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BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

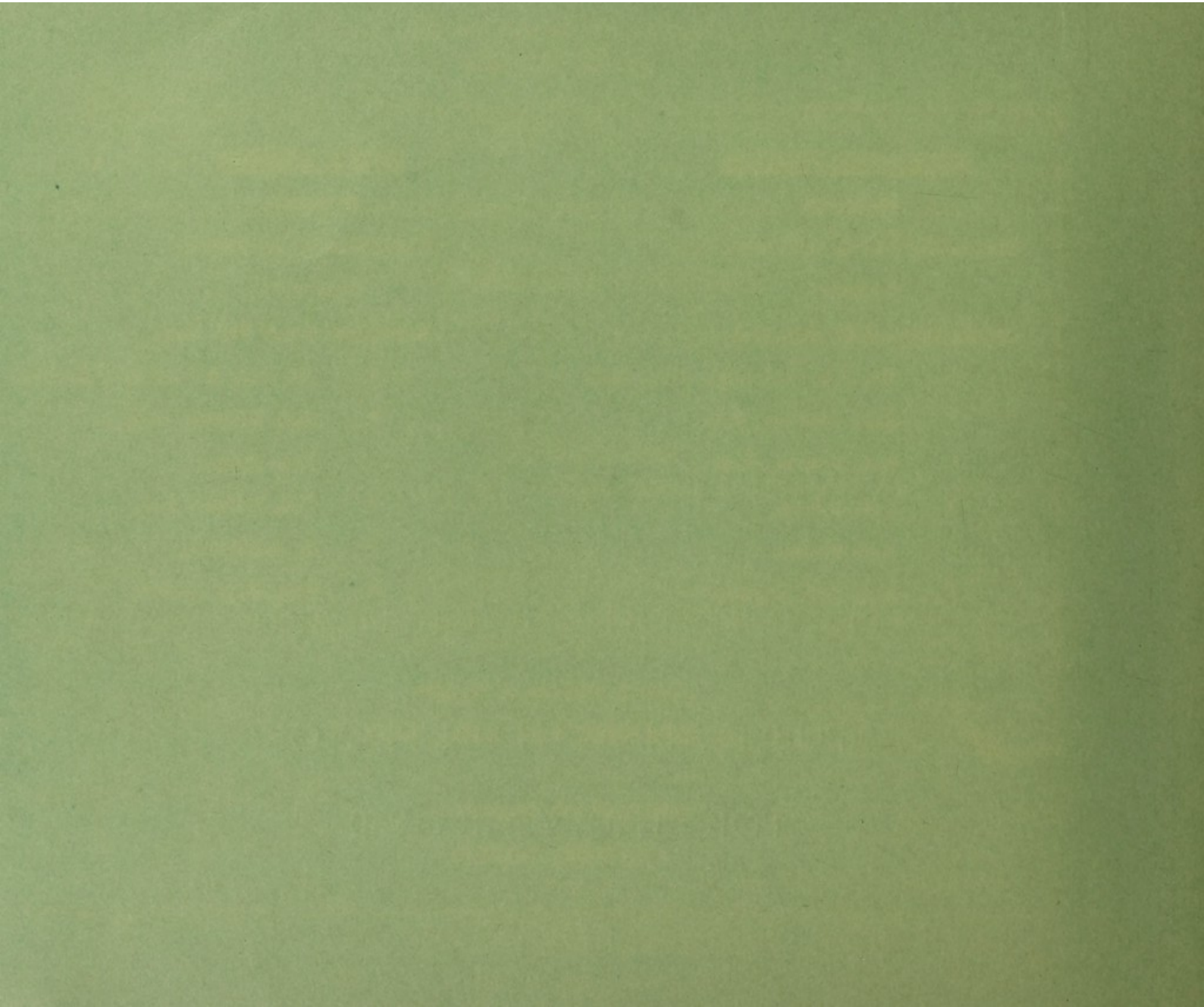
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1960





PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor Dr. G. Holloway, C.C.

Members:

Councillor L.R.W. Day, M.A.

- " Dr. J.A. Galletly, J.P., C.C.
- " E.J. Grieves, J.P.
- " H.L. Hudson, C.C.
- " J.K. Mason.
- " K.G. Neale.
- " Mrs. F.E. Tipler.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor J. Burchnell.

Members:

Councillor L.R.W. Day, M.A.

- " Dr. J.A. Galletly, J.P., C.C.
- " E.J. Grieves, J.P.
- " E.B. Horn.
- " H.L. Hudson, C.C.
- " P. Larkinson.
- " Mrs. F.E. Tipler.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

L.W. BROWN, M.R.S.H.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1960.

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

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Seventh Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	10,103
Population--Registrar General's figure 1960	5,080
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,757
Rateable Value	£56,845
Sum represented by a 1d rate	£229

VITAL STATISTICS

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year 1960.

Note Birth and Death Rates.

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as Nett Rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of Bourne U.D. are 0.99 and 0.96 respectively. The corresponding figures when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births or Deaths as the case may be) will give the Nett Rate.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Live and Still Births	35	30	65
Live Births	34	30	64
Legitimate	32	28	60
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population			12.60
Nett live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population			12.47
Rate for England and Wales			17.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births			6.25%

DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1950

	Male	Female	Total
Total Still Births	1	-	1
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births			15.38
Rate of England and Wales			19.7

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	29	26	55
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population			10.83
Nett death rate per 1,000 of estimated population			10.40
Rate of England and Wales			11.5

	Male	Female	Total
Infant Mortality (i.e. Deaths of Infants under the age of one year):			
No. of deaths	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 of live births England and Wales			21.7
Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate			0
Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate			0
No death occurred in the neo-natal period (i.e. under 4 weeks of age)			
Neo-natal mortality rate is			Nil.

Maternal Mortality (i.e. Death due to Pregnancy and Childbirth or abortion) Nil.

The Birth Rate at 12.47 per thousand of the population is, as has been the case in recent years, considerably lower than that for England and Wales as a whole at 17.1. The National figure is the highest since 1948.

The illegitimacy proportion of 6.25% of live births is higher than for some time past, in fact since the war

The death rate at 10.4 was a little more than one per thousand better than the National experience at 11.5.

The natural increase, that is the excess of live births over deaths was nine.

The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales for the sixth year in succession was the lowest ever previously recorded. This year it reached 21.7 per 1,000 live births. To appreciate the achievement which this figure represents it must be recollected that in 1900, 138 out of every 1,000 live born infants died before they reached their first birthday. In 1910, the figure was 117, in 1920 90, in 1930 68, in 1940 55 and in 1950 it had dropped to 30. It is a remarkable six-fold reduction in 60 years.

Bourne had no infant deaths at all for the second year in succession and no-one can do better than that.

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3	7
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	2	2	4
Coronary disease, angina	7	4	11
Other heart disease	6	6	12
Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accident	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Diabetes	-	1	1

Cardio-Vascular diseases (29) as usual were the principal causes of death, making up more than half the total and eleven of these, exactly one fifth of all the deaths, were due to coronary thrombosis. This scourge of western civilisation is becoming increasingly common and strikes so often at men in what should be the prime of life. The stresses and strains involved in earning and maintaining a high standard of living, the food we eat, particularly the animal fats which raise the blood cholesterol, the tendency for more and more to follow a sedentary way of life; these in varying degrees and combinations have been blamed for the present state of affairs.

