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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

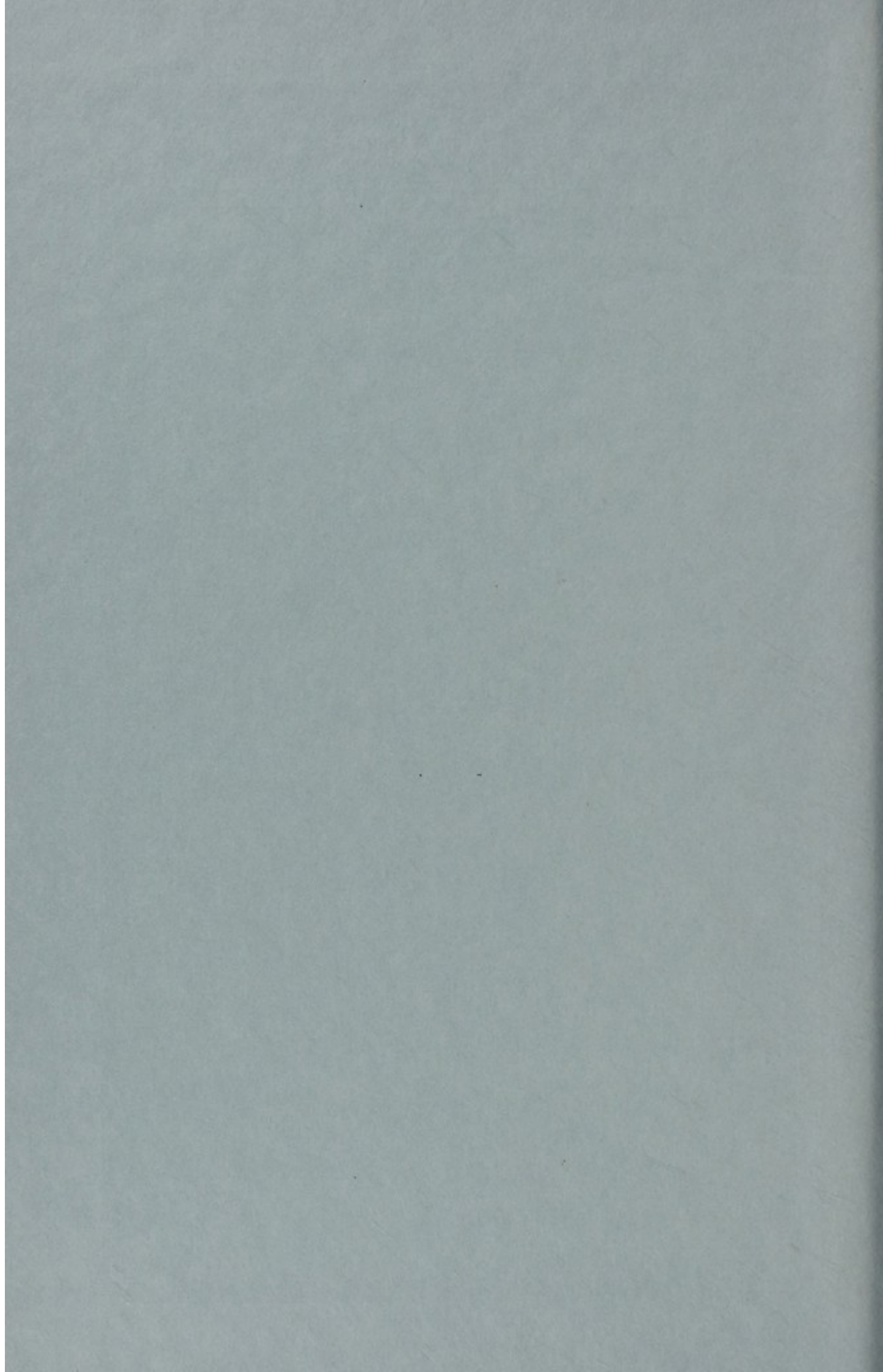
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1962



ARTHUR LUCAS



RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT


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ERRATA

Page 10. Water Samples.

Para 1. Delete “pages 14 and 15” and substitute pages “12 and 13.”

Para 2. Delete “page 17” and substitute “page 15.”

ERRATA

Page 12. (Printer's error.)

Page 13. Lines 14 and 15, read

"The same error is in 14 and 15."

Page 14. Lines 16 and 17, read

"The same error is in 16 and 17."

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 1962.

As before, the statistics agree with the rest of the County and there were no epidemics of infectious disease.

I am glad to record that a refuse collection of about every ten days will be introduced shortly and also to be collected from the rear of the premises. Soon all the area will be sewered so that the amenities will compare favourably with any up-to-date town. There are no large caravan sites in this area and those that are here are regularly inspected. Food premises are also regularly inspected by Mr. Turbitt and Mr. Caley, in fact in one case a manufacturer thought his premises were being inspected too often and complained to a Councillor !

Again I must thank the Public Health Committee for their great interest in our work and also Mr. Turbitt and Mr. Caley my Public Health Inspectors for their work in the past year. Mr. Bartlett has again been active in attacking the rat population with vigour.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.G., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.
June, 1963.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

F. T. Kiildsen, Esq., J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

L. C. Bartlett, Esq.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. L. S. Prosser (Chairman), Mr. L. Warren (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. I. S. Forrest, Lt. Col. V. G. Toler-Aylward, Messrs. E. A. Edmunds, P. W. Henn, F. Mason, F. Moore and E. J. Smart.

