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Contributors

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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1966

JOAN M. St. V. DAWKINS



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BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: MR. L. S. PROSSER, J.P.

VICE CHAIRMAN: MR. R. H. N. DASHWOOD, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Mr. L.F. Warren.C.C.,
Vice-Chairman: Rev. R.J. Rowbury,
Councillors: Mrs. E.A. Bazin,
Mrs. I.S. Forrest,
Mr. B.A.B. Bathe,
Mr. P.W. Henn,
Mr. F. Mason,
Mr. R.C. Nightingale,
Mr. J.A.C. Thornycroft,
Rev. Sir C.W. Wigram, Bt..

The Chairman of the Council is an ex officio member of the Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health: Joan M. St. V. Dawkins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
D.C.H..
County Hall, Guildhall Road,
Northampton. Tel: Northampton 34833.

Also holds appointments of:-

Medical Officer of Health in Daventry Borough, Daventry R.D.C., Brixworth R.D.C., Brackley Borough, Towcester R.D.C., Northampton R.D.C., and Senior Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, 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, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I..

Clerk to the Public Health Inspectors: Mrs. S.A. Spiers.

Rodent Operative: Mr. W.G. Readman.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: MR. J. E. PROSSER, J.P.

VICE CHAIRMAN: MR. E. H. N. DASHWOOD, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Mr. J. V. Warren, C.O.

Vice-Chairman:

Rev. J. J. Bowdler

Councillors:

Mrs. W. A. Rea

Mrs. I. S. Forrest

Mr. H. A. B. Rea

Mr. F. V. Henn

Mr. J. Benson

Mr. J. C. Montague

Mr. J. A. C. Thompson

Rev. Sir C. W. Wilson, Bt.

The Chairman of the Council is an ex officio member of the Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health: JOHN W. ST. V. DICKINS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

County Hall, Colindale Road,
Northampton. Tel: Northampton 34855.

Also holds appointments of:-

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

Senior Public Health Inspector: W. E. TROTT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector: H. R. GALEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to the Public Health Inspectors: Mrs. S. A. GALEY.

Robent Operative: Mr. W. G. HEDDER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF BRACKLEY.

Mr. Chairman, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health incorporating that of the Chief Public Health Inspector. I assumed duties on June 1st. following the death of my colleague, Dr. A. Lucas in May. An amalgamation of health divisions 1 and 2 was created under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1933, and the Boroughs of Daventry and Brackley together with the rural districts of Brackley, Brixworth, Daventry, Towcester and Northampton were combined to comprise the Health Area of South and West Northamptonshire.

The health of the district has proved to be satisfactory this year. The environment continues to improve as slums are cleared, houses improved by means of grants, sewage works completed, and high standards of food hygiene are maintained.

This year 1 sewage works was completed and 37 houses improved by both standard and discretionary grants.

In the maintenance of standards of hygiene in food premises your Public Health Inspectors have by means of assiduous work in the past, and by continuing vigilance in the present achieved a level of which the district can be proud.

The vital statistics for the year show that there were 126 deaths. This gives a standardised rate of 10.1 compared with 9.7 last year and with the national figure of 11.7.

The total number of births was 258 compared with 230 last year, and showing therefore an increase of 28 of which 14 were illegitimate. There were 4 infant deaths.

There was an increase in infectious diseases from 88 last year to 124 this year. This was however largely due to an increase in measles notifications from 79 to 104. There were no outbreaks, no cases of dysentery and only one case of food poisoning. Infective Hepatitis has been locally notifiable in the district since July 1962, and four cases were notified. This year 8 people died from pneumonia, and 4 from bronchitis and none from tuberculosis. It is gratifying to record no deaths from a disease which as short a time as fifteen years ago had not yet been vanquished and it is well to remember that in this period an affliction which assailed mankind since history was recorded has virtually been eradicated in the western world. The other respiratory diseases however still cause a considerable morbidity and are the commonest causes of absence from work. The maintenance of high levels of immunisation are always necessary and this need must be stressed with each new birth. Infants should receive immunisation to diphtheria,

whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox with adequate booster immunisation until school life, and at thirteen years all schoolchildren should be vaccinated for tuberculosis.

There are still some further necessary schemes, and it is to be hoped that these will be completed in the near future. Adequate housing is being provided and this district has a splendid record in its provision for the elderly. Pure water is available. It continues to be necessary to exert vigilance in the control of infectious disease and in the inspection of shops, factories and in the preparation and handling of food. Though environmental health in this district is satisfactorily maintained, the concept of health, which with the benefits of science and the welfare state should attain high standard cannot now be related wholly to external control. There are signs that faulty patterns of living are emerging which are inimical to health. The new era of the welfare state with many extra benefits leading to an increase of leisure and general prosperity present many new problems which afford no easy solution, and will lie not on environmental control but with individual rectitude and good sense.

People are living longer, but there remains a high death rate among middle aged men. This is largely due to arterial disease resulting in coronary thrombosis and strokes, and to cancer of the lung. It is probable that early arterial disease is related to the lessening need for physical exertion, combined with the consumption of over refined and excessive food. Stress may be an additional factor. The relationship of heavy cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung is irrefutable and the prevention of this habit lies within the free will of the individual. Those who influence young people have a responsibility to exert every effort to encourage them never to start smoking.

Many die needlessly from accidents both in the home and on the roads. In the home the majority of these are either young children or elderly persons. The carnage from road accidents, will continue to increase unless drivers adopt a more mature attitude. Death and mutilation on the road appear now to be accepted facets of modern life causing little public outcry; yet each year the death rate rises and thousands are injured.