While the factors which cause narrowing of the arteries of the heart are being finally elucidated, simple preventive measures seem appropriate, particularly for the over-forties. These include a modicum of healthy exercise each day, walking instead of riding when one can and eating in moderation and not in excess of the body's needs.

Learning to relax for a period every day and cultivating interests outside the sphere of one's daily work and a cheerful outlook on life are helpful also.

Malignant growths (12) returned to their notorious second place as causes of death and diseases of the respiratory system (6) filled the third position.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Nursing in the Home

Under the County Council Scheme, there are two District Nurse Midwives.

Home Helps

Home Helps are made available in approved cases. The local Headquarters are situated at the North Street Welfare Centre and are open as follows:-

Mondays and Fridays	-	2.0 p.m. to 5.0 p.m.
Wednesdays	-	9.0 a.m. to 12 noon.

They provide a wonderful blessing to the elderly and without them many in this age group would be quite incapable of maintaining their homes.

Welfare Food Service

North Street Clinic:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Health Visiting

Under the County Council arrangements, one full-time Health Visitor is employed to cover the Urban District and part of the Rural District of South Kesteven. She also acts as Tuberculosis Visitor and provides a valuable link between the Chest Clinic and the home.

Ambulance Service

Two ambulances and two dual-purpose vehicles are stationed at Bourne. As usual all the demands made upon the service were efficiently met.

Infant Welfare and School Clinic

The School Clinic is held each Thursday morning at the Welfare Centre, North Street. The same premises are utilised as an Infant Welfare Centre on the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons in the month, with a doctor in attendance. Regular Ophthalmic, Dental and Physiotherapy sessions are also held at the same venue for the benefit of school children.

The School Health Service also provides a Psychotherapy Clinic at the Childrens' Hostel on West Street with Dr. J. Richardson in charge.

A band of devoted voluntary workers provides for the sale of welfare concessionary foods at all the Infant Welfare sessions and help with the weighing and the social activities of the Clinic, and I am very grateful to them for their efforts.

Immunisation

Free Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis Immunisation is provided by the General Practitioners under the County Council Scheme as is vaccination against Small-pox also. This service used to be provided at the Local Health Authority Clinic for the convenience of the public but this was discontinued at the request of several General Practitioners.

Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes for Expectant Mothers

These were started early in the year but fizzled out owing to lack of support, unlike similar ventures at Stamford, Sleaford and Grantham. In Bourne, the young mothers-to-be for the first time must consider themselves more relaxed and knowledgeable than their sisters elsewhere - I wonder, or is it just apathy? Certainly repeated efforts to revive these classes have failed though one or two individuals have thought it worth their while to attend the Stamford Classes.

Hospital Services

These are provided by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board who control the Butterfield Hospital and the Chest Hospital. St. Peter's Hospital for the mentally disordered however comes within the jurisdiction of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, who also provide all the mental treatment services for this area.

A clinic for diseases of the chest is held at Bourne Chest Hospital each Thursday by Dr. Bernard Royce, Consultant Chest Physician.

Venereal Diseases

Clinics are held at the Out-patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N.A. Ross.

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>
Mondays:	4.30 - 6.30 p.m.	Tuesdays:	10.30 a.m. - 12 noon
Wednesdays:	5.30 - 7.00 p.m.	Thursdays:	4.30 - 6.30 p.m.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological investigations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough under the control of Dr. J. Glencross. The service provided includes the examination of milk, water and ice-cream samples and general bacteriological examinations for the Medical Practitioners and the Public Health Department.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Food Poisoning	Total.
Under														
1 year	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1 - 2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
5 - 9	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	15
9 - 15	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
35 - 45	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
45 - 65	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
65 and over	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total	-	-	15	2	2	1	6	1	17	-	-	-	-	44
Admitted into Hospital	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

During the year 44 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, excluding tuberculosis which appears separately. The corresponding figure in 1959 was 73 and in 1958 173. This low figure was achieved by the virtual absence of Measles and Whooping Cough and is unlikely to be maintained in 1961. There were seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever a higher figure than usual, in fact the highest since 1953.

Acute Poliomyelitis was absent for the tenth consecutive year, but to ensure that this absence is continued it is very necessary that all should avail themselves of the protection which vaccination provides. It may not be inopportune to add that no age is immune to attack and even though someone may have had the disease they should still be vaccinated to counteract the risk of infection from other varieties of the virus. While vaccination remains the first line of defence it is no less important that a high standard of domestic hygiene is maintained at all times and crowds and stuffy atmospheres avoided where the virus is evident in a community.

There have been thirteen years of freedom now from Diphtheria but this carries no guarantee whatsoever for the future. There is one way and one way only in which it can be ensured and that is by parents having their children immunised before their first birthday and again either just before or during their first year at school. Failure to heed similar warnings and complacency have met with savage retributions in outbreaks of this dreadful disease in various parts of the country during the past year. Let us make quite sure that there are no loop-holes in our defences in Bourne. The fact remains that the young mothers do not fear what they have never seen and are more interested in protecting their children against Whooping Cough which they have seen.

There is a strong case for the general use of a triple vaccine which gives simultaneous protection against both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and also Tetanus for good measure. Making this available at all surgeries and Local Health Authority clinics would also strengthen the campaign for maximum protection of all in the community.

A recent random sample of 94 children all seen in the course of routine school medical examinations at Bourne showed that 16 (17%) had never been immunised against Diphtheria in their lives. 62 (66%) had been immunised as babies but had not been re-immunised subsequently and therefore lacked reasonable protection. 16 (17%) had been re-immunised and could therefore be regarded as having satisfactory defences against Diphtheritic invasion.

There were no cases of food poisoning or of the enteric group of diseases during the year, but one case of dysentery occurred as a reminder that lapses in personal hygiene can be paid for dearly and an aseptic approach to food handling is as important in the home as elsewhere.

Against the background of the National resurgence of venereal disease as a public health problem my Council decided to affix up-to-date details of the Peterborough Venereal Disease Clinic in the Public Conveniences in the town. Actually the incidence of new cases in Bourne during 1960 was as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea	1	-	1
Other venereal conditions	2	3	5

Six new cases in one year is no cause for complacency and tokens a considerable level of promiscuity.

Tuberculosis

One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year affecting a child of seven years. The infection appeared to have been contracted from her grandfather, a known case who resides in another local authority's area.

For the second successive year there was no case of non-pulmonary infection and it would be pleasant to think that this was a reflection of the great efforts and care which have gone into ensuring milk supplies free from all tubercle infection.

I wish to highlight the development of a very close liason between the Health Visitor and the Chest Clinic. This has ensured that the home visitor is fully in the picture, her visits have been immensely increased in value and defaulters from the Clinic have been followed up and their further attendance arranged. It has added to the interest of the Health Visitor's work, improved the service to the patient and the contacts and I trust in return has added something of value to the Chest Clinic also.

