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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

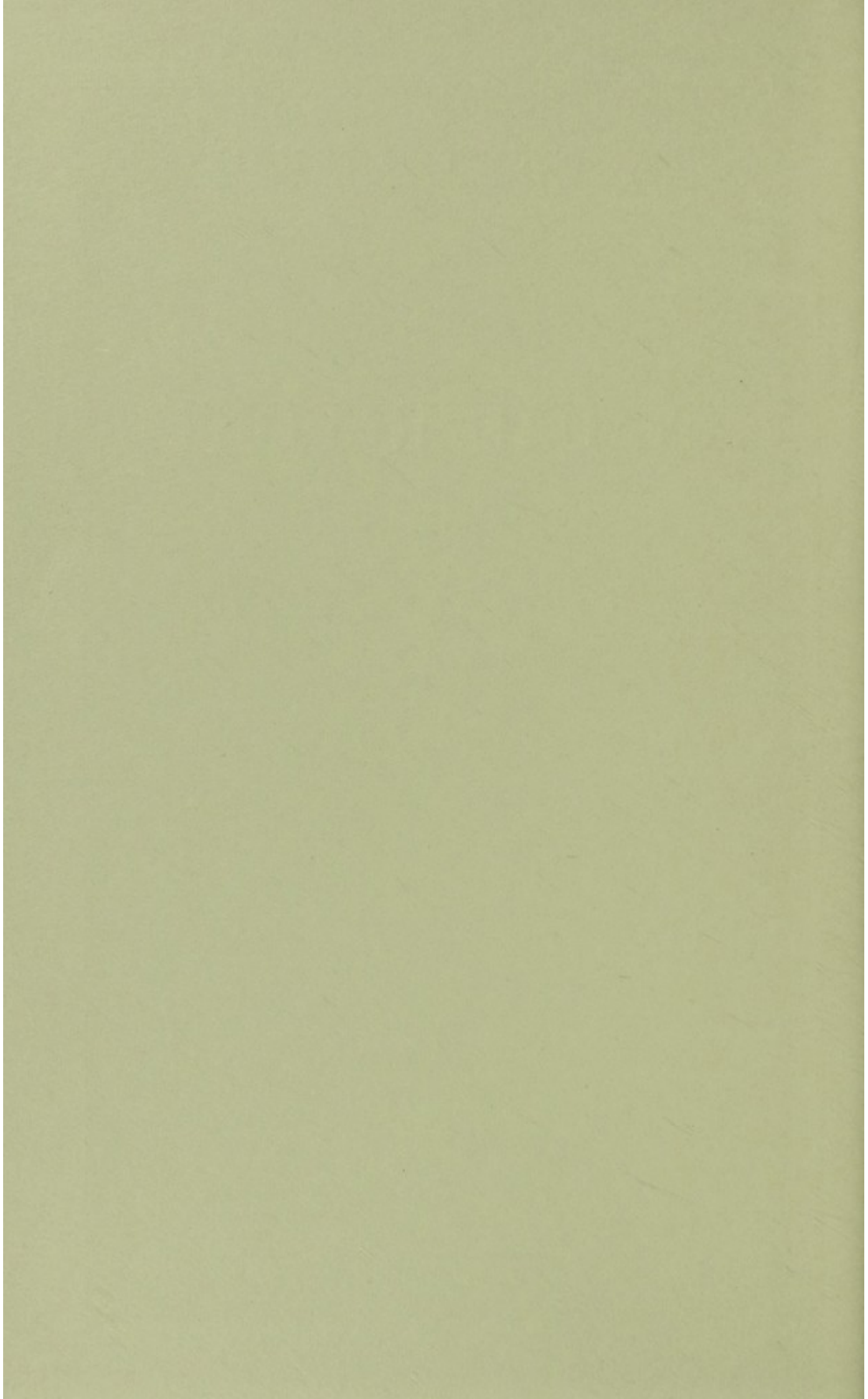
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1959



ARTHUR LUCAS



RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Brackley.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1959.

Statistics agree generally with those of the rest of the country.

Although some bad samples of water were discovered and complaints received as to the unpleasant taste and smell of the water recent samples taken have shown good bacteriological results.

The building of Council Houses progressed satisfactorily, and perhaps the Council should now pause to consider if many more Council Houses are required as I have known in the area of another Council of as many as five refusals of a house because the situation or type of house did not suit the applicant.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis notified and one hopes that perhaps already mass vaccination has had some effect. Several cases of severe Tonsillitis at one of the village schools did cause some concern. The Tonsillitis was probably caused by a virulent strain of Streptococcus brought back to the school by some children who had been on holiday. Fortunately, after fumigation and thorough cleansing of the school no further cases were reported.

The sewerage of villages is progressing and it is pleasing to note the continued interest of the Public Health Committee in this essential service.