In the past when disease was rife and poverty prevalent mental instability, crime and cruelty were considered to be due to these causes. In the last two decades poverty has virtually been abolished and yet there is an increase in crime and delinquency. Those other manifestations of an unstable society, a rising divorce rate, cruelty to children, delinquency, violence, drug taking, neuroses and suicide are also evident. Members of our society need to reflect on these perplexing trends as it must be from the people themselves and in the actions that they take that a solution must come. The sources of these discords may lie in the loss of spiritual ideals, in faulty patterns of family life, in the lessening need to strive in a welfare state or in young adults their superabundant physical energy, misdirected perhaps, by lack of suitable outlet.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Turbitt, the Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. Caley, his assistant for their most helpful co-operation during the year, for their work in the compilation of this Report and to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and encouragement. My thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer of Health for his roady co-operation.

I remain your obedient servant,

JOAN M. St. V. DAWKINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

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

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. [Name], the Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. [Name], his assistant for their most helpful co-operation during the year, for their work in the compilation of this Report and to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and encouragement. My thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer of Health for his ready co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of the various departments of the County Council in the preparation of this Report.

JOHN W. V. [Name]

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department
[Address]
[City]

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SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 1966.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,970
Number of separate dwellings occupied in 1966	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,115
Rateable values @ 1st. April, 1966	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£291,964
Product of penny rate @ 1st. April, 1966	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 1,222

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	114	130	244
Illegitimate.	6	8	14
			<u>258</u>

<u>BIRTH RATE</u> (per 1,000 population. Area comparability factor = 1.12)			
<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	
22.2	18.54	17.7	

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	-	1	1
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
			<u>1</u>

<u>STILL BIRTH RATE.</u> (per 1,000 live and still births).			
<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	
3.8	11.13	15.4	

<u>DEATHS.</u> (per 1,000 population. Area comparability factor = 1.05)			
<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	
10.1	11.12	11.7	

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	2	1	3
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
			<u>4</u>

<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATE.</u> (per 1,000 live births)			
<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	
15.5	16.01	19.0	

Legitimate (per 1000 legitimate live births).			
<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>		
12.3	15.57		

Illegitimate (per 1000 illegitimate live births)			
<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>		
71.4	22.6		

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
15.5	11.08	12.9

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
15.5	10.03	11.1

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 live and stillbirths)

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
19.3	21.05	26.3

<u>DEATHS FROM:</u>	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	20
" "	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	NIL
" "	Measles	...	...	...	...	NIL
" "	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	NIL
" "	Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	8 (pneumonia)
" "	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	NIL

This year again, both nationally and locally the number of deaths from cancer of the lung has increased; statistics also show an increase in a lower age group. Males still predominate but females are catching up due to the increase in the number of female cigarette smokers. In 1929, 2,751 died from cancer of the lung, in 1939, 6,214, in 1963, 24,434, in 1965, 26,399 and in 1966, 27,013. The relationship between heavy cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung has been firmly established. Publicity in press and television have brought it home to all. Yet each year thousands of young people start to smoke and many others continue to indulge in heavy cigarette smoking. The best chance of success in treatment of cancer of the lung lies in early detection. All individuals over the age of 45 should have their chest x-rayed regularly. However, the best cure is prevention, either to abstain from smoking or to give it up. Health educators, parents and those in contact with children should both warn and set an example not to smoke.

In the league table of causes of death, the main causes of death at the present time are degenerative diseases of the arteries. Improved standards of living and the successful control and treatment of infections have no doubt increased the number of elderly people in the community, but the emergence of early degenerative disease is now becoming significant. With the mechanisation of industry and improved transport facilities in particular the development and widespread use of motor vehicles, the proportion of people who have adequate exercise has declined and the number of sedentary workers including office workers

and business executives has increased. Again modern food technology and the use of scientific knowledge and methods in the production of foods have enormously increased the range and quantity available. Seasonal variations in food supplies have almost disappeared and price is within the means of most.

The net result is that food consumption has gone up. Now 100 lbs. of sugar per head per year is used compared with about one fifth of this quantity 100 years ago; the same is true for fats and other starchy foods. At the same time, the need for physical exercise has diminished. Early degenerative disease is much less common in underdeveloped countries. It is wise to be as physically active as possible, take regular physical exercise to an amount which does not cause undue fatigue, breathlessness or palpitation, and to exercise moderation in the consumption of starchy and fatty foods.

Road accidents in Great Britain since the beginning of the century have caused 300,000 deaths. In 1966, 7,985 died on the roads compared with 7,952 in 1965. Thus on an average day throughout the year, 22 road users were killed or one death occurred approximately every 66 minutes. Analysis by age has shown the 15-25 year group to be most at risk due to temperamental failures of individuals. The necessity of proper maintenance of the vehicle, habitual use of safety devices such as belts in cars or helmets on motorcycles, and driving with due consideration for the safety of other road users is stressed.

Confirmed figures regarding accidents in the home, for 1966 have not yet been published but provisional figures indicate a general worsening of the situation. Falls constitute by far the most frequent cause of accidental death in and around the house, about 59 per cent of the total. Nearly 90 per cent of these fatalities were to people in the age group 65 and over. The next most common cause was poisoning followed by burns and scalds, and finally suffocation and choking. Attention to details such as fire guards, fire resistant materials for children's nightdresses, simple structural alterations in houses for elderly people and provision of physical aids, keeping medicines under lock and key, are required to prevent these deaths.

The respiratory infections still take their toll, though less than formerly. The great majority of deaths from pneumonia are in those whose health is undermined by other causes and is as such only a terminal event. There were 8 deaths from pneumonia, 4 from bronchitis and 2 from other respiratory diseases.