The year also saw the start of the B.C.G. vaccination programme. This protection against tuberculosis was offered with parental consent to all children attending school over the age of thirteen years. The response was only moderately satisfactory. Out of 415 eligibles, 270 accepted the offer, being 65%, and where necessary were vaccinated during the early months of the year. I hope in future years the acceptance rate will be considerably higher.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The water is obtained from the Lincolnshire Limestone water bearing strata by means of 13 inch and 36 inch bores. The supply is ample in quantity and is of excellent quality though hard, and plumbo-solvency presents no problem.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN
PARTS PER MILLION

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Bourne Pumping Station	No. 2 Kitchen Tap	No. 3 at House, 20, West Parade, Spalding.
13" Bore	36" Bore	

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

Appearance

Turbidity

Colour

Odour

Reaction pH

Free Carbon Dioxide

Electric Conductivity @ 20° C.

Total Solids @ 180° C.

Chlorine in Chloride

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate

Hardness - Total

Carbonate

Non-carbonate

Nitrogen in Nitrates

Nitrogen in Nitrites

Ammoniacal Nitrogen

Albuminoid Nitrogen

Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours

Residual Chlorine

Metals - Iron

Copper

Others

Bright with
a very few
particles.
Less than 3

Nil.

Nil.

Nil.

7.3

23

650

450

22

235

360

235

125

0.4

Absent

0.000

0.013

0.35

Absent

Absent

Absent

Absent

Bright with
a very few
particles.
Less than 3

3

Nil.

7.3

23

615

425

21

235

345

235

110

0.2

Absent

0.012

0.008

0.40

Absent

0.006

Absent

Absent

Clear and
bright

Nil.

Nil.

Nil.

7.3

23

650

450

22

235

380

235

145

0.8

Absent

0.000

0.012

0.35

Absent

Absent

Absent

Absent

Absent

Colonies per ml. on Agar

1 day @ 37° C.

2 days @ 37° C.

3 days @ 20 - 22° C.

Presumptive Coliform Reaction

Present inml.

Absent fromml.

Probable No. per 100 ml.

Bact. Coli. (Type 1)

Present inml.

Absent fromml.

Probable No. per 100 ml.

Cl. Welchii Reaction

Present inml.

Absent fromml.

0

0

0

-

100

0

-

100

0

-

100

0

-

100

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS:

REMARKS

No. 1 - This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

No. 2 - This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

No. 3 - This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The daily consumption in December, 1960, was 196,345 gallons compared with 172,229 gallons in December, 1959, that is 38.7 gallons daily per head of the population inclusive of industrial usage. The heaviest users of water - the commercial laundry - have their own private bore however.

The proposed new South Lincolnshire Water Board mentioned in last year's report as consisting of six Councils was increased by the decision of Stamford M.B., the Barnack R.D. and part of the Ketton R.D. to join them. It has been a great achievement to obtain the co-operation of so many different Councils in agreeing the proposals for the new Board. It has taken a wide vision on the part of many to sink temporary parochial advantage for the greater good of the total area to be served. Pure wholesome water is a national resource of vital importance and it has been very evident for years that a stricter control on a regional basis would be bound to evolve, leading probably to a national water grid. It was statesman-like to foresee this and voluntarily form such a regional scheme instead of awaiting a dictated one.

The draft order at the end of the year was in the hands of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The new sewage disposal works has to cope with large quantities of infiltration water. The work of re-sewering the town which has already been done in North Street, will be taken a step further in the near future in West Road and West Street. As this proceeds, the infiltration water will be greatly reduced. This in turn will provide capacity in the works to accept sewage for treatment from the neighbouring parishes of the South Kesteven Rural District, without any major alterations or extensions to the works themselves. This agreement is an indication of the co-operation and good neighbour attitude of both local authorities from which their respective rate-payers will benefit. The need for the new drainage schemes was brought home to all paradoxically enough on the official opening day of the new sewage disposal works.

A heavy rain storm surcharged parts of the existing system and many parts of the town were flooded as a result.

The swimming bath provided by the Bourne United Charities is a great asset to the town. Its setting in the Abbey Lawn is one of great charm and beauty and it is justly popular with those who enjoy the health-promoting exercise of swimming, and with those who come to watch. Unfortunately the season, typical of an English summer at its worst, reduced the demands made upon it and attendances were down.

The bath is 50 yards long by 17 yards wide. The depth ranges from 3 feet to 7 feet. Its capacity is 250,000 gallons and the water to fill it is obtained from the Charities' private bore. It is treated by a continuous process of mechanical filtration, breakpoint chlorination and aeration over a cascade. No alteration to the p.H. was required as luckily it remained around the satisfactory figure of 7.6. Algal growth, though troublesome at times, was kept under reasonable control by the addition of copper sulphate to give 1 part per million. I wonder would tiling help to decrease this recurrent problem.

The plant is capable of turning over the water once in twelve hours.

Water samples taken during the season showed it to be bacteriologically satisfactory. Towards the end of the year work started on the provision of a children's paddling pool, which will be enormously popular with toddlers and their mothers' who watch them.

The Council are the Burial Authority and there is adequate provision of burial ground for the foreseeable future. The nearest Crematorium is at Peterborough and this is being increasingly used.

Mortuary facilities for the use of the Police and the Coroner are provided in association with the South Kesteven R.D.C. at St. Peter's Hospital.

Under this section I would once again call upon all who have a spark of civic pride not to throw litter in the streets or in the waterways of this fair town. While it is at a maximum on Market days it is still a noticeably distressing feature at other times.

HOUSING

Number of Council houses at 31st December, 1960	517
Number of Council houses built during the year ended 31st December, 1960	24
Number of Council houses in course of construction at 31st December, 1960	10
Number of private houses built during the year	34
Number of Improvement Grants given (Discretionary and Standard)	19
Number on Waiting list for Council houses.	108

The Council operate a Points Scheme for housing applicants, and in the operation of this, length of time on the list, overcrowding, shared accommodation, sanitary defects and other environmental factors are taken into consideration. Priority points are also awarded to those who earn them on medical grounds. During 1960 there were seven cases in which priority was claimed on the score of ill health. As in past years each case was personally visited by your Medical Officer and a full investigation carried out before a recommendation was made. 108 houses were included in the five year slum clearance programme submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955. By the end of the period at the close of this year 83 of these had been dealt with, 25 short of the target. I wish I could report that all the occupants of these had been re-housed. In fact the occupants of 20 had not been re-accommodated at the end of the year - in several cases at their own desire.

No Clearance Area procedures were embarked on during the year but action under Section 16 of the Housing Act was taken on 23 individual unfit properties.

The eagerly awaited caravan legislation embodied in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 brought as much satisfaction as a still-birth to those who wished to see reasonable minimum standards and effective control over the living conditions in residential caravans. Instead they laid down standards considerably lower than those which had been previously agreed to through-out this area. No mention was made of permitted numbers and therefore of overcrowding standards, though these have been formulated for every other type of habitation, including canal boats and hop-pickers vans. Many of these residential caravans are destined to be homes for two, three or more young children and I would have thought more statutory consideration would have been given to their legitimate needs for space when they are well and for nursing when they are sick.

After the moratorium on building during the era of dear money in 1959 it is good to report that 6 houses and 18 bungalows were built by the Council during the year and private enterprise contributed a very valuable additional 34, twenty more than the year before. The bungalows are a particularly welcome asset as the needs of the elderly for this type of accommodation are an urgent and continuing one. Even now, of the total on the waiting list, 25% of the applications are for compact, easily-run bungalows or flats. Would that a grouped old people's bungalow scheme could be turned into a fait accompli to the untold blessing of a most deserving section of the Community.