Again I must thank Mr. Turbitt, Mr. Caley and Mr. Mullis for their help in preparing this report and would like to express my appreciation of the good work done by the Public Health Committee throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.
June, 1960.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

Lt. Col. V. G. Toler-Aylward, J.P.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

F. T. Kjeldsen, Esq.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Messrs. L. S. Prosser (Chairman), J. R. R. Lees-Millais, J.P., (Vice-Chairman), L. C. Bartlett, S. Berry, J. N. Gibbard, P. W. Henn, F. Moore, L. Warren and Mrs. I. S. Forrest.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health :

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., County Hall, Guildhall Road, Northampton. Telephone No. Northampton 5580.

Also holds appointments of :—

Medical Officer of Health in Brackley Borough, Towcester R.D.C., Northampton R.D.C., and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and School Medical Officer, Northamptonshire County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

W. E. Turbitt, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

Additional Public Health Inspector :

N. R. Caley, A.R.S.H.

Clerk to the Public Health Inspectors :

Mrs. W. H. Morrell. Resigned :—4th September, 1959.

E. G. Mullis. Commenced :—12th October, 1959.

Rodent Operative :

W. G. Bartlett, Esq.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1959

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,380
Number of separate dwellings occupied	1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,508
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£83,216
Product of a penny rate at 1st April, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£334

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1000 population)	England & Wales	Northamp tonshire.
Legitimate	179	88	91			
Illegitimate	6	4	2			
				16.2	15.2	16.6
Total	185	92	93			

Stillbirths

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1,000 births)		
Legitimate	3	2	1			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				16.2	20.2	19.2
Total	3	2	1			

Deaths

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1,000 population)		
	132	76	56	11.5	11.1	10.77

Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil

Infant Mortality

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1,000 live births)		
Legitimate	4	2	2			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				21.6	22.6	20.2
Total	4	2	2			

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)

		20
"	"	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)
"	"	Measles
"	"	Whooping Cough
"	"	Infectious Diseases
"	"	Tuberculosis
		1

The registered causes of death were:—

Causes of Death					Males	Females	Totals
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory				1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other				—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic diseases				—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria				—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough				—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections				—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis				—	—	—
8.	Measles				—	—	—
9.	Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...				—	2	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach				—	—	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...				3	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast				—	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus				—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				9	5	14
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia				—	—	—
16.	Diabetes				—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesion of the nervous system ...				8	5	13
18.	Coronary diseases, angina				14	3	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease				—	3	3
20.	Other heart diseases				13	16	29
21.	Other circulatory diseases				3	1	4
22.	Influenza				2	—	2
23.	Pneumonia				8	4	12
24.	Bronchitis				4	4	8
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system				—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum				—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea				—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis				—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate				2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion				—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations				—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...				5	8	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents				3	—	3
34.	All other accidents				1	—	1
35.	Suicide				—	—	—
36.	Homicidal and operations of war				—	—	—
Totals					76	56	132

Population. The population figures as supplied by the Registrar General for the past ten years are as follows :—

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
9,647	9,930	10,220	10,320	10,340	10,400	10,610	10,780	11,210	11,380

The natural increase in population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 53.

Birth Rate 1950-1959

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Brackley	20.2	16.5	18.6	16.2	20.8	19.0	18.2	19.1	17.0	16.2
Northamptonshire	15.71	15.57	15.50	16.16	16.20	15.49	16.67	17.03	16.9	16.6
England and Wales	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	18.3	15.0	14.6	15.4	16.4	15.2

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 185 compared with 191 in 1958. The birth rate for 1959 of 16.2 is 0.8 per thousand less than the rate for 1958 and 1.0 higher than the rate 15.2 for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate, 1959

Still-Births. There were 3 still-births during 1959.

Illegitimate Births. There were 6 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1959 (4 male and 2 female) a decrease of 3 on the previous year's figures.

Infant Mortality Rate, 1950—1959

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Brackley.	20.8	30.4	20.3	47.6	28.3	10.1	26.0	9.2	20.9	21.6
Northamptonshire.	29.53	25.26	24.96	24.70	23.9	20.79	19.68	22.53	19.7	20.2
England and Wales.	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.9	24.8	22.5	22.6

The number of children who died before reaching their first birthday was 4.

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes or conditions allied to childbirth.

Death Rate 1950—1959

Year	Brackley			Recorded Rate	Northamp- tonshire	England and Wales
	Total	M.				
1950	124	66	58	13·0	12·01	11·6
1951	127	71	56	12·7	12·13	12·5
1952	92	61	31	9·00	11·04	11·3
1953	97	48	49	9·3	11·51	11·4
1954	94	46	48	9·09	11·04	11·3
1955	113	56	57	10·7	11·38	11·7
1956	121	73	48	11·4	11·24	11·3
1957	110	58	52	10·2	10·97	13·4
1958	120	56	64	10·7	11· 5	11·7
1959	132	76	56	11·5	11·7	11·1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream, water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. The service is entirely free.