THE REGISTERED CAUSES OF DEATH WERE:-

Causes of death.	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal ..	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	1	8
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	5	2	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	7	3	15
18. Coronary diseases, angina	25	11	36
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20. Other heart diseases	5	7	12
21. Other circulatory diseases	5	2	7
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	4	4	8
24. Bronchitis	3	1	4
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	8	11
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicidal and operations of War	-	-	-
TOTALS:	75	51	126

S E C T I O N B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. 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.

2. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Horton General Hospital, Banbury.
Slade Isolation Hospital, Oxford. (Infectious cases).
Cottage Hospital, Brackley.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES.

(a) Ambulances.

The County Council provide ambulances for the removal to hospital of all general, medical, surgical and infectious cases. A new Ambulance Station has been built in Brackley, this was opened in 1965.

(b) Child Welfare Centres and Clinics.

Infant Welfare Centres are held at Brackley, Middleton Cheney, Kings Sutton and Helmdon. Transport facilities are provided by the County Council in various parts of the district for mothers and children to attend clinics at a nearby centre.

(c) Nursing in the Home, Midwives and Health Visitor Service.

The district is well covered, and all villages have the services of both District Nurse and Health Visitor.

(d) The Home Help Service.

This service is in operation in several parishes of the district. It is a very necessary service and affords considerable benefit to the community, both to domiciliary and maternity cases, and especially in the care of old people who can remain comfortably at home, and whom, without this help, would be in institutions.

(e) Care and After Care Service.

The County Council provide a number of facilities in respect of the crippled, aged persons, diabetics and the mentally ill. They are also responsible for the preventive services for tuberculosis.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. 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, food, water, sewage and other specimens submitted from this district. This most useful and efficient service is under the control of Dr. W.H.R. Jess to whom I am indebted.

2. HOSPITAL SERVICES

Barton General Hospital, Banbury.
Stade Infection Hospital, Oxford. (Infectious cases).
Cottage Hospital, Brackley.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

(a) Accidentals
The County Council provide ambulances for the removal to hospital of all general, medical, surgical and infectious cases. A new Ambulance Station has been built in Brackley, this was opened in 1962.

(b) Child Welfare Centres and Clinics
Infant Welfare Centres are held at Banbury, Middleton Cheney, Kings Sutton and Haindon. Transport facilities are provided by the County Council in various parts of the district for contact and children to attend clinics at a nearby centre.

(c) Nurses in the Home, Midwives and Health Visitor Service

The district is well covered, and all villages have the services of both District Nurse and Health Visitor.

(d) The Home Help Service

This service is in operation in several parishes of the district. It is a very necessary service and attracts considerable benefits to the community, both to domestic and nursing cases, and especially in the care of old people who can remain comfortably at home, and whom, without this help, would be in institutions.

(e) Care and After Care Service

The County Council provide a number of facilities in respect of the crippled, aged persons, disabled and the mentally ill. They are also responsible for the preventive services for tuberculosis.

S E C T I O N C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Generally.

Again I am able to report favourably on the sanitary circumstances of this District as improvements take place year by year in respect of sewerage and sewage disposal; collection and disposal of household refuse; the progressive building of new houses by the Council and private enterprise; the reconditioning of sub-standard houses with the aid of Improvement Grants and the continual steady progress made with slum clearance. Practically every house in the District is supplied with mains water and the large majority are enjoying waterborne sanitation.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The following table shews the position as at present and what is proposed for the future. It will be seen that most parishes are adequately sewered and provided with modern sewage disposal works. It is hoped that the proposed joint scheme for the villages of Aynho, Kings Sutton and Charlton will be started in the early days of 1968, (and at the time of writing the Report the proposed scheme is at the tender stage).

<u>Place.</u>	<u>Sewerage.</u>	<u>Sewage Disposal Works.</u>
Aston-le-Walls	Completed	Completed.
Aynho	Completed	Scheme being prepared for joint works with Kings Sutton and Charlton.
Boddington	Completed	Completed.
Chacombe	Completed	Completed.
Charlton	Scheme being prepared.	Scheme being prepared for joint works with Aynho and Kings Sutton.
Chipping Warden	Completed	Completed
Croughton	Completed	Scheme to enlarge existing works being prepared.
Crowfield	Completed	Scheme being prepared.
Culworth	Completed	Completed.
Evenley	Completed	Work in progress.
Eydon	Completed	Completed.
Farthinghoe	Completed	Completed.
Greatworth	Completed	Completed.
Helmdon	Completed	Completed.
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared.
Kings Sutton	Completed	Scheme being prepared for joint works with Aynho and Charlton.
Marston St. Lawrence	Scheme submitted to Ministry but approval withheld for the time being.	

<u>Place.</u>	<u>Sewerage.</u>	<u>Sewage Disposal Works.</u>
Lower Middleton Cheney	Completed	Completed.
Upper Middleton Cheney	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared.
Moreton Pinkney	Completed	Completed.
Overthorpe	Completed	Completed.
Radstone	Scheme being prepared	Scheme being prepared.
Sulgrave	Completed	Completed.
Syresham	Completed	Completed.
Thenford	Deferred	Deferred.
Thorpe Mandeville	Completed	Completed.
Whitfield	Completed	Completed.

Water Supply - Regional Scheme.

This is controlled and supplied by the Bucks Water Board. The source of the supply is the River Great Ouse at Buckingham. Treatment of the water consists of storage, sedimentation, super-chlorination, rapid sand filtration and accelator-chloramination.