Consequent on the alarming accumulation of applicants on the waiting list, which at the close of the previous year had reached 305, it was decided to revise it by asking all on the list if they wished their applications to stand. The result of this was a remarkable reduction to 108, of whom, as has been mentioned, 27 are for elderly persons dwellings.

The six Council houses mentioned in last year's report as being without either hot water systems or baths are being modernised and at the end of the year work was almost completed on them. This leaves 171 Council houses without hot water systems but there is a scheme for the modernisation of the first twenty of these and work ought to commence early in 1961.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council's slaughterhouse continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year, serving not only Bourne but a considerable outside clientele as well. Both here and at the two privately owned slaughterhouses 100 per cent meat inspection was maintained with assistance from Spalding U.D.C. Health Inspectors when Mr. Brown was away.

It is of mutual benefit to man and animal that the discovery on postmortem examination of Tuberculosis in an animal is reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This allows for a follow up at the production end and in the course of time this should help in the eradication of tubercle from the farms of Britain.

There does not appear to be any need for further slaughterhouse facilities in Bourne and this opinion was borne out by the fact that there were no applications for consideration under the provision of the Slaughterhouses Act 1958.

Following on our Health Inspector's work on water-cress and the maintenance of a good bacteriological standard for it, two out of the three growers in Bourne introduced chlorination of their cut cress prior to dispatch. This ensures a virtually sterile salad product when it leaves the growers.

During the year the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the County Council took 24 samples under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, which were as follows:-

Almonds (ground)	1
Cream	2
Creamed Soup	1
Table Jelly	1
Margarine	1
Preserves	1
Soft Drinks	1
Sausages (pork)	1
Tomato Ketchup	1
Milk	14

Speaking of his work Mr. Hawley says:

"In the complex organisation of food production and distribution the Sampling Officer under the Food and Drugs Act plays his small though by no means unimportant part. Observant, disinterested, impartial, he acts very much like a referee at an important football match. His primary duty is to ensure so far as an intelligent sampling policy can do so, that purchasers are not prejudiced as to the nature, substance and quality of the food and drugs they buy. To help him in his task, there is an imposing array of statutory and non-statutory instruments, Case Law, trade agreements, codes of practice and other devices by which he and others concerned are able to determine what, for example, a buyer is entitled to get if he asks for Cream of Chicken Soup, flavoured milk or any one of many hundreds of other articles used as food and drink by man. The principal administrative function of a Food and Drugs Authority, therefore, is the direction of this sampling policy and the prosecution of those who infringe the law.

It speaks well for the many agencies concerned with the production and marketing of food in Kesteven that in all the samples obtained during the year, there was no infringement serious enough to warrant the institution of legal proceedings.

Almonds (ground)

This sample was genuine and free from the admixtures of peach or apricot kernel.

Cream

Both the samples of cream were what is known as "double" or "thick" for which the Food Standards (Cream) Order, 1951, sets a butter fat standard of 48%. The Bourne samples had 50.3% and 54% respectively.

Cream Soups

By a Code of Practice agreed between the Ministry and the "trade" cream or creamed soups are required to contain not less than $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of butter fat. All these samples satisfied this condition.

Table Jelly

This sample complied with the provisions of the Food Standards (Table Jellies) Order 1949 as to strength, setting quality and freedom from arsenical and metallic contaminants.

Margarine

Two statutory instruments govern the composition of margarine, the Food Standards (Butter and Margarine) Regulations, 1955 which enforce a maximum water content of 16% and a maximum of 10% of fat derived from milk and the Food Standards (Margarine) Order, 1954 which relates to the Vitamin Content. The Vitamin Content prescribed is approximately that of real butter, namely, not less than 760 nor more than 940 international units of Vitamin A and not less than 80 nor more than 100 international units of Vitamin D. The sample obtained from a school canteen complied with these requirements.

Preserves.

The sample complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953 which specifies a minimum fruit content for jams, marmalades, mincemeat and fruit curds.

Sausages

In view of the importance of the homely "banger" in the nations diet sheet (according to the well informed British Food Journal, 6 million were sold during the year, which is about 10% of the National Annual consumption of carcass meat) it is interesting to record that the meat content of pork sausages selling for about 3/- per lb. continues to be well above 65%. Although there is now no statutory standard for sausages, it is generally accepted that a beef sausage should contain not less than 50% of meat and a pork sausage 65%. This sample contained 71.3% of meat and sold at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.

Soft Drinks

The Bourne firm producing soft drinks made for Bourne Water has closed and the sample of a well known orange squash was obtained from a grocer. It complied in every respect with the provisions of the Food Standards (Soft Drinks) Order, 1953.

Milk

A considerable quantity of Channel Island milk is now sold in Bourne. The Statutory standard for milk under the Sale of Milk Regulations is 3.0% butter fat (4.0% for Channel Island milk) and 8.50% other solids, figures which are usually exceeded by a comfortable margin nowadays, as they were in these fourteen samples.

It is sincerely hoped that these notes will be of interest in showing how the quality of our foods and drugs is constantly being watched. In fairness it must be pointed out that they indicate the high standards and integrity maintained by those engaged in the Food Business in the town - and further afield.

I wish to thank Mr. Hawley for all the help which I have received from him during the year.

Under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations one person was excluded temporarily from working in a food business.

In association with our good neighbours in South Kesteven and with the full co-operation of the County Health Inspector and the Public Health Laboratory Service a very determined effort was made to stamp out brucella infection from Tuberculin Tested but non-pasteurised milk, so far as the Bourne Urban District was concerned. The Public Health Inspector will have more to say about this in his report.

We live in a highly technical age in which the pharmacological, chemical and the biological sciences are pressed into the service of speedier food production and increased output. Highly toxic chemicals are used as sprays and insecticides, biological products such as oestrins (female hormones) are implanted in cattle to accelerate beef production, antibiotics of different kinds are incorporated in the feeds of farmyard beasts and birds. The stock of drugs and chemicals kept in many a "mixed" farmer's drug store is reminiscent of a dispensing pharmaceutical chemists'. In all this plethora of prophylactic, deterrent and curative veterinarian and agricultural products those who watch over the safety and quality of the nation's food supply have an enormous responsibility both at national and local levels.

Quite apart from the drugs used on the farms, over 400 chemicals are added to the various items of food we eat by those engaged in the food preparation industry. This fact gives some indication of the complexity of modern food technology as all these additions must be proved safe and be within the permitted maxima.

"Now good digestion wait on appetite and health on both".

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Action was taken under Section 47 of this Act to seek the removal of an Octogenarian woman to hospital on the grounds that she was incapable of looking after herself and was not receiving adequate care from others. This was the case whose earlier history was recounted in last year's report.

On the Council's instruction a Magistrates Court Order was sought committing her to St. George's Hospital, Stamford. Her appearance in person in the witness box and her cogent arguments were sufficient to persuade the Bench that she was capable of carrying on in her own home. I applaud her strong sense of independence, though at times, like the Trustees of the Almshouses where she resides, I have been fearful for her safety. Certainly she is very dependent on the Home Help Service.