(b) **Nursing in The Home**

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible. Some fairly full information on the latest development in the home nursing service may be seen upon reference to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) **Clinic and Treatment Centres**

Infant Welfare—Brackley

Orthopædic Clinic

Vision Clinic

Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney

{ Organised
by County
Council

(d) **Blind Persons**

Incidence of blindness is reported upon in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(e) **Tuberculosis**

The preventive and after-care services as a means of controlling tuberculosis are administered by the County Council.

(f) **Dental Treatment**

Details of dental treatment performed in this area may be seen on reference to the report by the Senior Dental Officer for the County which is incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(g) **Epileptics and Spastics**

The County Council are responsible for any facilities available for treatment of these conditions.

(h) **Domiciliary Services**

Details are included in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Drainage and Sanitation.

A considerable amount of drainage work with the installation of new sanitary fittings was carried out during the year, e.g., 45 complete new drainage systems were laid. There were also provided 76 water closets, 61 sinks and wash basins and 49 baths. Most of this work is supervised and tested by the Public Health Inspectors.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

During the year new sewage disposal works and sewerage were completed at Syresham.

New sewage disposal works for dealing with Lower Middleton Cheney was also completed.

Extension to Croughton disposal plant was well under way.

The following statement shows the present position in the various parishes at the year's end, viz :—

Place	New Sewers	New Sewage Disposal Works
Aston le Walls	Deferred	Deferred
Aynho	Part Completed	Deferred
Boddington	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Chacombe	Completed	Completed
Charlton	Deferred	Deferred
Chipping Warden	Completed	Completed
Croughton	Completed	75% Completed
Crowfield	Deferred	Deferred
Culworth	Completed	Completed
Evenley	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Eydon	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Farthinghoe	Completed	Completed
Greatworth	Completed	Completed
Helmdon	Completed	Completed
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	Deferred	Deferred
Kings Sutton	Completed	Completed
Marston St. Lawrence	Deferred	Deferred
Middleton Cheney	Part Completed	Completed
(Lower)	Scheme being prepared for remainder	
Middleton Cheney (Upper)	35% Completed	Deferred
Moreton Pinkney	Completed	Completed
Overthorpe	Completed	Completed
Radstone	Deferred	Deferred
Sulgrave	Deferred	Part completed
Syresham	Completed	Completed
Thorpe Mandeville	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Whitfield	Deferred	Deferred

Water Supply.

It is estimated that 3,127 properties (approximately 90%) are now connected to the mains supply, there being 115 connections made during this year.

Systematic sampling of the water was undertaken throughout the district, a total of 217 samples being taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. Of these, 16 or 7·4% were unsatisfactory in that coliform organisms were found. This is an improvement on the previous year when 14·1% of the samples taken were unsatisfactory, nevertheless this percentage of unsatisfactory samples is still too high for a public water supply. It is significant, however, that the majority of these unsatisfactory samples were not obtained throughout the year but during the month of August, when samples covering the whole of the district were taken following complaints of the objectionable colour, taste and smell of the water. The matter was immediately referred to the Water Board and it would appear that the abnormally dry and warm summer had favoured the prolific growth of species of water plant or algae on the surface of the reservoir and this had been responsible for the inferior quality of the water. As in the past, increasing the chlorine dose and flushing the mains had the desired result and subsequent samples taken later in the year were all satisfactory.

A sample of the water was also submitted to a chemical analysis and the Analyst's report is as follows :—

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts' Laboratories,
37, Birchfield Road,
BIRMINGHAM 19.

11th November, 1959.

Ref. RKC/ET/W.315

Water Analysis Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

Received on : 3rd November, 1959.

From : W. E. Turbitt, Brackley R.D.C.

Description :—Sample from Regional Water Supply.

Appearance	... ..	Bright, few small particles
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	... ..	0.048
Albuminoid Nitrogen	... ..	0.132
Chlorine in Chlorides	... ..	41.5
Nitrate Nitrogen	... ..	6.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	...	0.9
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	... ..	450
Nitrite Nitrogen	... ..	Absent
pH	... ..	7.48
Free Chlorine	... ..	0.15
Radioactivity	... ..	—

These results show that the water is organically of fair quality. In view of the presence of free chlorine and the satisfactory bacteriological results reported in your letter of the 3rd November, this sample would be regarded as safe for use for drinking purposes.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,

Public Analysts.

Water Samples.

Results of samples taken from the Regional Water Supply and subjected to bacteriological examination in 1959.

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston le Walls	5	3	8
Aynho	5	—	5
Upper Boddington	8	—	8
Lower Boddington	5	—	5
Chacombe	7	—	7
Chipping Warden	6	1	7
Croughton	5	—	5
Culworth	7	2	9
Evenley	22	1	23
Eydon	5	—	5
Farthinghoe	9	—	9
Greatworth	5	—	5
Helmdon	12	—	12
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	3	—	3
Kings Sutton	8	—	8
Marston St. Lawrence	3	—	3
Middleton Cheney	27	2	29
Moreton Pinkney	10	6	16
Newbottle	10	—	10
Radstone	3	—	3
Sulgrave	9	—	9
Syresham	10	—	10
Thenford	5	—	5
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	6
Warkworth	2	—	2
Whitfield	4	1	5
	201 or 92·6%	16 or 7·4%	217

Samples taken from Private Supplies
and subjected to bacteriological examination.