Both physically and bacteriologically the water as supplied to this district was considered to be satisfactory as is shewn by the results of the samples taken by the Health Inspectors. The water is non-plumbo-solvent and Fluoride was not added to the water in 1966.

A complaint of taste and smell of chlorine and two complaints of Brown discolouration in the water were received during the year by the Health Department. These several complaints were investigated and taken up with the Water Board who, as usual, promptly carried out remedial measures. There is a good relationship existing between the Officers of the Water Board and this Council.

The Bucks Water Board took 292 samples of the raw water before treatment and the number of these samples in which coliform organisms were detected was 291. Faecal coliform organisms were present in 284 samples. In addition 368 samples of the fully treated water were examined, 6 of these samples yielded coliform organisms and faecal coliform organisms were found in only 2 of these samples.

During the year 199 dwellings were connected to the mains by the Board and the following table shews the number of dwellings supplied by mains water in each parish.

Bacteriological Samples of Regional Supply.

Additional samples taken by the Health Department in this district were as follows; all the samples were bacteriologically satisfactory and no coliform organisms were detected:-

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF REGIONAL SUPPLY.

Details of samples taken by the Health Department in 1966 are as follows:-
All the samples were SATISFACTORY bacteriologically.

<u>Parish or Village</u>	<u>Number taken</u>
Aston-le-Walls	4
Aynho	3
Upper Boddington	5
Lower Boddington	4
Chacombe	4
Chipping Warden	4
Croughton	3
Culworth	5
Evenley	8
Eydon	4
Farthinghoe	5
Greatworth and Halse	6
Helndon	6
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	4
Kings Sutton	6
Marston St. Lawrence	3
Middleton Cheney and Overthorpe	10
Moreton Pinkney	4
Newbottle and Charlton	6
Radstone	3
Sulgrave	4
Syresham and Crowfield	9
Thenford	3
Thrope Mandeville	3
Warkworth	3
Whitfield	3
	<hr/> 122 <hr/>

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS SUPPLIED WITH MAINS WATER.

Aston-le-Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Aynho	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Boddington	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Chacombe	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Chipping Warden	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Croughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Culworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Edgcote	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Evenley	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Eydon	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Farthinghoe	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Greatworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Helmdon	...	...	...	...	...	...	222
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Kings Sutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	507
Marston St. Lawrence	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Middleton Cheney	...	...	...	...	...	...	844
Moreton Pinkney	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Newbottle	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Radstone	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sulgrave	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Syresham	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Thenford	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Thorpe Mandeville	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Warkworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Whitfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,791

CHEMICAL SAMPLES OF REGIONAL SUPPLY.

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

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

Received on: 30th March 1966.

From: Brackley R.D.C.

Description: Mains water from Skaigh House, Evenley. 29.3.66.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.053
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.26
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	...	35.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.6
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.4
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	405
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
pH	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.1
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Radioactivity	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	531 micrchs

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality and, subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, safe for drinking purposes. The water is similar in composition to the last sample examined in September 1965.

(signed) BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts.

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

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

Received on: 27th September 1966.

From: Brackley R.D.C.

Description: Water from Skaigh House, Evenley. 27.9.66.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	0.17
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	41.3
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	2.4
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	...	...	...	...	...	0.8
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	...	415
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	0
pH	...	...	...	...	...	6.8
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	0.04
Radioactivity	...	...	...	...	...	-
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	...	536 microhms

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality and, subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, safe for drinking purposes. The water is similar in composition to the last sample examined in March 1966.

(Signed) BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY,
 Public Analysts.

Non-Mains Water Supplies.

Six samples were taken from non-mains supplies. Four of these samples were from private supplies taken at the requests of the owners; three of these samples showed evidence of contamination and the owners were advised accordingly.

Two of the samples were from two public springs which repeated samples taken over the years have not revealed any significant contamination. One of the springs, of historical interest, with water of a medicinal value is to be repaired by this Council in conjunction with Councils of the County and the Parish concerned.

Caravans Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

In recent years the number of permanently stationed caravans in the District has not varied to any large extent and there are now 24 caravans on 15 sites. The sites are satisfactorily maintained and do not give rise to any serious problems. The use of one site was discontinued during the year. The Health Inspectors made 78 visits to these caravans during the year.

Visiting Gypsies with their caravans were encountered from time to time but without causing much trouble. Usually their visits are of short duration as when they are first seen their presence is reported to the local Police who visit the Gypsy camps and advise them to leave their camp site clean and tidy upon vacation. This co-operation by the Police is appreciated by the Department.

Schools.

There are 20 schools in the area all of which are visited from time to time mainly for the purpose of sampling the school milk and water supply. Also at these times is noted the condition of the school toilets. Two schools are equipped with very good canteens and these also are inspected periodically. Other schools are supplied with ready prepared meals through the County Council School Meals Service.

During the period under review 80 visits were made to schools whilst the canteens were inspected on 3 occasions.

Each school appears to be well maintained, is provided with water-borne sanitation, ablution facilities, cheerfully decorated and provided with a supply of mains water.

At the time of visiting a school occasionally it happens that a matter pertaining to public health is reported either by the Head teacher or observed by the visiting inspector of this Council which is reported to the School Medical Officer of Health who in turn brings it to the notice of the Education Authority for attention. Such an instance, which occurred this year, was the communal use of wind instruments (recorders) during a music lesson at a school which could have spread infection from one child to another. This was because there were insufficient instruments for the exclusive use of each child. This matter was put right by more instruments being provided so that each of the children could play its own instrument and not run the risk of using some other child's.

Smoke Abatement.