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 34833.

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 :

E. G. Mullis (resigned 31st July, 1962).

Miss C. R. Reynolds (commenced 1st August, 1962).

Rodent Operative :

W. G. Bartlett.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1962

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,300
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,506
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£97,161
Product of a penny rate at 1st April, 1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£391

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1000 population)	England & Wales	Northamp tonshire
Legitimate	207	97	110			
Illegitimate	10	7	3			
				19.2	18.0	18.57
Total	217	104	113			

Stillbirths

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1,000 births)	England & Wales	Northamp tonshire
Legitimate	2	2	—			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				9.13	18.1	14.79
Total	2	2	—			

Deaths	118	60	58	(per 1,000 population)	10.4	11.9	11.07
--------	-----	----	----	------------------------	------	------	-------

Deaths from puerperal causes

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

Infant Mortality

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1,000 live births)	England & Wales	Northamp tonshire
Legitimate	4	2	2			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				18.4	21.4	19.54
Total	4	2	2			

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
“ “ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
“ “ Measles	Nil
“ “ Whooping Cough	Nil
“ “ Infectious Diseases	1
“ “ Tuberculosis	Nil

The registered causes of death were :

Causes of Death					Males	Females	Totals
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infectious and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	—	2	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	...	...	...	5	—	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	10	3	13
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system...	...	...	...	6	7	13
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	...	...	...	11	11	22
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	3	4
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	9	6	15
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	4	2	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	4	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	3	3
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	3	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	7	5	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	1	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicidal and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals					60	58	118

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. This most useful and efficient service is under the control of Dr. W. H. H. Jebb to whom I am indebted.

(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	} Cottage Hospital	} Organised by County Council
Vision Clinic			} Brackley
Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney and at King's Sutton.		

(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

Generally.

The sanitary circumstances of this district are improving yearly and the Council should feel gratified with the amenities which are now available in this area; quite a number of villages are in a state of development and especially is this evident in those parishes within convenient reach of Banbury. This rural district can now be classed as a progressive one due to the enthusiasm of the Council in its efforts to make this a desirable district in which to live and work. In addition to the provision of good public services all schools in the area have been much improved in recent years and are enjoying waterborne sanitation and a safe public water supply.

Drainage and Sanitation.

Yearly the provision of waterborne sanitation increases and the Health Department will not be satisfied until every premises where practicable is connected with the main drainage. It is hoped that this year the Health Inspectors will be able to carry out a survey to ascertain those premises which are still not connected to main drainage so that appropriate action can be taken with the property owners concerned. There were 33 connections made to the public sewers during 1962.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The present position in respect to each of the 26 parishes is shown in the following details and a reference to the summary shows that much has already been done whilst an appreciable number of schemes are either being prepared or work is actually in hand at the present time.

The provision of new sewers and disposal works for Upper and Lower Boddington commenced this year and the estimated date for the completion of the job is, I understand, in June 1963. Schemes are being prepared for Aston-le-Walls, Evenley, Eydon, Thorpe Mandeville and Whitfield.

Place	New Sewers	New Sewage Disposal Works
Aston le Walls	Contract let	Contract let
Aynho	Completed	Deferred
Boddington	Work in progress	Work in progress
Chacombe	Completed	Completed
Charlton	Deferred	Deferred
Chipping Warden	Completed	Completed
Croughton	Completed	Completed
Crowfield	Completed	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		
(Lower)	Completed	Completed
Middleton Cheney		
(Upper)	35% Completed	Deferred
Moreton Pinkney	Completed	Completed
Overthorpe	Completed	Completed
Radstone	Deferred	Deferred
Sulgrave	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared
Syresham	Completed	Completed
Thorpe Mandeville	Scheme prepared	Scheme prepared
Whitfield	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared

Summary

	Number of Villages	
	Sewers	Sewage Disposal Works
Schemes being prepared or work in hand	8	7
Completed	14	12
Deferred	4	7
	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 26

The Council is to be complimented on the progress already made and which is now taking place in the provision of water-born sanitation throughout the district.

Water Supply.

Most premises are now connected to the mains supply.

The number of dwellinghouses and the number of population supplied from the public mains direct to the houses is shown in the Table on page 16. In addition a number of houses are supplied by means of standpipes but details are not available, the proportion being relatively small.

Except in two cases where the presence of coliform organisms were discovered the water was bacteriologically satisfactory.

Chemical analysis of the water was favourably reported upon.

The water is not plumbosolvent so that no special precautions are necessary as to contamination by lead.

The bacterial contamination found was of a local and transient nature and check samples promptly taken at the trouble points proved to be clear. The reason for the presence of coliform organisms is difficult to explain and on this occasion the Chemist of the Bucks Water Board was asked for an explanation and from investigation which he made it was thought that a defective inspection chamber cover to the reservoir at Aston-le-Walls had possibly allowed faeces from wild animals—maybe a fox—which had been deposited on the surface of the inspection cover to enter the reservoir by way of the defective cover. A suitable new cover was fitted, the reservoir taken temporarily out of service, cleaned, chlorinated and retested before again being used since when no further trouble has been experienced in this locality.