It is a great moral and ethical problem as to the circumstances under which, however trying they may be to others, it is justifiable to seek the compulsory removal of the elderly and frail from their own homes against their will. The legitimate liberties of the individual, however awkward, must remain paramount in a free society even though the social services are stretched to the uttermost in order to maintain them.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Council support the Central Council for Health Education and display the posters and propaganda material supplied by them. They also benefit from the magazines and reviews which the Health Department receive during the year from this source. However it is the education of the individual in his own environment by the doctors, nurses, the Health Inspector and other converted persons which produces results and disseminates the gospel of better health. I am more than persuaded that Health Education and parent craft, including dietetics, should be an integral part of the education syllabus. Only thus can the fathers and mothers of the future really be taught their responsibilities and the "know how" for healthy living in an age when the tin-opener and the deep freeze hold the "cordon bleu" in many a home.

Having mentioned dietetics it might not be out of place to comment on how often the elderly and, in particular, those living alone have a quite insufficient diet. Proteins in particular are disregarded in favour of some more easily prepared but far less nutritious snack, and a properly cooked dinner becomes a gradually receding event. It would be a great social asset if a Meals-on-Wheels Service could be introduced here, as has been done to the inestimable benefit of many in other places.

Towards the end of the year the Council decided to issue a booklet intended for all over pensionable age. This booklet contains a summary of all the facilities available to the elderly within this area and additionally a few health hints, particularly applicable to the not so young.

During the year your Medical Officer was elected to serve on the Area Maternity Liaison Committee and also on the Control of Infection Committee of the Peterborough Hospital Group. I have continued to serve on the Disablement Advisory Committee and Medical Panel of the Ministry of Labour. This active participation in the work of other bodies is more than justified by the benefits which such co-operation brings.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the other Members of the Council for the keen interest in and support of the work of the Health Department in all the spheres which I have attempted to review.

I wish to thank Mr. Brown for the whole hearted co-operation I received from him and the enthusiasm with which he approaches the problems of environmental health. To Mr. Reeson and my other colleagues I pay a warm acknowledgement for their cheerful help throughout another year. Finally thank you Dr. Galletly for so generously standing by for me when I was away and also Dr. O'Sullivan who kindly did likewise.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. ELLIS SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1960.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Bourne.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1960.

HOUSING.

During the year the Council's functions in this direction continued under the guidance of the Public Health Committee and the Housing Committee. The former attends to securing the maintenance of privately-owned housing to a reasonable basic standard as provided by the Housing Act 1957 and the Public Health Act 1936, the closure of unfit dwellings past redemption, and provoking the improvement of existing dwellings beyond the basic standard. The latter attends to the provision and maintenance of Council-owned housing accommodation as a social service and exercises the Council's functions in connection with the grant-aided improvement schemes.

In the twelve-month period 30 dwellings received consideration in accordance with the processes of Section 16 of the 1957 Act. Most of these are included in the Council's First Five-year Slum Clearance Scheme but a number of houses additional to those included in the original list received similar treatment on complaint by their occupants critical of their housing circumstances.

The following houses became the subject of demolition orders:

- 2, Barnes Drove.
- 12, and 14, St. Peter's Road, completing the emptying of the Union Square blind-back cottages.
- 48, and 48a, West Street.
- 11, 13 and 15, Willoughby Road.
- 77, Eastgate.
- 31, and 32, Bedehouse Bank.
- 7, Spalding Road.
- 4, Dyke.
- 48, and 50, Meadowgate.
- 57, Spalding Road.

Nos. 29, South Street (the lodge house to the Red Hall) and 76, Austerby (part of the original Bourne Manor), both on the schedule of protected buildings of historic interest, became the subject of closing orders as did also Nos. 84, West Street and 76, North Street. An undertaking to not relet No. 95, Dyke, now used for agricultural purposes was, accepted.

Nos. 11, 13 and 15 Spalding Road were considered for demolition but, on the Council's rehousing one of the overcrowded occupants, one of the owners purchased all three cottages and is in the process of renovating them into two modernised dwellings with aid of discretionary grants. Nos. 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42, Eastgate were considered as part of the official schedule and classified as fit. An undertaking to render No. 78, North Street fit for habitation was accepted in lieu of making a demolition order.

The general progress of the 5-year programme at 31st December, 1960 was:-

Demolished	- clearance orders	9
Demolished	- demolition orders	11
Demolished	- voluntarily	4
Awaiting demolition	- clearance orders	8
Awaiting demolition	- demolition orders	35
Closing orders		3
Undertakings to not re-let for habitation		1
Renovated and made fit or to be renovated and made fit		7
Referred to the Council for possible acquisition and improvement		11
Decisions pending		11
Found to be not unfit		5
To receive consideration in 1961		3
		<hr/>
Total in the programme		108
		<hr/>

19 other unfit dwellings not in the schedule have also been dealt with by demolition or closing orders.

A relatively high proportion of the houses subject to demolition orders remains standing. Whilst these remain vacant and un-let for habitation, it could be argued that it is democratic to leave them standing in order that owners may use them for storage, garages, etc., but whilst these sites are thus occupied re-development is less likely. In any event the generally sanitary and pleasing environment of the District's town and villages should be safeguarded by keeping the numbers of such relics to a minimum. It is therefore pleasing to report that there has been some demolition of derelict condemned property during the year, notably the remains of Bedford Cottages and Mills Cottages, "Hillcrest" and "Woodlands", shacks on the Edenham Road; Terrace Yard off North Street and Victoria Place Clearance areas are also undergoing gradual clearance. In 1961 when a small amount of re-housing will empty many of the remaining condemned terraces, it should be possible to effect the demolition of a deal of the outstanding unfit dwellings. In 1960, the occupants of 17 unfit dwellings were rehoused. Thirty-four persons were thus accommodated, one case of overcrowding being relieved in the process. Of the occupants of the 20 confirmed unfit dwellings remaining occupied at the year's end, 4 intend rehousing themselves in the near future, 3 will be accommodated by the Dyke bungalow development in the summer of the coming year and at least 4 will wish to await the extension of the Willoughby Road estate,

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 came into force when there were 7 residential caravans in use in the District. The Act disposed of two of them, one has since been traded for a traditional dwelling, two are exempt from licensing control being merely bedroom annexes to houses at 33, Eastgate and 3, Wilson's Drove. Two caravans continue in permanent use under licence in Bedehouse Bank.

To achieve some uniformity in the site conditions in the area, the County health, planning and fire staffs compiled a minimum standard which has since been adopted by all the County's District Councils. The standard achieves a more realistic environment and standard of amenity than that provided by the Minister's Model. The standards of these sites must approach those of the traditional house to which there must be some recognisable relationship if caravans are to be officially accepted as 'permanent' dwellings. The local conditions applied to licensing have been very favourably received and are capable of practical application but it remains for legislation to set some standard for guidance on the nature and limits of the accommodation provided within the caravans for at the moment such things appear to depend to a large extent upon the virility of the manufacturers' imagination!

One application for a certificate of disrepair under the Rent Act 1957 was approved and a certificate issued. The heated dispute that ensued, involving frequent representations for advice from the Council's Officers, was finally resolved by the owner selling the house to the tenant!

A few houses in the area continue to be served by gas power only, despite the reasonable availability of an electricity supply. Artificial lighting in these dwellings is therefore of a low order. The provision of electric artificial lighting where it is reasonably available, should be enforceable as with water supply and drainage. Natural lighting is already catered for in the standards of the Housing Act.