There are no factories which emit smoke or ash as to cause a nuisance. The only smoke nuisance occurring occasionally which calls for tactful action is the indiscriminate lighting of garden bonfires.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Other than in the local brook or pond, where there is always the risk of picking up some water-borne infection or even drowning I regret to say there are no facilities for swimming. There are a few privately owned pools which are not used by the public. Swimming pools are available in the neighbouring towns of Brackley and Banbury which are probably used by a number of persons living in this rural district.

Verminous Premises

This year, as previously, it has been unnecessary to take any action in this respect.

Public Cleansing.

This service is carried out and controlled under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor to the Council.

House refuse is collected approximately weekly and disposed of by controlled tipping.

The collection of trade refuse is charged for, but I understand this class of refuse is allowed to be taken by permission to the tip by tradesmen without any charge being made.

This year one of the tips was heavily infested with flies, which gave some concern, but the infestation was eventually brought under control.

Tips are regularly serviced by the Rodent Operative who appears to succeed in keeping the rat population under reasonable control.

Factories Acts.

From the table which follows may be ascertained the number of factories in this area; the number of inspections which they received and any contravention of the Acts which was found at the time of inspection and the action taken thereon.

Outworkers.

Only 3 outworkers have been notified by the Borough of Brackley and 2 by the Banbury Borough as working in their homes in this area for factories outside this district. The homes of these outworkers have been visited and found suitable for the work carried on therein. The nature of this outwork consists in packing soap and cosmetics for the Brackley factory and the making of surgical clothing for the factory at Banbury. There are no factories in Brackley Rural District employing outworkers.

Part 1 of the Act.

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

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupier Prosecuted.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	18	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	20	20	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

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

SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS TO PREMISES DURING 1966.

Inspections - Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	231
Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspections - Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	369
Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	11
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	163
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	20
Factory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	7
Factory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	11
Building Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	284
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	66
Offices and Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	40

/Visits to:

VISITS TO:-

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Cafes and Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Itinerant Food Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Schools and School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fairgrounds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food Notices Complied With	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED 1966.

Complaints made in writing, by telephone or verbally during the year totalled 162 and concerned the following matters, viz:-

Drainage, sewerage, and sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Insanitary accumulations and disposal of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Insanitary dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisance from keeping animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
General Housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Food and Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

STATEMENT OF HOUSING REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR 1966.

Completely reconditioned as a result of statutory action by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Improvements to private houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Principally installation of bathrooms & W.C. and connections of drains to new sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81

NUISANCES ABATED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.

Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage and sewerage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

There are 39 premises registered with the Council for the purpose of the above Act and 116 persons are employed in these premises. Forty visits of inspection were made during the year by the Health Inspectors who report a general improvement in the employees working conditions. It can be said that all premises are now satisfactorily equipped with the basic requirements.

As stated in previous Reports the majority of registerable premises in this rural area are small with employees few in number and no complaints have been received regarding unsatisfactory working conditions. However it is felt that more improvement could be made in regard to heating and lighting of premises. Employees rarely remark on the poor lighting conditions until the lighting is improved when they realise how inadequate it was before improvement.

Due to the mild winter existing heating appliances have been adequate to maintain the statutory temperature of 60.8°F but it is considered that in an average winter the heating appliances in some premises will be insufficient to maintain even this modest temperature.

It is anticipated that a request to improve the heating arrangements will be met by some resistance on behalf of the employers, especially of shop premises, on the grounds that an increase in temperature will adversely affect the foodstuffs.

No serious accidents occurred in registered premises and no notifications of accidents were received from employers.

As has been mentioned in previous Reports work of this nature in a rural district entails frequent visits to premises and a tactful approach to employees which often achieves more than invoking formal action to obtain compliance with the Act.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

THE PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

Council Houses.

The number of new dwellings built by the Council this year was 23, i.e. 6 at Marston St. Lawrence, 11 at Helmdon, 2 at Upper Boddington and 4 maisonettes at Eydon. In addition 6 new bungalows constructed by private enterprise at Croughton, were purchased by the Council.

Work is now in progress on the reconditioning and preservation of some sub-standard cottages at Evenley purchased by the Council and when completed these will provide two additional dwellings in keeping with the character of surrounding properties.

The future building programme includes new dwellings at Aston-le-Walls, Chacombe, Chipping Warden and Middleton Cheney.

The table on page 24 shows the distribution of Council dwellings throughout the district.

Modernisation of Council Houses.

The improvement of pre-war Council dwellings continues, 260 of the 346 dwellings have now been provided with baths, W.Cs. and a piped supply of hot water.

Private Enterprise Houses.

The rate of house building by private enterprise continues to be relatively high; 161 houses were completed in the year, and building is taking place in almost every Parish and estates are being developed in the following Parishes:-

Aynho, Chacombe, Chipping Warden, Croughton, Greatworth, Kings Sutton and Middleton Cheney.

Slum Clearance.

It can be said that there are now no groups of dwellings so unfit or badly arranged as to warrant their being included in Clearance Areas. All the dwellings which are being represented to the Council from time to time are considered individually as and when they become unoccupied.

During the year the Council made Closing and Demolition Orders involving 11 dwellings; these included a row of 4 very picturesque thatched cottages which the Council did consider acquiring in order to preserve them but the cottages were so unfit and badly arranged internally that their reconditioning as separate units would have been impractical.

It is estimated that there are possibly not more than 500 dwellings which fall short of the Standard Grant level with regard to amenities, i.e. they lack an internal W.C., a bathroom, a supply of hot water and facilities for storing food. The Housing Acts now make provision for the compulsory improvement of these dwellings but no doubt an approach to the owners of such properties by the Health Inspectors does much to encourage acceptance of the Improvement Grants which are available.