Water Samples.

Copies of the Analyst's reports on the chemical analysis of samples of mains water taken on the 21st February and the 10 July 1962 appear on pages 14 and 15.

Details of 128 samples taken in 1962 from individual parishes throughout the district and results of bacteriological examinations thereof are shown in the table on page 17.

By courtesy of the Bucks Water Board figures supplied to me by them show that 304 samples of **raw** water were examined by them during the year. All samples of this raw water contained organisms of typical Bact. Coli type 1 group, in number ranging from 5 to 35,000 per 100 mls.

Water Samples from Private Supplies.

The sources were either shallow wells or springs and samples were taken mainly at the request of the owners of those private supplies. Of 10 samples taken 6 were reported upon as being unsatisfactory for drinking purposes and the owners concerned advised accordingly and urged to connect to the mains supply where possible.

Caravans and Camping Sites.

The Department has not encountered any serious public health problems this year with regard to caravans.

The largest site in the District, which was licenced for 14 caravans, was closed by the owner early in the year and the caravans then on the site found other sites outside the District.

With the advent of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, the number of applications for site licences has declined and the number of site licences in operation is still 14, the actual number of caravans involved being 20. This number remains fairly constant and it leads one to think that the building of new houses is probably catching up with the demand and therefore the need for caravans as permanent houses is diminishing.

Schools.

Whilst preparing this report much has been heard concerning "slum schools" scattered throughout the country which are said to exist in both towns and villages. Good modern schools are just as important as good houses and factories and neither the children nor the teachers can be expected to give of their best in schools which are substandard in construction and amenities.

In this district there are 19 schools, the one at Evenley having been closed during the year. During the past few years an appreciable improvement has been made in a good number of schools; just a few are in need of more improvement and in the majority of cases I would class them as being satisfactory.

Throughout the year 97 visits have been made at schools, primarily in regard to the sampling of milk and water supplies. Samples taken i.e., 15 water and 22 milk were all found to be satisfactory.

A

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

21st February, 1962.

Ref. RKC/ET/W.82

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

Received on : 14th February, 1962.

From : W. E. Turbitt.

Description :—Water taken from Skaigh House, Evenley.
Brackley. 11 a.m. 14/2/62.

Appearance.—Bright, few large particles.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.05
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.21
Chlorine in Chlorides	36.5
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.2
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours ...	1.5
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	460
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
pH	7.38
Free Chlorine	0.22
Radioactivity	—
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	620 microhms

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality, and very similar in characteristics to the last sample examined in July, 1961.

The sample contained free chlorine, and subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, the water in its present condition, would be safe for use for drinking purposes.

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

B

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

10th July, 1962.

Ref. CNG/ET/W.302.

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

Received on : 9th July, 1962.

From : W. E. Turbitt.

Description :—Mains water from Village Stores, Evenley.
9/7/62. River Great Ouse. Supply.

Appearance	Bright, few small particles
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.05
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.24
Chlorine in Chlorides	37.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.2
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours ...	1.1
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	155
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.002
pH	7.28
Free Chlorine	0.15
Radioactivity	—

The above results show this water to be of satisfactory quality, and subject to a satisfactory bacteriological examination, suitable for use for drinking purposes.

(Signed) Bostock, Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

C

The number of Dwellinghouses and the number of population supplied from the Public Water Mains

PARISH (with population)		Number of Properties	Population Served
Aston le Walls	180	47	163
Aynho	465	153	439
Boddingtons	340	125	315
Chacombe	310	94	280
Chipping Warden	423	128	384
Croughton	505	136	469
Culworth	398	128	339
Edgcote	76	Nil	Nil
Evenley	377	122	366
Eydon	335	114	310
Farthinghoe	351	95	297
Greatworth	532	123	443
Helmdon	481	190	466
Hinton-in-the Hedges	94	29	87
Kings Sutton	1552	484	1495
Marston St. Lawrence	184	61	182
Middleton Cheney	1786	541	1704
Moreton Pinkney	256	97	226
Newbottle	376	112	326
Radstone	73	19	53
Sulgrave	335	123	330
Syresham	652	150	546
Thenford	83	18	62
Thorpe Mandeville	136	34	102
Warkworth	40	3	10
Whitfield	156	43	140

Water Samples :

Details of samples of mains water taken in 1962 and results of bacteriological examinations thereof are :—

PARISH or VILLAGE	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston le Walls	5	—	5
Aynho	4	—	4
Upper Boddington	9	1	10
Lower Boddington	4	1	5
Chacombe	3	—	3
Chipping Warden	3	—	3
Croughton	3	—	3
Crowfield	3	—	3
Culworth	4	—	4
Evenley	9	—	9
Eydon	4	—	4
Farthinghoe	4	—	4
Greatworth	3	—	3
Halse	3	—	3
Helmdon	4	—	4
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	4	—	4
Kings Sutton	7	—	7
Marston St. Lawrence	3	—	3
Middleton Cheney	9	—	9
Moreton Pinkney	4	—	4
Newbottle	4	—	4
Overthorpe	3	—	3
Radstone	4	—	4
Sulgrave	4	—	4
Syresham	4	—	4
Thenford	3	—	3
Thorpe Mandeville	3	—	3
Warkworth	5	—	5
Whitfield	4	—	4
	126 or 98·43 %	2 or 1·56 %	128

Private Supplies.