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston-le-Walls	2	1	3
Eydon	—	1	1
Farthinghoe	2	1	3
Greatworth	—	1	1
Marston St. Lawrence	—	1	1
Middleton Cheney	1	2	3
Radstone	—	2	2
Sulgrave	—	1	1
Thorpe Mandeville	1	1	2
	6	11	17
	or 35·3%	or 64·7%	

Caravans and Camping Sites.

This year 22 caravans were under licence by the Council. There are still in addition, 2 licensed caravan sites in this district—one for 14 caravans and the other for 4. It cannot be said that we have a caravan problem in this area but I do feel that some positive national policy is needed so far as caravan homes are concerned.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government requested a fact-finding investigation to be conducted by Sir Arton Wilson in regard to residential caravan homes and not those used for holidays or by gypsies. According to his report made to the Minister, now published as a White Paper, there are at present about 60,000 caravan homes of the residential type in England and Wales occupied by about 150,000 people and it is reported that these numbers are unlikely to diminish in the near future. Most of the caravan-dwellers are young or youngish married couples often with small children. Some 80% of them hope one day to move into a house, and they live in caravans because they are unable to get other dwellings in the right places or at the right terms or because caravans meet their need for cheapness, convenience or mobility. Prices for caravans range from £360 to £2,000, but the average price paid for a new or second-hand vehicle is £500.

The report draws attention to deficiencies in many caravans and caravan sites as places for people to live in. It also sets out some shortcomings and difficulties in the legal and practical powers of local authorities to control the starting up of sites and the conditions of sites and caravans.

The report points out that caravans are not all suitable to live in; also that many sites are ill-equipped and ill-run, and that local authorities in general disapprove of caravan-living in principle as it seems to them a backward step in the general march towards better housing and environmental welfare. But according to the Report there has been little evidence of any positive public policy likely to reduce the disadvantages of caravan-living.

Representations of the caravan-dwellers press for more residential caravan sites to be provided by local authorities. Local authorities feel that no material improvement can be hoped for unless their powers of control are strengthened.

It seems incongruous that after a century of endeavour to improve housing conditions by means of Housing, Public Health and Planning legislation, local authorities find themselves with little effective control over this makeshift abode which, when used as a permanent dwelling as most of them are, makes mockery of the word 'home.'

Schools.

Throughout the year 57 visits were made to the 22 schools in the district. There were 43 samples of school milk taken and all but 2 found satisfactory. Pasteurised milk is supplied to all schools excepting one where it is Tuberculin Tested.

A total of 23 water samples taken showed only one to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory which was from a non-mains supply. There are still 2 schools not connected to the mains water supply but at the time of writing this report there are indications that one of these may soon be connected.

Visits made to school canteens found conditions there to be satisfactory.

As previously mentioned in my 1958 report all schools should be provided with adequate hot water over wash basins. Especially during the winter, children are reluctant to use cold water, and consequently dirty hands are either insufficiently washed or not washed at all. Use of communal towels is to be deprecated and may be one of the contributory causes of bowel and parasitical infections amongst school children at certain times. Where inadequate facilities are provided it is difficult to practice the principles of hygiene, which should be brought to the notice of all schoolchildren. Crates containing dirty, empty milk bottles may sometimes be seen outside schools awaiting the Dairyman's collection. These bottles are the more difficult to clean the longer they are left unrinsed. If the schoolchildren would rinse out the bottles soon after they are emptied it would not only be a lesson for them in hygiene but of some practical help to the Dairyman. Also the child would expect dirty milk bottles at home to be similarly dealt with if this was not already practised as a daily habit.

Shops and Offices.

As can be seen from another part of this report all food shops are frequently visited and usually found to be in a satisfactory condition. This year 249 inspections were made at shops.

In regard to offices, these soon may be required to be inspected by law if a Private Member's Bill now before Parliament is successful. Apart from a block of modern offices at Chipping Warden the majority in this district are single offices attached to Builders' or Garage premises. In no case could these offices be said to be unsuitable or unhealthy for those employed therein.

Smoke Abatement.

In some small way this rural area is contributing to the requirements of the Clean Air Act, 1956 by abolition of old and inefficient fireplaces. These are being replaced by modern high efficiency grates capable of burning smokeless fuels. As I have stated in earlier Reports any air pollution in this area arises mostly from domestic chimneys. There are 13 premises in the district registered as factories but none has given trouble during the year arising from smoke emissions: No complaints were received during 1959 of nuisances from smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming places requiring supervision.

Verminous Premises.

One of the Health Inspectors informs me that not a single bed bug has been seen in this district during the 20 years he has been here. As in previous years it was unnecessary to deal with any species of vermin infestation.

Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits to Premises during 1959.