Slum Clearance Action taken in 1966.

	<u>No. of dwellings.</u>
Demolished	6
Closed (Closing Orders and Undertakings)	2
Reconditioned and made fit for habitation	8
Demolition Orders made	9

Improvement Grants 1966.
Standard Grants.

	<u>Owner/occpd. dwellings.</u>	<u>Tenanted dwellings.</u>
Number of Applications approved	7	12
Amount paid in Grants	£2008.5.0	

Discretionary Grants.

	<u>Owner/occpd. dwellings.</u>	<u>Tenanted dwellings</u>
Number of Applications approved	10	8
Amount paid in grants	£4085.0.0	

It can be said that there are now no groups of dwellings so unfit or badly arranged as to warrant their being included in Clearance Areas. All the dwellings which are being represented to the Council from time to time are considered individually as and when they become unoccupied.

During the year the Council made Closing and Demolition Orders involving 11 dwellings; these included a row of 4 very picturesque detached cottages which the Council did consider acquiring in order to preserve them but the cottages so unfit and badly arranged internally that their reconditioning a separate matter would have been inapprop-

STATEMENT OF HOUSING PROGRESS.

PROVISION OF COUNCIL DWELLINGS.

	Pre-War and War-time dwellings.	Post-war dwellings.	Sub-standard dwellings acquired & reconditioned.	TOTAL	Dwellings subsequently sold.
Aston-le-Walls	16	5	-	21	-
Aynho	-	30	6	36	-
Boddington (Upper & Lower)	6	23	-	29	-
Chacombe	17	21	-	38	-
Chipping Warden	-	45	-	45	-
Croughton	8	25	-	33	-
Culworth	21	21	-	42	-
Edgcote	-	-	-	-	-
Evenley	-	13	2	15	-
Eydon	12	13	-	25	-
Farthinghoe	10	20	-	30	-
Greatworth and Halse	16	41	-	57	-
Helmdon	16	45	-	61	1
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	-	6	-	6	-
Kings Sutton	66	181	-	247	1
Marston St. Lawrence	6	18	-	24	2
Middleton Cheney and Overthorpe	72	210	-	282	4
Moreton Pinkney	8	9	-	17	-
Newbottle and Charlton	18	27	-	45	-
Radstone	-	-	-	-	-
Sulgrave	14	25	-	39	-
Syresham	38	37	-	75	-
Thenford	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Mandeville	6	6	-	12	-
Warkworth	-	-	-	-	-
Whitfield	-	6	-	6	-
TOTALS:	350	827	8	1185	8

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Generally.

The total number of food premises in the district is now 151. This total has not varied much over recent years and the various trades together with the number of visits made thereto by the Health Inspectors, are again classified in the table which appears on page 20 . The Inspectors make several visits to each of these shops yearly either on routine inspection or for the sampling of foods or for the purpose of having short talks with the food vendors on the subject of good food hygiene practice. It has been mentioned in a previous Report that there is no substitute for competent routine inspection. Experience in this district has proved that the best way of attaining and maintaining a suitable standard at these premises is by making frequent visits; by this means, those engaged in the trade and the officers of the Local Authority get to know each other quickly and soon reach a state of mutual understanding and co-operation.

The general tendency is for food premises in this area to improve year by year both structurally and in the type of equipment and fittings provided. Change of proprietorship, it is noticed, often results in a rise in standard.

I wish that I could also report as favourably in regard to the habits of some of those engaged in handling food. Bad habits are difficult to break. This year a person was suitably admonished for licking fingers prior to handling and wrapping food; when told about this and that new wrappings should be used the finger licking was promptly repeated with the new wrapping. In the case of another food handler it was observed at the time a customer was being served with cooked ham that the ham as it dropped from the slicing machine, was being caught on his bare hand. When told about this the reply was that he had not thought about using a spatula which he could clean or even a sheet of grease-proof paper. The customer, who presumably was to eat this food, registered no surprise or resentment at this mishandling of food which would be eaten without being cooked or washed. Apparently neither the vendor nor the customer realised that whereas certain 'open' foods are either cooked or washed prior to consumption - which affords some protection against the possibility of food poisoning - cooked ham is one of the foods which is normally consumed as served.

For one reason or another employees in the food trade change frequently and many seem not to possess the elementary principles of food hygiene. We do try in this district to help the food handlers to appreciate the importance of good food hygiene practice. Each food premises is supplied with a shortened version of the Food Hygiene Regulations, a copy of the Food Byelaws and a readable Booklet entitled "Clean Food" in which much important and interesting information pertaining to this subject is set forth. I claim no originality to the

story related by a master-butcher who, observing one of his employees returning to serve customers after leaving the W.C., reminded him to wash his hands, "No need gov'nor", replied the assistant. "I washed them before I went in!"

A fruit loaf was reported at the office as possibly containing 'foreign bodies' but a close examination of the bread showed that the extraneous material was in fact fruit stems.

A number of milk bottles were complained of by customers who considered that the bottles contained some foreign substance or were contaminated externally. With the exception of one bottle of milk, external contamination was found to be the cause of the complaint and this was due to negligence on the part of the milk distributor who through improper protection which should have been afforded during transport had allowed mud splashings to come in contact with the bottles. A careful examination of another bottle revealed that the 'foreign body' complained of was not in fact such but an actual flaw in the glass of the bottle. The external contamination of one bottle was due to grease smears.