10 samples were taken from shallow wells and springs, mainly at the request of the owners of these private supplies. 6 of these samples were unsatisfactory and the owners were advised to connect to the main supply wherever possible.

Shops and Offices.

As I reported last year practically all of our shops are selling food and are therefore frequently visited by the Health Inspectors and I have already referred to the good standard of these shops in the Food Section of my report.

The extremely few offices in the area appear to be satisfactory so far as the welfare of the workers is concerned.

Smoke Abatement.

Once again no action in this respect has been necessary. There are no large industrial plants capable of emitting excessive smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No public places are being used.

Verminous Premises.

No action necessary.

Public Cleansing.

This service is supervised by the Engineer and Surveyor. The refuse tip at Charlton was sealed over during the year and is no longer in use. A new tip has been opened and is in use at Hinton-in-the-Hedges whilst tipping still goes on at Greatworth and Moreton Pinkney.

There is still a fortnightly collection of house refuse operating but the Council's aim should be to achieve a weekly collection from all houses. As a compromise a rotational collection, if practicable, might well reduce the collection period. Standardisation in the size and type of sanitary dustbins assists in the speed-up of refuse collections, some Councils sell a standard sanitary dustbin to the owners or occupiers of houses in their district the cost of the bins being less than those which can be bought in the shops. This is an inducement to use suitable bins.

Factories Act, 1961.

The number of factories on the Register remains fairly constant and is at present 14 there being no additions or deletions during the year notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories. The number of inspections made by the Public Health Inspector was 31.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961,
for the year 1962.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purpose of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector) :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	26	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	31	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Nuner of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineflective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no Outworkers employed in the district.

Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits to Premises during 1962.

Inspections—Housing Act	105
Re-inspection	69
Inspections—Public Health Act	222
Notices served	5
Re-inspected	35
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	14
No. of complaints received	132
Food Notices served	9
Food Notices complied with	20
Factory Inspections	31
Factory Notices served	1
Factory Notices complied with	1
Building Inspections	1086
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	52
Noise Abatement	1

Visits to:—

Butchers' Shops	110
Bakehouses	31
Fishmongers	6
Dairies and Milkshops	9
Public Houses	99
Provision Shops	292
Greengrocers	22
Ice Cream Places	114
Cafes and Caterers	29
Schools and School Canteens	97
Infectious Disease enquiries	5
Petroleum Stores	28
Miscellaneous	5
Caravans	38
Agricultural Premises	269

Summary of Complaints Received—1962.

Complaints made in writing, by telephone or verbally during the year totalled 132 and concerned the following matters, viz. :—

Drainage, sewerage, and sanitation	37
Insanitary accumulations and disposal of refuse	10
Insanitary dwellings	3
Insect pests	8
Pollution of Water-courses	2
Nuisance from keeping animals	6
General housing defects	12
Caravans	2
Water Supply	5
Noise Nuisance	4
Rats and Mice	37
Miscellaneous	3
Food and Milk	3
Total	132

**Statement of Housing Repairs or Improvements
dealt with during the Year 1962.**

	Number of Houses
Completely reconditioned as a result of statutory action	
by the Council	5
New drainage systems and water-closets installed ...	33
Sundry repairs and improvements carried out after service of notice	14

Nuisances abated under the Public Health Act, 1936

Offensive accumulations removed	10
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	6
Insect pests	8
Drainage and Sewerage Defects	37
Polluted Watercourses	2

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

The Council have now dealt with the worst of the unfit houses. The unfit dwellings which remain are mainly occupied by owner/occupiers and elderly tenants or by persons with long tenancies. These properties are being dealt with when they become vacant.

The Council have wisely acquired 8 dwellings, 5 at Aynho and 3 at Evenley. These dwellings have architectural merit and are in conspicuous positions in the respective villages. In both cases owing to the dilapidated condition of the cottages, thorough reconditioning work is necessary but considered worthwhile. It is to be regretted that such "life-saving" work on the part of Local Authorities does not attract some subsidy in addition to the usual Improvement Grants.

It is now eight years since the first post-war housing "slum clearance" survey was made and some houses which at that time were "borderline" have now deteriorated so as to be classed as "unfit dwellings." Thus the process of "slum clearance" is a continual one but the Improvement Grant Scheme has done much to retard deterioration of many houses.

Improvement Grants.

There was an increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants and approval given for 23 Discretionary Grants and 26 Standard Grants. The total amount paid out by the Council on Grants since the inception of the scheme amounted to £92,132 at the end of the year.

New Dwellings (Council Houses).

The Council completed 18 dwellings during the year : 12 at Helmdon, 4 at Chacombe and 2 at Charlton.

Work was commenced on the 21 Old People's Dwellings Units at Middleton Cheney and 6 dwellings at Sulgrave.

New Houses (Private Enterprise).

There were 75 dwellings built during the year and at 31st December, 1962 the Council had approved plans for a further 216 and of those 82 were under construction.