51 small, tenanted houses continue to be served by yard standpipes and lack kitchen sinks and allied internal waste drainage. However most occupants have only themselves to blame since they refuse to give up their back living rooms for kitchen purposes, tenaciously retaining their virtually unused sitting rooms for high days and holidays! This tradition is disappearing and there is likely to be an improvement in the situation.

12 discretionary and 5 standard improvement grants were paid in the year. Once again the accent was on owner-occupied houses or dwellings with some business interest. Under the discretionary grant scheme so far, £14,219 worth of improvement works have merited £5,819 grants from the Council and of the 30 houses so aided, 18 were owner-occupied and 10 tenanted tied farm dwellings. £386 worth of approved works attracted £175 for standard grants for providing two W.C.'s, three washbasins, one foodstore, one bath and one hot water system.

In 1960, the following dwellings attracted grants in accordance with the improvement schemes:-

21, North Road.	113, North Road.	65, North Road.	6, 8 and 10, Cawthorpe.
22, Gladstone St.	18, Meadowgate.	35, Spalding Road.	89, West Street.
18/20, Dyke.	28, Burghley Street.	22, Dyke.	30, Dyke.
			6 & 8, Twenty North Drove.
			4, Victoria Place.

FOOD.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 were introduced during the year to amend and consolidate previous legislation from 1955. Washing facilities for stalls and vehicles are now only specifically required for catering businesses; this is disappointing since there are now a number of excellent, compact and cheap portable units available on the market which enable most food stalls and vehicles (even public health staff cars) to be thus equipped. The definition of catering business, no doubt designed to overcome the difficulties in interpretation of the phrase in the previous Regulations it replaces will prove equally difficult to interpret. A further amendment in the Regulations exempts more foods not favourable to the rapid multiplication of bacteria from storage temperature restrictions on catering premises. Food handlers are now prohibited from taking snuff or smoking herbal mixtures as well as tobacco only whilst actually handling open food or in a food room in which there is open food. A pity, since smoking and snuff taking should be prohibited at all times whilst engaged about the business.

Dogs are a hazard in food premises. They cause embarrassment to most shopkeepers who, however, will seldom risk losing custom by taking it upon themselves to ask people to refrain from bringing these animals into their shops. To help in this matter, the supply of an attractive notice for display, worded "In the interests of hygiene the Urban District Council of Bourne requests that you do not bring your dog into these premises", was distributed to shopkeepers. It was very favourably received and in only three cases did vendors refuse to display it. A few customers still take their dogs shopping but in general there has been marked improvement in the situation.

A survey of public houses was carried-out during the year and full reports furnished to the local Licensing Justices. Generally the Bourne premises give no cause for concern. Defects found during the survey mainly involved lack of maintenance of sanitary accommodation.

Food businesses operating in the District were as follows:-

Butchers	8	Slaughterhouses	3
General Provisions	16	School canteens, etc.	6
Wet fish	2	Market Stalls	10
Fried fish	4	Public houses	17
Cake confectionery	2	Bakehouses	4
Sweet confectionery	12	Restaurants, cafes	5
Fruit and vegetable	4	Miscellaneous	16

Two of the general provisions shops closed one being replaced by a larger modern shop. Two of the sweet shops closed and the oldest inn in the town, the New Inn in Victoria Place, fell into disuse.

Excluding the three slaughterhouses, 97-routine inspections were made. In most instances informal representations effected improvements where necessary.

Milk.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960 were issued to consolidate with amendments all Special Designation Regulations from 1949 as from the 1st October, 1960. Dealers licensing became the responsibility of the Food and Drugs Authority (Kesteven County Council) and as from the 1st January, 1961, licences will be issued by that Authority for five-year periods. The new scheme dispenses with the old unwieldy supplementary licensing system which was responsible for much duplicated effort on the part of both Trade and local authorities.

There are six retailers in the District which is included in a Specified Area and as such may only be supplied by designated milk, i.e. Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested. The suppliers are:- The Peterborough and District Cooperative Society Ltd. trading from the North Street depot, local retailers T.H.A. Curtis, M. Bradshaw, J. Curtis and Messrs. Moisey Bros., and J.R. Chapman of Billingborough. Bradshaw and Chapman produce and retail farm-bottled raw Tuberculin Tested milk. The bulk of the District's supplies are met by pasteurised milk.

27 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination. Of the 17 samples submitted to statutory test, 16 satisfied the standard for cleanliness and keeping quality and efficiency of pasteurisation where the milk was a heat-treated one. The one failure was a raw milk and the matter was referred to the County Council (Licensing Authority) and the Ministry (Production advisory and enforcement). 18 samples were examined for tubercle and brucella; all proved negative for the former but brucella infection of three samples was revealed. This milk was retailed from outside the District and the County Public Health Department was advised. With the Lincoln Public Health Laboratory Service, it carried out a full investigation of the cows in the herd involved, taking and examining many hundreds of quarter samples in the process. The milk is now brucella-free; the animals have been removed from the herd and disposed of.

There appears to be no legal control over the destiny of brucella-infected animals.

Ice Cream.

One Section 16 registration was cancelled because of unsatisfactory conditions; the shop has now been closed. Four new registrations were approved for the sale of this commodity. There are now 19 shops, 3 cafes and one cinema retailing ice-cream supplied by Messrs. Eldorado, Lyons, Midland Counties Ltd., and Walls.

The first sample purchased in the year was served by the vendor's assistant in an unhygienic manner and gave a Grade IV result; this led to Section 19 action. At about this time, two other retailers were found to be not observing a reasonable standard of hygienic practice in their handling of their ice-cream sales and were similarly dealt with. Cancellation of their registration, upon which sales wholly depend, was not effected in these instances. 17 other samples submitted to the provisional test for ice-creams, the methylene blue, were satisfactory, being classified:- Grade I: 11 and Grade II: 6.

Ice-lollies continue to rely for bacteriological control on pH testing on the spot.

Meat.

The District is served by three local slaughterhouses. A public slaughterhouse is occupied by the Council and administered by a Sub-committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. A contractor is employed to undertake the moderate slaughtering requirements of his own wholesale and retail undertakings and the needs of the few local butchers. The establishment has been dogged by financial cramp since 1955. The present circumstances are sufficient to provide a nominal surplus each year but will require subsidy to meet any extra expenditure to be incurred in meeting the improvements to be required before the 'appointed day'. An increase in charges could be entertained. A horse and casualty animal slaughterhouse is occupied by Messrs. T.W. Mays and Sons Ltd., who also operate fellmongery, knackers yard, and fertilizer factories in the town. Casualty animal slaughter is therefore entirely separated from the main fatstock supplies of the area - a matter of considerable advantage when one has regard to the high incidence of disease and contaminating conditions associated with the casualty animal throughput. The third slaughterhouse is a small, well-equipped private one attached to and serving exclusively a family retail butchery.

A good deal of the slaughterhouses' throughput is destined for the consumer outside the Council's area. This is known as 'export' meat and the Council's costs for arranging the post-mortem examination for fitness for consumption attracts a financial subsidy from the Minister.

Following discussion with the neighbouring South Kesteven R.D.C. and representatives of the trade, the Council's Slaughterhouses Report was submitted to the Minister. It details the District's slaughtering circumstances and outlines the works of improvement which in the opinion of the Council, will be necessary to bring the existing slaughterhouses to a prescribed standard of hygiene etc. It appears that the Minister requires additional works to be carried-out and the Council's appointed day is likely to be postponed until the 1st January, 1962.