During this year some important and new Regulations known as the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 have been laid before Parliament and come into operation on 1st January 1967. These Regulations lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect to market stalls and food sold from delivery vehicles. As there are no market stalls in this area the work will mainly concern the supervision of vehicles which are purveying food and there is now a considerable number of these 'mobile shops' trading in this rural area, but most of them have been subject to inspection by the Health Inspectors under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. In certain cases, however, the equipment carried by some of the vehicles will have to be either adapted or modernised to suit the new requirements.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Samples taken by the County Council, who are the Food and Drugs Authority, for the purpose of finding out if any of the articles are adulterated, or not of the nature, substance or quality required are as shown in the table following. This affords the public some protection against fraudulent sales.

SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
31st. MARCH 1967.

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Antibiotic Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Beverage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Health Foods and Drinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lard, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meat Products	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Soft Drinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Spirits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water - Bog Spring	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90

Your Health Inspectors also take many samples of foods and drinks but for an entirely different purpose which is to discover whether they are bacteriologically satisfactory and fit for human consumption.

To prevent overlapping and often bewilderment to the shopkeeper the Health Inspectors could well undertake food and drugs sampling which is still performed by the County Council. Reference has been made to this suggestion in previous Reports.

ICE CREAM

The quantity consumed seems to increase yearly and there are now 39 premises registered for the sale of this popular food. There were 91 visits made to ice cream places and 33 samples taken. Results of samples were:- Grade 1, 28; Grade 2, 3; and Grade 3, 2. The manufacture of ice cream has now reached a very high standard generally which is reflected in the comparatively few unsatisfactory samples and in these cases the reason is mainly due to improper storage at the shops from which the ice cream is sold.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD SPECIMENS.

For the purpose of ascertaining the presence of any food poisoning organisms the following 6 samples were taken.

<u>Food Specimen.</u>	<u>Result of Examination.</u>
Pork Pie	Plate count 24 hours at 37°C. less than 50 per gramme.
Steak and Kidney Pie	No organisms of shigella or Salmonella groups isolated.
Sausage Roll	No staph. aureus or Cl. welchi isolated.
Cornish Pasty	Very scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli. No member of salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food poisoning groups isolated.
Pork Pie	No growth.
Steak and Kidney Pie	Very scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing bacilli. No member of Salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food poisoning groups isolated.

CONDEMNED FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were considered to be unfit for human consumption and accordingly destroyed:-

<u>Food Articles.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation.</u>
43 Tins containing various Foods. ...	Badly dented, rusted or "domed" tins.
42lbs Fresh Butchers meat. ... Tinned Food and Eggs.	Contaminated with glass, etc. due to vehicle carrying food being in road accident.
4lbs Tin of Pork Luncheon Meat ...	Mouldy condition.

MILK SUPPLY

In accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963-1965 there are 13 milk distributors under licence by this Council all of whom are selling milk in this area.

The Health Inspectors made a total of 47 visits to Dairies and Milkshops all of which were maintaining a satisfactory standard and there was no occasion which necessitated any formal action being taken under the Milk and Dairies Regulations. Of the 49 samples taken a considerable proportion of which were from schools, only 1 failed the test to which it was subjected. This was a sample of Pasteurised milk taken at a school which failed the Methylene Blue test. Follow-up samples taken at this school were found to be satisfactory. No complaints concerning milk were received by the Health Department throughout the year.

Most of the milk supplied and consumed in the district is pasteurised and from the results of the tests made on the samples taken it would seem that efficient heat-treatment takes place at the pasteurisation plants and also that usually the milk is of good keeping quality. The pasteurisation is performed at plants which are situated outside this rural area. The milk supplied to consumers in this area may be considered safe and satisfactory.

The presence of antibiotics in milk is a matter which should receive the attention of the Department and in the future it may be possible to sample milk for examination for the presence of antibiotics.

MEAT INSPECTION

Although there are no slaughterhouses operating in this district the Health Inspectors at the time of their visits to the Butchers' shops take note of the condition of meat which is exposed for sale. Also meat which is stored in refrigerators at these shops is inspected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - (SECTION 16).

Premises required to be registered in accordance with the above Act are 8 Butchers where sausages are manufactured and 39 Ice Cream Places used for the storage and sale of ice cream.

REFRESHMENT PLACES, i.e. INNS AND HOTELS.

There are 33 such places licensed for the sale of intoxicants and a considerable number provide meals either as full meals or snacks. This year these establishments received 77 visits when special attention is given to kitchens in which food is prepared; condition of beer cellars, bars from which drinks are served and toilet accommodation. At each of these places hot and cold water with suitable sinks for the washing of glasses and eating utensils is provided and most are equipped with refrigerators for the storage of foods. Due to the efforts of your Health Inspectors, together with the co-operation of the Brewers concerned, much improvement has taken place over the years at these premises which has resulted in the present satisfactory condition generally.

Most of the milk supplied and consumed in the district is pasteurized and from the results of the tests made on the samples taken it would seem that efficient heat-treatment takes place at the pasteurization plants and also that usually the milk is of good keeping quality. The pasteurization is performed at plants which are situated outside the town area. The milk supplied to consumers in this area may be considered safe and satisfactory.

The presence of antibiotics in milk is a matter which should receive the attention of the Department and in the future it may be possible to sample milk for examination for the presence of antibiotics.

MEAT INSPECTION

Although there are no slaughterhouses operating in this district, the Health Inspectors at the time of their visits to the Butchers' shops take note of the condition of meat which is exposed for sale. Also meat which is stored in refrigerators at these shops is inspected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - (SECTION 15)

Provision is required to be registered in accordance with the above Act and 8 Butchers whose premises are manufactured and 29 Ice Cream Vendors are used for the storage and sale of ice cream.

SECTION F.