Most of these dwellings are being built by two separate contractors at two sites in Middleton Cheney. At the time of writing this report the total number of houses on these two sites which have received Planning Approval is 167.

Building Inspections.

At the Council's request this is an additional duty now carried out by the Public Health Department and which has avoided the expense of appointing a Building Inspector. Such work is usually not carried out by Public Health Inspectors but as their training includes both environmental hygiene and building construction I have no doubt that the duties are in very capable hands and that the supervision of the erection of buildings for which they are responsible will be discharged in a satisfactory and efficient manner. In addition to their normal public health visits no less than 1,086 building inspections were made which I think was a commendable effort.

TABLE "A"

"Slum Clearance" Programme.

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

	At 31st Aug., 1955	At 31st Dec., 1962
Houses subject to existing Housing Act Orders :—		
Clearance Orders	71	4
Demolition Orders Closing Orders and Undertakings ...	24	81
Dwellings demolished and dwell- ings reconditioned :—		
Houses demolished	—	149
Huts demolished	—	66
Houses reconditioned and made fit for habitation	—	105
Number of dwellings scheduled for future action under the Housing Acts :—		
Ex-Wartime hutments	66	—
Houses	336	106

TABLE "B"

"Slum Clearance"—Action taken in 1962.

	Number of Dwellings
Demolished	6
Closed (Closing Orders and Undertakings) ...	8
Reconditioned and made fit for habitation ...	5
Demolition Orders made	1
Families rehoused from 'slum' property	10

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.	Private houses acquired and reconditioned	Houses Completed	Total No. of Houses owned by Council.
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	5	21
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	30	32
Boddingtons	—	4	—	—	2	6	2	—	—	—	21	27
Chacombe	—	—	3	14	—	17	—	—	—	—	21	38
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	18	—	—	—	29	45
Helmdon	8	—	—	8	—	16	54	—	—	—	33	49
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kings Sutton	18	—	8	40	—	66	—	—	—	—	181	247
Marston St. Lawrence	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	11	17
Middleton Cheney	20	—	22	30	—	72	60	—	21	—	146	218
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	17
Newbottle	6	—	12	—	—	18	60	—	—	—	27	45
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	8	—	6	—	—	14	—	—	6	—	17	31
Syresham	10	—	4	24	—	38	4	—	—	—	33	71
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
TOTAL	112	4	76	154	4	350	202	—	27	2	706	1058

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Food Premises Generally.

Continued attention is given to all premises where food is handled and over the years I have observed in most cases a progressive improvement in the type of food premises in this district and the up-to-date equipment which they contain in the way of refrigerated display cabinets, easy-clean flooring and walls, etc.

I reported last year that the "Crew Arms" at Hinton-in-the-Hedges had closed. It appears now that this ancient inn is likely to re-open some time during 1963. Major improvements to an hotel in Aynho to which I referred in last year's report are now completed and in every way these premises are of a very high standard. A public house at Farthinghoe and another at Kings Sutton have also been greatly improved.

There are, however, a few premises which fall below the general standard prevailing in the district. A shop which gave most concern has fortunately closed down during this year. Although closure was voluntary on the part of the shop keeper it may well be that the persistent vigilance of the Inspectors together with their unrelenting efforts to bring about the desired improvements eventually influenced the closing down of the business. In this case the shop-keeper was totally unsuitable to be in charge of handling food for public sale and allowed the premises to deteriorate to such a degree that custom fell considerably whilst only a particular type of customer in the end was noticed to make purchases of food at this shop. Certain individuals prefer to deal at sub-standard food shops in the same way as they seem to wish to live in sub-standard houses which are often found to be in a poor domestic condition.

It should be possible to close down an unsuitable food place until a satisfactory standard is reached but the law does not at present permit this. To have redress in the Courts for infringement of the Food Hygiene Regulations all too frequently does not adequately meet the case. Often fines are nominal. Cases are sometimes dismissed. Whatever the outcome of Court proceedings the official who brought the case forward is unpopular with the food vendor who imagines he has been persecuted and future relationship

between he and the official is usually worsened. On the other hand should the trade of a licensed victualler be not carried on in a satisfactory manner the licence of the premises can be placed in jeopardy by the local magistrates so why is it not possible to do likewise in regard to certain unsatisfactory food premises ?

Since my previous report, three food shops have closed down and a new shop has opened. In two of these cases the closure appeared to be due to the falling off of trade although both shops were of a good standard. Perhaps the Supermarkets and Multiple stores in neighbouring towns are giving some concern to the small village food trader.

Personal habits of the food handlers in far too many instances still leaves much to be desired. Some, despite warnings, still smoke whilst handling food; a number display dirty overalls or smocks; the licking of fingers and thumbs continues when tearing off bags and wrapping up food; and others fail to observe elementary hygiene rules such as keeping hands clean. The defaulters should know that such habits are wrong and can lead to the contamination of food which in turn can do harm to the consumer. Just how this problem of dealing with the human element can be overcome is one I am sure which all those interested in good food hygiene would wish to know. Possibly to include the elements of both food and personal hygiene in the school syllabus would be one important step which could be made. The schoolchild often takes more notice of what teacher says than its mother or father. Making frequent visits to food places and having brief talks with food handlers at the time surely must help somewhat in the campaign for cleaner and safer food. It also might help if members of the public take more interest in hygiene and refuse to buy any food which they think unfit or has been mis-handled. Bad habits on the part of the food handlers when observed by members of the public should be brought to the attention of the delinquent by the person offended who might also consider reporting the circumstances to the shop manager or supervisor or even to lodge a complaint with the local Public Health Department who would be pleased to deal with the matter.