In view of the relatively expensive programme of improvement involved by the two major establishments, the Council received an invitation to close its premises and accept like accommodation at Messrs. Mays' slaughterhouse. There is no question that this should be avoided if at all possible.

Part of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958 are currently in force in slaughterhouses. The level of compliance with the standards of hygiene and humanity thus required are largely relative to the example set in the public slaughterhouse and there is room for considerable improvement there.

Post-mortem and, where possible, ante-mortem examination of 7,647 animals was carried-out at the three slaughterhouses -

Bulls	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep
1	1,238	212	170	33	3955
	Pigs	Sows and Boars		Horses	
	1,905	40		93	

A broad analysis of the conditions found (excluding tuberculosis) is as follows:-

Actinomycosis.	25
Abcess formation, ulceration, etc.	33
Endocarditis, pericarditis, myocarditis.	9
Pleurisy.	33
Pneumonia.	23
Peritonitis.	11
Nephritis.	7
Local benign tumours.	3
Malignant tumours.	1
Oedema, general.	6
Emaciation, advanced.	9
General Fever.) and animals not further examined.	11
Moribund.)	11
Erysipelas.	1
Mechanical injuries.	37
Septicaemia arising from acute septic -	
Mastitis	4
Pneumonia	11
Pericarditis or endocarditis	7
Pleurisy or peritonitis	2
Pyæmia.	6
Toxaemia.	2
Jaundice.	1
Meningitis.	1
Pseudo-leukaemia.	1
Uraemia.	1
Early putrefactive changes.	5

In addition parasites took their toll of food as follows:-

Beasts lungs and livers	-	11 cwts.	64-lbs.	-	112
Horses lungs and livers	-	4 cwts.	34-lbs.	-	31
Sheeps livers	-	1 cwts.	45-lbs.	-	261
Pigs lungs and livers	-		84-lbs.	-	26

The parasite involved in so much beef liver was the common liver fluke, *distomum hepaticum*, infesting the bile duct and substance, causing cirrhosis and abcess or cyst formation in varying degrees. The parasites found in horses and sheep were mainly attributable to the dog, being *echinococcus* and *tenuicollis*. A chicken parasite also caused some trouble with sheep livers but thanks to the Laboratory Service at Peterborough the cause was pin-pointed and no further sheep laired on the chicken range involved. On the matter of the examination of animals and meat supplies, it is a pleasure to once again record 100% examination of the throughput of the local slaughterhouses.

This situation was maintained with the ready and considerable help of two qualified Public Health Inspectors, Mr. Grainger and Mr. Jackson of Spalding to whom I am very grateful.

The provisions of the Regulations requiring veterinary surgeons' certificates to accompany dead stock arriving at slaughterhouses was rigidly enforced. To begin with there was considerable trouble and many carcasses were rejected for want of a certificate. However the rigid control has paid dividends and the certificates which are now religiously obtained for such casualty animals are proving most useful - and excluding some of the trash that would otherwise be sent to slaughterhouses.

The total weight of meat and offal found, on examination, to be unfit for human consumption was as follows:-

Meat			Offal		
13 tons.	18 cwts.	64-lbs.	3 tons.	14 cwts.	108-lbs.

- a further noticeable reduction on previous years. Messrs. T.W. Mays and Sons Ltd., effect a prompt and reliable collection service to all three slaughterhouses for disposal at their knackers yard premises. Other by-products are also collected and disposed of by this firm, including all fats, hides and skins, etc.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations 1960 were introduced and prohibit unfit meat and offal leaving slaughterhouses in an unsterilised condition unless in a locked, conspicuously marked container for delivery to a processor. Knackers yard meat also must be stained or sterilised before disposal. There has been a wide range of interpretation of the term 'unfit meat' by nearby Authorities whose slaughterhouses deliver their by-products to this District's processor.

The staining of unfit meat at the time of condemnation is still the only answer to safeguarding the public but the legal instrument to carry this into effect continues to elude us.

9 slaughtermen are licensed by the Council, 4 for the slaughter of horses.

WATER

95% of the District's population is served by mains water. Delivery to the town and Dyke village is effected through the Council's own network but the waterworks and its resources are owned and operated by the Spalding U.D.C., who sell the water to the Council at an extremely cheap rate, 3d. per thousand gallons. Properties in the rural part of the District also receive the benefit of mains water supplies being supplied from the trunk mains of the Spalding undertaking. The remainder of the community is served by private bores. 51 houses are without an inside supply of water, the occupants being served by standpipes in their rear yards; three houses on the West Road continue to endure the inconvenience of carting their water supplies from a standpipe at the Council's header reservoir some distance removed from them. Five samples of non-mains water examined in the year were of a satisfactory bacteriological quality. Arising from drought conditions which some of the shallower bores began to experience towards the latter end of 1959, the bore serving the casualty slaughterhouse failed and a dangerous alternative supply was introduced by the firm as a substitute. The choice of

pond water into which the slaughterhouse drainage discharges was incredible. The matter was discovered and a more suitable alternative supply with chlorination routine was introduced forthwith. Surprisingly, no serious sickness occurred in the Brickyard Cottages nearby where this water was also served and the occupants may consider themselves exceedingly fortunate. A new bore was installed at an early date and a safe and wholesome supply is now afforded to these premises.

SANITATION

Dyke village sewerage scheme involving the laying of a new foul sewer gravitating to pumps delivering the effluent to the Bourne disposal plant was completed. It replaces the old brick culvert discharging its contents into the Carr Dyke watercourse. Provision for separation of combined services was made and the old culvert will continue to take the community's rainwater drainage. The Council gave each house a connection from the new sewer to the boundary and in some cases where the circumstances justified it, renewed or made provision for new, private drains for foul services to facilitate the separation of surface water from foul liquor. A grant of 50% up to £25 of the cost of converting closets was offered by the Council and all owners were asked to complete the work by the 31st December, 1960. However by this date, barely half had made the necessary provision and this situation could be attributed in some measure to the lack of building operatives available to undertake the work.

Dyke school now enjoys modern sanitation.

Major developments in connection with the Council's re-sewering programme are outlined in the Medical Officer of Health's report.

FACTORIES

The Factories Act 1959 came into force in the year. Three new fire escapes certificates were issued, based on inspection with and the advice of the Fire Prevention Officer of the Kesteven Fire Authority. It is a logical step that this function has now been transferred by the new Act entirely into the trained and specialist hands of that Authority. It is time cellulose and petroleum storage regulation also became its responsibility. Sanitary conveniences and washing facilities continued to give cause for criticism in factories, particularly on building sites, but some improvement was effected over previous years.

A schedule of the work undertaken in connection with factory premises in the District is as follows:-

1. Inspections.

Category	Factories on Register	Inspections	Notices
Non-powered factories (Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6)	9	11	-
Powered factories (Sect. 7)	47	37	5
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	17	4
Totals	70	65	9

2. Contraventions.

	Cases		Referred	
	Found	Remedied	to HM Inspector	by HM Inspector
Sanitary conveniences:				
a. Insufficient	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable, defective	9	8	-	2
c. No sex separation	-	-	-	-
Certification as to means of escape in case of fire	2	2	-	-
Washing facilities	1	1	1	-
Totals	12	11	1	2

3. No outworkers are registered as being employed in the District.

4. No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

SHOPS

There are 96 shops in the town and Dyke village, in which 230 people are directly engaged on retail sales work. 41 shops were visited and inspected in accordance with the Council's functions under the sanitary and environment provisions of the Shops Act 1950. In three cases only were conditions found to be unsatisfactory and in these instances remedies were effected on informal approach. The working conditions in the shops in the town are generally good.