Inspections—Housing Act	130
Re-inspections	325
Inspections—Public Health Act	115
Notices served	25
Re-inspected	185
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	31
No. of complaints received	286
Food Notices served	18
Food Notices complied with	17
Factory Inspections	29
Factory Notices served	2
Factory Notices complied with	2

Visits to:—

Butchers' Shop	48
Bakehouses	7
Fishmongers	2
Dairies and Milk Shops	20
Public Houses	62
Provision Shops	113
Greengrocers	8
Ice Cream Places	51
Dining Rooms	6
Schools	57
Infectious Disease enquiries	41
Inspection of drainage work	51
Petroleum Stores	89
Miscellaneous	69
Caravans	154

Summary of Complaints Received—1959.

Complaints made in writing, by telephone or verbally during the year totalled 286 and concerned the following matters, viz. :—

Drainage, sewerage, and sanitation	45
Insanitary accumulations and disposal of refuse	10
Insanitary dwellings	6
Insect pests	72
Pollution of Water-courses	8
Nuisance from keeping animals	6
General housing defects	11
Leaking roofs	3
Dilapidated or dangerous premises or structures	4
Dampness in dwellings	2
Caravans	4
Water Supply	31
Food and Milk	2
Rats and Mice	79
Miscellaneous	3
Total	286

**Statement of Housing Repairs or Improvements
dealt with during the Year 1959.**

	Number of Houses
Completely reconditioned	13
New drainage systems and water-closets installed in place of privies or pail-closets	76
Sundry repairs and improvements carried out	33

Nuisances abated under the Public Health Act, 1936

Offensive accumulations removed	10
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	6
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	3

Public Cleansing.

This important service is supervised by the Surveyor's Department. A kerbside collection is carried out at fortnightly intervals. Refuse is disposed of by tipping at Greatworth, Charlton and Moreton Pinkney.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

The table below shows the position during 1959 so far as factories and workplaces are concerned together with the number of inspections made, also the number of notices served for any breach of the Acts.

Inspections

No. of premises on register	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
13	29	2	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found

Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
2	2	Nil.

There are still no outworkers in the district.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

Steady progress was maintained during the year with regard to 'slum clearance.' The Council's 5-year programme for dealing with the worst of these unfit dwellings ends next year (1960) and the necessary action was taken in 1959 so as to complete the programme on time.

As will be seen from Table 'A,' of 117 dwellings only 11 remain to be dealt with.

The above figures do not take into account the unfit dwellings mainly occupied by the owners or elderly tenants. The Council consider that slum clearance action regarding these properties should be deferred for the time being.

The complete slum clearance programme including these dwellings is shown in Table 'B' and it will be seen that 168 dwellings remain to be dealt with.

Of the 103 houses subject to Clearance Orders, Demolition Orders and other Housing Act Orders, 13 are occupied.

These figures give some cause for satisfaction but it must be remembered that in spite of Government Grants a large number of houses are not being maintained in a fair state of repair and these houses are likely to be the unfit houses of the future. It must also be borne in mind that the 'standard' by which a house is judged fit or unfit for habitation is a humble one. In fact there is no legal standard as such and this is to be deplored. In determining whether or not a house is fit for habitation your officers are required by the Housing Act, 1957 to inspect the house in regard to the following matters **only** :—

1. Repair
2. Stability
3. Freedom from damp
4. Natural Lighting
5. Ventilation
6. Water Supply
7. Drainage and Sanitary Convenience
8. Facilities for the storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water.

It will be seen that no mention is made of such amenities which are nowadays considered essential viz:—a fixed bath in a bathroom with a wash-basin; a piped hot water supply; good internal planning with separate bedrooms; electric or gas lighting, etc.

It is interesting to compare this "standard" with that of a house for which an Improvement Grant is to be made:—

“ To qualify for the Grant, the dwelling must after improvement or conversion:—

- (i) be in a good state of repair and substantially free from damp ;
- (ii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated ;
- (iii) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on in the dwelling ;
- (iv) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes ;
- (v) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet ;
- (vi) have a fixed bath (or shower) in a separate room ;
- (vii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water ;
- (viii) have a proper drainage system ;
- (ix) be provided in each room with adequate points for gas or electric lighting (where reasonably available) ;
- (x) be provided with adequate facilities for heating ;
- (xi) have adequate facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food ; and
- (xii) have proper facilities for storing fuel (where required). ”

A considerable number of houses in this district fall short of this standard.

Improvement Grants.

The House Purchase and Housing Act which became law in June, introduced a new Housing Grant to be known as the “ Standard Grant ” and also mollified the provisions regarding the former Improvement Grant now re-named the “ Discretionary Grant ”.

The Standard Grant is designed to enable owners to provide five standard amenities in their property as follows :—

1. A fixed bath or shower in a bathroom.
2. A wash-hand basin.
3. A hot water supply (connected to a sink).
4. A water closet in or contiguous to the dwelling.
5. Satisfactory facilities for storing food.