Food Sampling (Bacteriological).

From the following table will be seen the result of 13 special food samples taken.

Type of Sample	Culture
Pork Sausages	Heavy growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli and micrococci; scanty growth of Bact. coli and a paracolon organism.
Beef Sausages	Moderate growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli and micrococci scanty growth of Bact. coli and a paracolon organism.
Cornish Pastie	Moderate growth of micrococci and aerobic spore-bearing bacilli; scanty growth of Bact. coli and a paracolon organism.
Pork and Beef mix for Sausage Rolls	Scanty growth of Bact. coli , Proteus mirabilis and micrococci.
1 Pork Pie	Scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli only.
$\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. Brawn	Heavy growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli and micrococci, scanty growth Proteus mirabilis and a paracolon organism.
1 Sausage Roll	Scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli and micrococci.
1 Pork Pie	Heavy growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli only.
Minced Beef	Moderate growth of Bact. coli ; scanty growth of micrococci aerobic spore-bearing bacilli.
Pork Sausage	Moderate growth of Bact. coli and micrococci; heavy growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli.
Steak and Kidney Pie	Scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli only.
1 Steak and Kidney Pie	Heavy growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli only.
Beef Sausage	Moderate growth of Strep. faecalis Bact. coli and Proteus mirabilis .

Although no salmonella food poisoning organisms were revealed in these food samples most of the food showed evidence of either moderate or heavy growths of various other organisms whilst scanty growths of bacterium coli were present in some of the samples. It is fortunate for us that germs are usually destroyed in cooking otherwise food poisoning would be much more widespread than it is to-day.

Ice Cream.

Increased attention was given to places selling ice cream. There are now 40 premises as against 43 in the previous year. The number of samples taken and subjected to the Methylene Blue test was 63. Results were 49 Grade 1, 6 Grade 2, and 8 Grade 3. Those graded 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory. The samples placed in grade 3 were taken late in the year after the 'ice cream season' had diminished. It was ascertained that the ice-cream had been in stock in one case for up to 4 weeks so perhaps storage had some effect upon the sample result. After the end of the summer months wholesalers of this commodity deliver much less frequently than during high season. One wonders whether more samples of ice-cream ought to be taken during the winter months than throughout summer months and, if so, what the result of the winter samples would be.

Milk Supply.

Like last year there are 9 licensed local milk distributors who buy the milk already bottled from sources situated outside the district. The washing and sterilizing of milk bottles is no longer the responsibility of the distributor but of the wholesaler from whom the milk is bought. There are in addition to the local distributors others who trade in this area and whose premises are outside the local boundary and who are no longer required to hold supplementary licences issued by this Council.

There were 39 samples taken, i.e., 5 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised); 25 Pasteurised; 7 Tuberculin Tested and 2 Sterilized. All satisfied the respective tests made. Concerning milk distribution 52 visits were made.

Arising from a complaint that milk distributed in the parish of Culworth possessed a peculiar flavour and had possibly been responsible for sickness in a baby, 7 special samples of the suspected milk were taken and submitted for

chemical and bacteriological examination. Both examinations proved negative, no pathogenic organisms or chemicals producing the taste were found. The taste was transient and it is thought that it was due either to particular food being given to the cows producing the milk or to heat resisting though harmless bacteria which are able to withstand the pasteurisation process. There was no recurrence of the trouble.

Food and Drugs Act—1955—Section 16.

Premises required to be registered are now 40 ice cream places being 3 less than last year and 10 butchers' premises (which is the same number as the previous year), where the preparation and manufacture of sausages, pressed, pickled and preserved foods is dealt with.

Meat Inspection.

No slaughtering of animals for human consumption takes place in this district, all slaughterhouses have been closed now for a number of years. Meat sold in this area is mostly obtained from either Banbury or Northampton where inspection of the carcasses and viscera takes place. Your Health Inspectors keep a careful eye on meat exposed for sale in shops and report that the quality of the meat supply is good. The way in which it is transported into this area has on occasions been found unsatisfactory and attention has been drawn to the delinquents who have promptly corrected matters. To the 10 butchers' shops a total of 110 inspections were made.

Food Inspections (Other than meat).

Excluding the 110 visits made to butchers shops 723 inspections were made and except for 55lbs. of bacon condemned for fly-blown contamination, food for sale in our shops appeared to be of good quality, properly stored and well displayed by the shop keepers.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Samples of food, details of which are given below have been taken in this district by the Northamptonshire County Council in order to ascertain whether the food conforms to required standards and is free from adulteration.

Samples taken in Brackley Rural District during the Year, 1962

Milk	28
Sausages	5
Butter, Margarine, etc.	4
Jam	1
Ground Almonds	1
Cake	1
Potatoes	2
Ice Cream	2
Medicines	1
Spirits	2
Soft Drinks	1
Fish Cakes	2
Cheese	2
Meat Products	8
<hr/>	
TOTAL.....	60
<hr/>	

Remarks.

