new long term agreement was negotiated a few years ago and this also provides for the disposal of sludge from the main sewage works being carried out there.

WASTE PAPER SALVAGE

During the summer of 1964, the Council completed the purchase of Town End Farm, at which site it is proposed to provide a new depot for all the Council's services. Reports for previous years have referred to the cramped and inadequate conditions in the waste paper baling and storage premises at Kitchen Croft. In July, 1964, a three bay open-fronted cart shed at Town End Farm was adapted for the temporary baling of paper and a 5 h.p. Brierley and Kershaw electric baling press was purchased. Towards the end of the year all restrictions were removed on waste paper sales and increased collections of paper were encouraged as a means of assisting

in the balance of payments problem. During the financial year ended 31st March, 1965, sales of waste paper reached record levels and by using the new electric press and the new tractor to assist in storage and subsequent loading, it was possible to secure a much greater income and to effect a satisfactory reduction in labour costs. Sales during the year increased by over 23 tons and this represented an increase in income of £254. It is hoped that a further increase in sales can be achieved again in the coming year and profitability has been markedly improved.

Sales from the 1st April, 1964 to the 31st March, 1965 were as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper and cardboard	174	2	0	1501	17	10
Textiles		5	2		2	15
		<hr/>				
	174	7	2	1504	12	10

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