The dwelling after improvement must be equipped with all five amenities. If all five amenities are provided the maximum grant is £155 or one half of the cost whichever is the less. If the dwelling is already provided with some of the amenities the Grant is reduced by fixed amounts.

Twenty-six applications for this Grant were made between its inception and the end of the year.

There were nine applications for the Discretionary Grant.

TABLE "A".

Slum Clearance—Five Year Programme (1956-1960)

	1956	31st Dec. 1959
Number of dwellings subject to Clearance Orders or acquired by the Council for demolition	71	17
Number of Dwellings subject to to "individual" Demolition Orders, Closing Orders and Undertakings	24	86
Number of unfit dwellings in addition to the above on which no action has been taken and which should be dealt with by 31st December, 1960	... 117	11

TABLE "B "

"Slum Clearance" Programme.

(Number of houses unfit for habitation and not repairable at a reasonable expense.)

	At 31st Aug., 1955	At 31st Dec., 1958	At 31st Dec., 1959
Houses subject to existing Housing Act Orders :—			
Clearance Orders	... .. 71	... .. 22	... .. 17
Demolition Orders, Closing Orders and Undertaking	24	81	86
Dwellings demolished and dwellings reconditioned :—			
Houses demolished	... .. —	... .. 85	... .. 97
Huts demolished	... .. —	... .. 66	... .. 66
Houses reconditioned and made fit for habitation	—	56	72
Number of dwellings scheduled for future action under the Housing Acts :—			
Ex-Wartime hutments	... 66	—	—
Houses	... .. 336	... .. 194	... .. 168

TABLE "C".
Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses).

PARISHES	Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position						Post-war Housing Programme					
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites	Developed Sites Houses not begun	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Houses under Construction.	Houses Completed	Total No. of Houses owned by Council.
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	5	21
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30
Boddingtons	—	4	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	21	27
Chacombe	—	—	3	14	—	17	—	—	—	—	15	32
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	45
Croughton	6	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	19	27
Culworth	6	—	5	10	—	21	—	—	—	—	21	42
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Eydon	8	—	—	4	—	12	4	—	—	—	9	21
Farthinghoe	2	—	6	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	20	30
Greatworth	8	—	8	—	—	16	20	—	—	—	23	39
Helmdon	8	—	—	8	—	16	65	—	—	—	19	35
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kings Sutton	18	—	8	40	—	66	28	—	—	6	161	227
Marston St. Lawrence	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	12	18
Middleton Cheney	20	—	22	30	—	72	43	—	—	7	122	194
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	17
Newbottle	6	—	12	—	—	18	53	—	—	—	25	43
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	8	—	6	—	—	14	7	—	—	—	17	31
Syresham	10	—	4	24	—	38	—	—	—	—	33	71
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
TOTAL	112	4	76	154	4	350	220	—	—	13	635	985

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Food Premises Generally.

As in previous years a large proportion of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors is shown in the number of visits which they made at food premises in the district in order to ascertain whether the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 are being reasonably observed. Visits made at not too long intervals are important if it is desired to achieve or maintain the right kind of relationship between members of the food trade and your officers responsible for this work. Since the inception of the Regulations, and before that time, it has been possible to achieve substantial improvements at food premises and all by informal action on the part of your officers with the co-operation of the shop keepers. This year 317 inspections were made and I can say that the average standard of hygiene in our food shops is satisfactory. There are some food shops which could be classified as first class, whilst others are not of such a high standard but there are none which could be said to be sub-standard. New shops are of a first class standard and are, in fact, required to be so by the Public Health Inspectors whose advice, if necessary, is given even previous to commencement of work on the new shop so that it conforms in every respect to modern standards and requirements. Existing shops are bound to vary somewhat in standards of hygiene and equipment according to the type of person running the business and the amount of financial resources available to him or her. Those with the biggest bank balance usually have the better equipped shop but there is always the exception to this experience. What is of vital importance in all food premises, whether they be new or existing ones is for those persons engaged in the actual handling of foods to observe a strict code of practice whilst carrying out their job. Hands should always be clean especially after visiting the toilet; no blowing into bags or licking of fingers before tearing off bags or wrapping paper and no smoking whilst handling food and so on. It should not be necessary to draw the attention of food handlers to a breach of good habits whilst doing their daily job. It is the duty of them all to be cleanly in person and habits and there is no substitution to these fundamentals. The public expects this of them. Alas, I am sorry to say that really first class premises are sometimes staffed with a person or persons who are not food hygiene minded. The right type of person is just as important as the right type of shop. Members of the public could help considerably in improving

the habits of the careless food handler by drawing to his or her attention at the time any thoughtless or objectional habit perpetrated whilst handling food. Or if preferred the public could bring such a matter to the attention of the Local Public Health Department.

By and large, however, there are encouraging signs of a general improvement in food handling.

Ice Cream.

All places where ice cream is sold or stored are registered if found suitable. There are 39 registrations as against 33 in the previous year. In this district ice-cream is supplied to the traders by a comparatively few large manufacturers. This commodity is usually found to be satisfactory when sampled. There were 23 samples taken and all reported satisfactory.