REFUSE

The Council operates a weekly collection in the town area and fortnightly in the outlying rural area. A chargeable trade refuse collection is made weekly. A side-loading Shelvoke and Drewry vehicle is in use and disposal is effected at a pit rented from Messrs. Cooke at the brickpits, off West Road. As with all raw uncontrolled tips, it is financially impractical to effect insecticidal control; regular rodent control work is arranged and infestation kept to a commendable minimum by the Operator. The present refuse disposal arrangement has one thing to commend it - cheapness. The occupants of two cottages enjoy a Mankowitzian existence on the edge of the tip and the casualty slaughterhouse is situated some 500 yards away from it. Periodic checks are made on the condition and type of refuse receptacles in use in the District; informal approach to occupiers in default is usually sufficient to secure the provision of a new unit where necessary. Collecting other peoples garbage is at the best a noxious occupation and the job demands and deserves a decent, properly designed dustbin - a fact too many are inclined to overlook, without prompting.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's work is competently executed by a person employed as Gardener/Handyman/Rodent Operator. Whilst routine attention is paid to the few complaints of rat or mice infestation and nuisance from bees and wasps received during the Spring and Summer months, the major part of the Operator's activity is confined to the months of October to February. Most farms received two inspections in the period when it was found that infestations were not excessive. Only two major infestations occurred. One concerned a farm cottage where the agricultural worker tenant had accumulated a large number of pigeons, dogs and assorted putrescible rubbish in his back garden. These had attracted rats and the resulting colony had virtually taken over the tenancy of his land - a matter which did not appear to concern him unduly. The Council normally treats private dwellings' infestations free of charge, the cost being rate-borne, but in view of the circumstances of the case, a Section 4 notice was served, eradication carried-out in default and the costs recovered by Court action. The other major infestation concerned a farm house and yard with stacks where the land and dykes as well had become over-run by rats and the farmer appeared to be content to allow these conditions to obtain indefinitely until the Council's attention was focussed on them when he immediately requested that the Council undertake the necessary work on contract for him. This was carried-out. A few such contracts were entered into during the year but most continue to try to treat their land themselves.

The following schedules the rodent control work carried-out in the twelve months:-

1. Number of properties inspected.

(a) On complaint	117
(b) Survey under the Act	103
(c) Otherwise	165

2. Number of infestations.

(a) Rats	122
(b) Mice	8

3. Number of properties treated by L.A. 108

4. Total treatments 124

5. Sewer maintenance treatment.

(a) Manholes in system	123
(b) Positive results	21
(c) Negative results	102

GENERAL

In February, I attended the Course for Public Health Inspectors arranged at the Civil Defence Staff College, Sunningdale. Nuclear attack would involve public health authorities actively. Whilst the Course gave me valuable insight into the subject, I have yet to be integrated into any organised and trained machinery and I feel that this should be remedied since four minutes will not provide a deal of time to rectify matters.

This Council is still unaware of the details of the persons found by the Mass Radiography Unit's survey in 1959 to have 'significant tuberculosis' of the lungs. As long as these units are not permitted by some private ruling to reveal to local health authorities the names and addresses of those found to be affected with pulmonary tuberculosis and it is left to the individual to seek medical attention or not, as he pleases, then the chances of eradicating the infection in the human population will lag unnecessarily behind the more fortunate bovines in whose field a more enlightened and realistic attitude is adopted.

The community continues to be bombarded by advertisement and financial inducement to adopt or continue the habit of cigarette smoking and it is not surprising that there appears to be no reduction in the habit. To meet the local demand there are 52 premises, excluding clubs, retailing tobacco and cigarettes. At the same time, medical authority continues to link cigarette smoking with the high and rising incidence of lung cancer.

Slaughterhouses' lay-out, construction and equipment is in the process of long-overdue improvement, albeit a sad compromise to the abandoned moderate concentration, but the full benefit of the progress will not be felt unless there is concomitant improvement in the standard of staff employed to carry-out the operations. This aspect of the matter must rest with the trade and could be met by a properly organised apprentice-ship scheme embracing training in retail meat craft as well as the arts of the slaughterhouse.

During the year an organisation and methods survey was undertaken for the Council. The firm did not secure a very good grasp of the structure and operation of the Department and its report thereon was in some respects in error and in others unrealistic.

The decision of the Council to appoint clerical assistance to the Department was welcomed with relief and Miss Jane Burchnell who commenced her duties in November is proving an efficient and industrious asset.

In closing my Report for the year, I wish to thank my colleagues for their ready and willing help at all times and Dr. Ellis Smith for his constant support and inspiration and his often asked-for and always-ready advice without which I should find my task very difficult and far less rewarding. I wish also to thank Dr. J. Glencross and his staff at the Peterborough Public Health Laboratory Service without whose invaluable help and skills a deal of the work relating to food and water would have been impossible.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

L.W. BROWN,

Public Health Inspector.

In February, I attended the Course for Public Health Inspectors arranged at the Civil Defense Staff College, Washington. Needless to say, I would have been interested in any organization that gave me valuable insight into the subject, I have yet to be integrated into any organization and trained machinery and I feel that this should be remedied since four minutes will not provide a deal of time to rectify matters.

This Council is still unaware of the details of the persons found by the Mass Radiography Unit's survey in 1959 to have 'significant tuberculosis' of the lungs. As long as these units are not permitted by some private ruling to reveal to local health authorities the names and addresses of those found to be affected with pulmonary tuberculosis and it is left to the individual to seek medical attention or not, as he pleases, then the chances of eradicating the infection in the human population will be unacceptably high. The more fortunate persons in whose fields a more enlightened and realistic attitude is adopted.

The community continues to be bombarded by advertisement and financial inducement to adopt or continue the habit of cigarette smoking and it is not surprising that there appears to be no reduction in the habit. To meet the local demand there are 52 premises, excluding clubs, retailing tobacco and cigarettes. At the same time, medical authority continues to link cigarette smoking with the high and rising incidence of lung cancer.

Smoking cessation, lay-out, construction and equipment in the process of long-overdue improvement, albeit a bad compromise to the abandoned moderate concentration, but the full benefit of the progress will not be felt unless there is concomitant improvement in the standard of staff employed to carry out the operations. This aspect of the matter must rest with the trade and could be met by a properly organized apprentice-ship scheme embracing training in retail meat craft, as well as the arts of the slaughterhouse.

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In closing my Report for the year, I wish to thank my colleagues for their ready and willing help at all times and Dr. Eliza Smith for his constant support and inspiration and his often asked-for and always-ready advice without which I should find my task very difficult and far less rewarding. I wish also to thank Dr. J. Gilmour and his staff at the Peterborough Public Health Laboratory Service with out whose valuable help and skills a deal of the work relating to food and water would have been impossible.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipper and Gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,
I. W. BROWN