One sample of sausages was reported to contain sulphur dioxide preservative which was not declared at the time of purchase. The maker was warned that failure to show by means of a notice or a label that sausage contained preservative could result in a prosecution.

All the other samples were completely satisfactory.

This is a duty which could be well carried out by your Public Health Inspectors who are the men on the spot and who in any case during a year make hundreds of visits to our food shops as a routine. This would avoid over-lapping between County and local Officials sometimes to the bewilderment of the food vendor.

Visit of World Organisation Delegate.

In January of this year, at the request of the Ministry of Health, the Council arranged to have a delegate from the World Health Organisation in the Public Health Department of this Council for one week. The delegate, Mr. Shizuo Yoshimoto, who is Chief of the Food Unit of the Food Sanitation Section of the Ministry of Health & Welfare in Tokio, Japan, was on a study tour of the United Kingdom and visiting several authorities chosen by the Ministry of Health, London. During his stay with this Department he accompanied the Public Health Inspectors on their inspections of food premises. He showed a keen interest in their work, took copious notes and made great use of a cine camera. It speaks well of the work done in our District that this Council was singled out for a visit by this delegate.

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 ...	51	292
Butchers' Shops	10	110
Dining and Tea Rooms	7	29
Public Houses or Inns	35	99
Bakehouses	4	31
Milk Distributors	9	52
Ice Cream Premises	40	114
Fish Fryers or Fish Shops ...	1	6

Details of Repairs and Improvements to Food Premises.

Bakehouses

Cleansed and Limewashed	8
--------------------------------	---

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Repaired	3
Structural Alterations	2
Redecorated Internally	3

Cafés and Public Houses

Suitable closet accommodation provided	8
Repaired	6
Apparatus and Utensils cleaned or improved	9
Structual alterations made	8
Bar Sink with hot and cold water provided	4
Redecorated internally	6

SECTION F.

THE PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The past year so far as infectious diseases are concerned may be said to be a fairly satisfactory one as only 25 cases were notified as against 244 for 1961. I am of the opinion that all infectious cases occurring in the district are unfortunately not notified to me as is by law required to be done by medical practitioners despite the incentive of 2s. 6d. which is paid by the local authority for each notification received.

In the County of Northamptonshire cases of infective hepatitis have for the time being been added to the list of infectious diseases notifiable. This is thought to be a virus infection which is ingested and affecting the liver and often producing jaundice. During the year 5 cases of infective hepatitis were notified and all affecting children.

Food Poisoning—The 5 cases notified were all in the same household but upon bacteriological examination of the patients' faeces, and suspected food eaten by them, the cases were not confirmed.

Enteric Fever—No cases notified.

Smallpox—No cases notified.

Puerperal Fever—No cases notified.

Poliomyelitis—No cases notified.

Pneumonia—There were 4 cases notified and in each case the patient was a child.

Scarlet Fever—Of the 7 notifications received 2 concerned adult females and the others children.

Erysipelas—This case was an adult female.

Measles—There were only 3 cases as against 234 for the previous year.

Details of the parishes where cases of infectious diseases occurred and the period of the year distribution, appear on pages 32 and 34 respectively. A table showing the number of cases over the past 10 years appears on page 33 of this report.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)
IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
During the year, 1962.

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning (suspected)	Erysipelas	Infective Hepatitis	Totals
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boddington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chacombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croughton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Culworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Eydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5
Farthinghoe	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Greatworth	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Helmdon	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Kings Sutton	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Middleton Cheney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newbottle/Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syresham	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Thenford	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	7	—	4	3	—	—	5	1	5	25

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis)

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Scarlet Fever	16	8	9	—	5	—	8	3	4	7
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	2	1	1	3	1	4	1	3	4
Erysipelas	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	152	4	338	—	105	111	108	36	234	3
Whooping Cough	22	15	46	—	17	3	17	5	3	—
Suspected Food Poisoning	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Poliomyelitis	2	—	1	—	8	4	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	6	—	7	1	—	—
Infective Hepatitis (not notifiable prior to 1962)										5

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases—1962

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	2	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suspected Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	5
Total	2	—	7	3	—	—	4	—	6	1	—	2	25

Tuberculosis.

Age Incidence of New Cases during 1962

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

Total cases on the Register at the end of the year is 70 an increase of 1 male and 2 females and are classified as follows :—

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
24	26	12	8	36	34

Vaccination and Immunisation.

My thanks are due to Dr. J. J. A. Reid the County Medical Officer for kindly furnishing me with the following figures of vaccination and immunisation for the year ended 31st December, 1962, and the number of children who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1962.