The bacteriological grading of the samples taken were :—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
20	3	—	—	23

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54.

The number of Persons registered as distributors of milk is 12.

The number of premises registered as Dairy premises (other than dairy farms) is 4.

Number of inspections made during year 20.

The following licences were issued during the year under the above Regulations for the sale of designated milk :—

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)	...	...	...	...	12
ditto	ditto (Supplementary)	...	...	...	7
Pasteurised (Dealers)	...	...	...	...	11
ditto	ditto (Supplementary)	...	...	...	6
Sterilised (Dealers)	...	...	...	...	2
ditto	ditto (Supplementary)	...	...	...	1

The holders of these Dealers Licences now number 12 of whom 7 are situate outside the district but who hold supplementary licences to trade therein.

There were 20 visits made to places where milk is sold but for the purpose of sampling milk 38 visits—mainly to schools—were made in addition.

Milk Sampling.

- (a) **Methylene Blue Test.** There were 49 samples subjected to this test. There were 2 which failed to satisfy the test and in each case the milk was from a Dealer outside this area, but check samples were subsequently found satisfactory.
- (b) **Phosphatase Test.** The 46 samples of Pasteurised milk all satisfied this test.
- (c) **Turbidity Test.** The 3 samples of Sterilised milk passed this test.
- (d) **Biological Tests.** For the presence of *Brucella Abortus* 5 samples were taken but found to be negative. Another sample was examined for *Salmonella Dublin* and found negative.

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Those registered in accordance with Section 16 of the Act are :—

- 39 Premises for the storage and sale of Ice-Cream.
- 10 Butchers Shops for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

Meat Inspection

Most of the fresh meat sold in the district is transported either from Northampton or Banbury after inspection at the place of slaughter in those towns. There are no slaughter-houses operating in this district.

There are 10 Butchers Shops in this area which are fairly frequently visited by the Public Health Inspectors who lend a watchful eye on the condition of the meat sold. Actually the quality of the meat displayed at these shops is very good and the shops themselves attain a satisfactory standard and comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Food Inspection (other than meat).

For the past 3 years it has been unnecessary to condemn any article of food at the shops as being unfit for human consumption. Neither has any food been surrendered at the Health Department by the Traders as being unfit.

Food and Drugs Sampling

The Northamptonshire County Council are responsible for taking samples of food and drinks for sale in this district to ascertain whether they conform to the requirements of the

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in regard to the nature, substance and quality of the article of food or drink. Details of samples taken during the year are as follows :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Orange Squash	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
										—
Total									49	—

Remarks.

Only one sample of milk was adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst and this was a sample of Channel Islands Milk which was slightly deficient in fat. The sample was not regarded as adulterated but as a sample of milk genuinely produced but below the prescribed standard. The producer was advised to take steps to improve the fat content of the morning's milk.

A sample of pork sausage contained preservative well within the permitted limits but its presence was not declared by means of a printed notice being exhibited in the mobile butcher's shop. The firm was advised as to the requirement and it was readily complied with.

Details of the Various Food Premises in the District

Nature of Business

	No. in District or on Register	No. of Visits during year
General Provision Stores ...	50	119
Butchers' Shops	10	48
Dining and Tea Rooms	6	6
Public Houses or Inns	42	62
Bakehouses	3	7
Milk Distributors	12	20
Ice Cream Premises	39	51
Fish Fryers or Fish Shops ...	1	4

Details of Repairs and Improvements to Food Premises.

Bakehouses

Cleansed and Limewashed	6
--------------------------------	---

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Repaired	1
Structural Alterations	1
New Delivery Vehicle Provided	1
Redecorated internally	2

Cafés and Public Houses

Suitable closet accommodation provided	1
Repaired	3
Apparatus and Utensils cleansed or improved	1
Structural alterations made	3
Bar Sink with hot and cold water provided	1
Redecorated internally	4

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Although there were 24 more cases of infectious disease notified than in the previous year there were no serious outbreaks of infection or any deaths from this cause.

The total number of notifications received for the year was 144 of which 108 were for measles, this disease being particularly prevalent during the summer months of May, June, and July. In fact, these were the months when the highest number of cases of infectious diseases generally were notified, there being 5 cases of Scarlet Fever in May and 1 case of this disease in each of the succeeding three months. It will be recollected that this was a particularly dry summer and possibly the prevalence of much dust had some influence on the cases of infection which occurred at this period of the year. Of the total of 8 Scarlet Fever cases, 7 were in the same village and it appeared that the infection centred at the village school. Of these cases 6 were of school age and 2 under that age. The particular school was thoroughly cleansed with special care being paid to the thorough removal of as much dust as possible which had accumulated especially on high level ledges or beams. This cleansing operation seemed to have a beneficial effect, as afterwards the outbreak ceased. All cases were treated at home. In addition to the actual cases of Scarlet Fever diagnosed, a high proportion of the children and teaching staff at this school complained of throat affections.

No cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified which is an encouraging sign that immunisation procedure may have been in no small measure responsible for this clean bill of health so far as this infectious disease is concerned.

There was no notification of Food Poisoning during the year. There were, however, 7 cases of Sonne Dystentery notified, 6 of which occurred in the same household comprising the parents and their four children.

Vaccination and immunisation measures taken in this area against Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough and Smallpox were continued, details of which will be found in the following tables.

Smallpox—No case notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia—No case notified.

Enteric Fever—No case notified.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Following are vaccination and immunisation figures for the year ending 31st December, 1959 and the number of children who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1959.

Smallpox Vaccination

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2-4)	(5-14)	(15 or over)	Total
Primary	63	2	4	6	7	82
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	—	16	16

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total (0-14)	Third injs. 15 or over
5	99	22	22	13	69	59	289	1415 292

Diphtheria Immunisation

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	Booster
Diphtheria Immunisation only :	5	—	—	—	—	1	6	4

Combined Diphtheria Whooping Cough :	100	15	14	1	1	5	3	139	37
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Total Diphtheria Immunisations :	105	15	14	1	1	5	4	145	41
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Whooping Cough only :	5	—	1	—	—	2	—	8	—
-----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Number of Children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.59, i.e., born in year :	(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total
	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1950-1954	1945-1949	Under 15

Number Immunised :	33	100	130	128	122	557	600	1,670
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These figures were obtained by courtesy of Dr. C. M. Smith, County Medical Officer of Health.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)
IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
During the year, 1959

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Totals
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Aynho	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Boddington	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Chacombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croughton	—	—	1	34	—	—	—	—	—	35
Culworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	3	8	—	—	—	—	11
Eydon	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	7
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	5
Greatworth	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	7
Helmdon	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kings Sutton	1	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	8
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Middleton Cheney	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	6
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Newbottle/Charlton	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Radstone	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syresham	—	—	—	22	5	—	—	—	—	27
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Total	8	—	4	108	17	—	—	—	7	144

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis)

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	3	—	3	16	8	9	—	5	—	8
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	6	4	3	2	1	1	3	1	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
Measles	29	134	23	152	4	338	—	105	111	108
Whooping Cough	7	28	6	22	15	46	—	17	3	17
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	2	3	—	2	—	1	—	8	4	—
Dysentery	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	7

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases—1959.

A statement showing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	8
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Measles	1	4	17	8	39	16	19	3	—	—	1	—	108
Whooping Cough	7	3	—	2	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	17
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Totals	8	9	18	10	44	17	25	5	—	—	1	7	144

Tuberculosis.

There was an increase of 2 in cases of tuberculosis notified against the previous year's total of 8.

Age Incidence of New Cases during 1959.

Age Periods Years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	1
15 — 25	1	2	—	1
25 — 35	1	1	—	1
35 — 45	—	—	—	—
45 — 65	2	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	—	3

The 69 cases on the Register at the end of the year were classified as follows :—

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
25	25	11	8	36	33

There was 1 death from Tuberculosis during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

As predicted in my report for 1958 there has been a marked increase in the number of rodent control treatments undertaken by your Rodent Operative at farms and small-holdings. This is due to the cessation of the Rat and Mouse Contract Service which was administered by the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

In 1958 before this service was discontinued the Rodent Operative carried out 48 treatments at farms, this year 107 treatments were undertaken at agricultural premises and more than double the amount of bait and poisons were used.

The Rodent Operative inspects all agricultural holdings and other business premises regularly and offers his services on a 'time and material' basis if any infestation is found. The charges are 8s. 8d. per hour plus 1s. per lb. for bait and 5% for administration. The charge for a private dwelling is fixed at 5s. per completed treatment. The total amount received this year was £204 12s. 4d.

The Council's 27 Sewage outfalls and 3 refuse tips are kept under constant observation and were inspected on 166 occasions.

Test-bating of the sewers in 1958 revealed no serious infestations and the treatment of these has been postponed until the spring of 1960.

The fine summer of 1959 as well as favouring an increase in the rat population also brought about a plague of wasps, and nests were built in abundance. Those which were located in places which were possibly a nuisance or dangerous to children were dealt with by the Rodent Operative free of charge. In all 66 nests were destroyed.

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	79
No. of premises inspected and treated (private and business)	...	...	...	...	...	212
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	638
No. of premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	212
No. of survey visits made	...	...	...	...	...	566
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	...	1378

Quantity of Material Used.

Oatmeal	...	...	...	...	...	2240 lbs.
Cymag	...	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Warfarin	...	...	...	...	...	140 lbs.

Local Authority Undertakings.

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	21
No. of visits and surveys made	...	...	...	...	76
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	130
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	...	...	...	...	28
No. of visits and surveys made	...	...	...	...	90

Total Number of Bodies Found.

(1) Rats	1508
(2) Mice	562



The Bicester Advertiser Ltd.,
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