Smallpox Vaccination

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2-4)	(5-14)	(15 or over)	Total
Primary	88	3	63	180	288	622
Re-vaccination	—	—	10	135	432	577

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	15 or over	Third Injs.	Fourth Injs.
11	68	8	2	3	6	2	100	35	519	139

Diphtheria Immunisation

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	Booster
Diphtheria Immunisation only :									
1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	20
Combined Diphtheria Whooping Cough :									
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Triple 53	16	9	6	5	8	1		98	60
Total Diphtheria Immunisations :									
54	16	9	6	6	9	1		101	85
Whooping Cough only :									
	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—

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

Age at 31.12.62 i.e., born in year :

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total
1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1953- 1957	1948- 1952	Under 15
16	81	111	113	130	619	621	1,691

**Retirement of the County Medical Officer of Health
Dr. C. M. Smith, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.P.H.**

During the year Dr. Smith retired as County Medical Officer of Health for Northamptonshire and is succeeded by Dr. J. J. A. Reid, T.D., M.D., M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

RODENT CONTROL

As in previous years your Rodent Operative, Mr. Bartlett has carried out his duties of rodent control with satisfaction to all concerned.

Whilst he has nothing unusual to state in regard to the rambles and habits of rodents during 1962 it will be seen from the following details that it was another year well spent in the relentless effort to keep this pest under control.

Details of the work of the Rodent Operative carried out during 1962 are as follows :—

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	37
No. of premises inspected and treated (private and business)	...	...	...	...	...	119
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	342
No. of premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	119
No. of survey visits made	...	...	...	...	...	950
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	...	912
No. of baiting points	3351

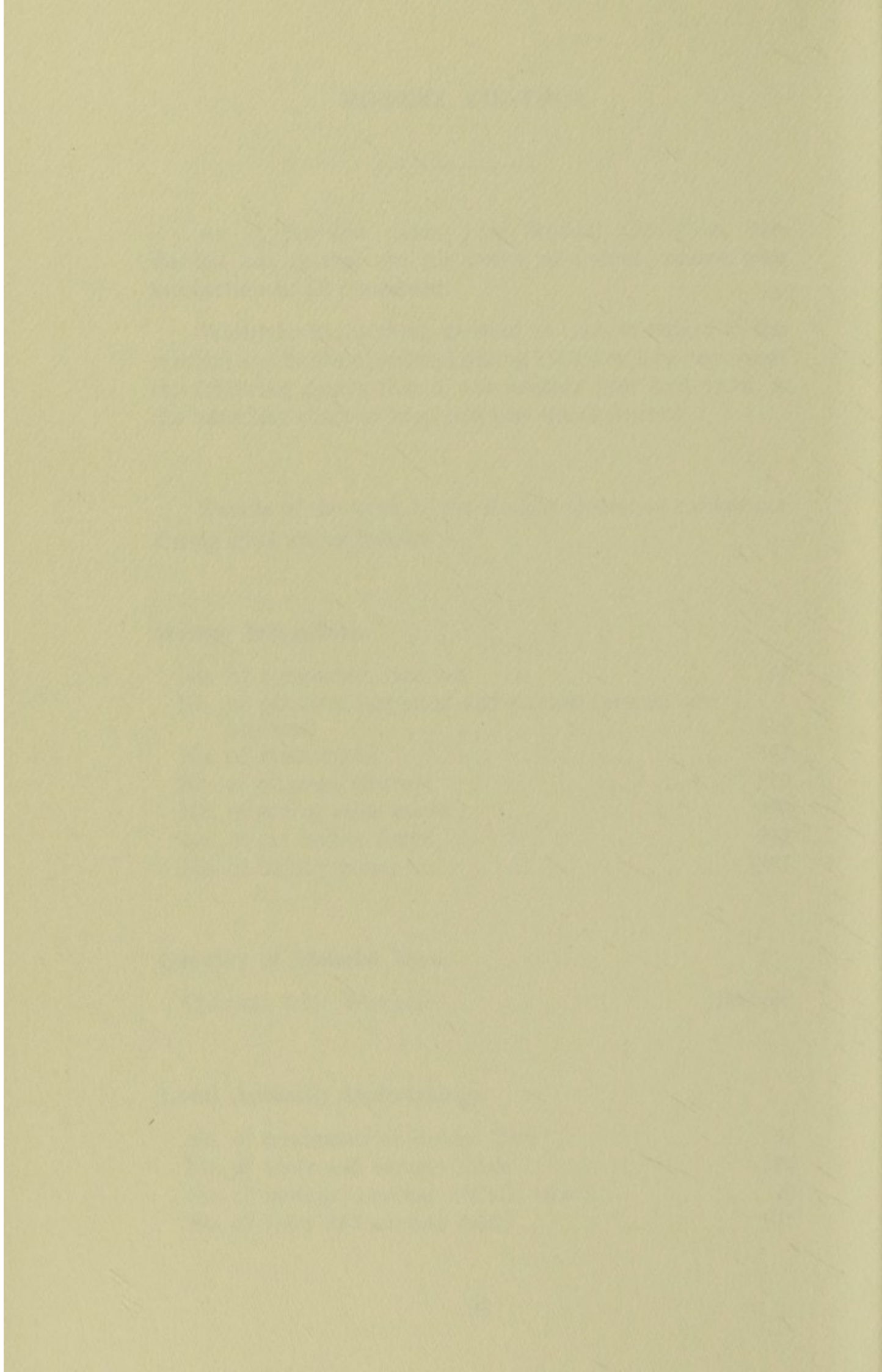
Quantity of Material Used.

Oatmeal with Warfarin	2050 lbs.
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Local Authority Undertakings.

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	57
No. of visits and surveys made	104
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	90
No. of visits and surveys made	175







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