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during this period is 124 which is an increase of 36 against the previous year's total of 88. The increase is mainly due to the incidence of measles.

MEASLES:- This disease which usually follows a biennial incidence showed an increase in 1966, there being 104 cases compared with 79 the previous year, most of which occurred during the first half of the year. The illness now usually follows a benign course, seldom showing any serious complications. Occasionally complications can occur, which are however, usually soon and successfully treated by the large number of effective antibiotics which are now available.

WHOOPIING COUGH:- There were 9 notifications. The County Council and many general practitioners have now adopted the method of early immunisation to this illness, starting at 2-3 months. The low incidence of cases in the district would indicate a high percentage of effective immunisation, and it is to be hoped that this state will be maintained.

SCARLET FEVER:- Five cases were notified, which occurred in three separate parishes. This disease continues to exhibit its mild phase. The principle interest in notification is that it gives a rough indication of the degree of streptococcal infection in the community.

POLIOMYELITIS:- No cases occurred, and this freedom can be ascribed to immunisation as the decline in incidence has occurred concurrently with vaccination. The oral Sabin vaccine is now used which gives a longer lasting immunity than the Salk or injected variety. A drink of syrup or a lump of sugar is also much more acceptable to the young patients than the previous needle prick.

FOOD POISONING:- Only one case of food poisoning was notified during the year. Enquiries revealed that the person affected had just prior to the onset of symptoms left a tropical country and the available evidence pointed to his contracting the infection abroad or in transit to this Country. The organism isolated was salmonella typhimurium. There was an added complication with this case in that he had taken temporary residence with relatives who were employed in a food production factory in a neighbouring authority. These contacts did not return to work until repeated samples showed that they were not carriers of the infection. So virtually there was no case of food poisoning emanating from the district which is possibly some reflection on the vigilance kept on all food premises in this area.

This was fortunately a low incidence in the district. The condition is usually caused by one of the salmonella organisms, the commonest being one of the typhimurium strain or paratyphoid A or B. The Staphylococcus gaining entry to food from an infected spot or boil on the hands, arms or

face of a food handler may also cause a severe form of food poisoning. Some chemical contaminants can be an occasional cause. More rarely Typhoid fever and botulism may occur. However, the commonest germ causing food poisoning is the salmonella gaining entry into food by the faulty hygiene of food handlers. The sources of infection can be neumerous, uncooked, contaminated (often imported) meat being today probably one of the most frequent.

SMALLPOX:- There were no cases. The vaccination of children is still necessary and should be carried out sometime during the first two years of life, preferably between the first and second year.

DIPHTHERIA:- There have been no cases of diphtheria in Northamptonshire since 1956. There is therefore with each successive year of freedom from infection, a diminishing recollection of the dangers of this illness. Mothers without knowledge of the disease feel a false security and may not have their children immunised. That this is a dangerous situation cannot be too strongly stressed, as it is only by keeping up the numbers of children immunised that the disease be kept in check. It is the duty of all parents to have their children immunised, and if they fail to do so they neglect their welfare.

SONNE DYSENTERY:- There were no cases.

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS:- The Minister of Health gave sanction that this disease should be made locally notifiable as from 1st July, 1962. By arrangement with other District Councils this also became operative in the County of Northamptonshire. Four cases were notified during the year.

Acute Infective Hepatitis is a disease caused by a virus, which attacks the liver and causes jaundice. It is mainly an infection of young people of faecal-oral spread, and with an incubation period of 15 - 50 days. The incriminative routes of infection are from food handlers, water, and children to their mothers. The virus is present in faeces 16 days before jaundice, and up to 8 days after. Serum hepatitis, which is another form of infective hepatitis, has a longer incubation period of 50-160 days and affects mainly adults and can be spread by blood transfusion and inefficiently sterilised equipment used by doctors, dentists, nurses and drug addicts, and in the various tattooing processes. The clinical groups of these two types of hepatitis are indistinguishable. There is no specific treatment and an icteric adult would be away from work from six weeks to two months, and sometimes might not feel really fit for a year. Quarantine measures are of little value, and patients can be treated at home or in hospital provided adequate hand washing techniques are practised, with current disinfection of excreta. Serum hepatitis can be virtually abolished, if disposal equipment was generally introduced. In this County disposable equipment is used by the County Health Department for all procedures involving immunisation. Gamma Globulin is of value for the protection of close contacts and pregnant women during epidemics.

PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1966.

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	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles ...	19	21	13	16	18	9	1	4	2	1	-	-	104
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	1	-	1	-	9
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	4
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ...	22	22	13	18	20	9	6	5	4	1	1	3	124

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis).

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	
Scarlet Fever ...	5	-	8	3	4	7	2	4	7	5	
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia ...	3	1	4	1	3	4	1	-	-	1	
Measles ...	105	111	108	36	234	3	160	161	79	104	
Whooping Cough ...	17	3	17	5	3	-	10	4	-	9	
Food Poisoning ...	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	7	1	1	
Dysentery ...	6	-	7	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	
Erysipelas ...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	
Infective Hepatitis...	Not notifiable for these years						5	9	1	1	4
Poliomyelitis ...	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1966.

(other than Tuberculosis)

In Individual Parishes

Parish.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Infective Hepatitis	Poliomyelitis	Totals
Aston-le-Walls ...	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Aynho ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boddington ...	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chacombe ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chipping Warden ...	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	7
Croughton ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Culworth ...	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Edgcote ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evenley ...	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	12
Eydon ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farthinghoe ...	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Greatworth ...	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Helmdon ...	-	-	-	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	17
Hinton-in-the-Hedges ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kings Sutton ...	2	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	2	-	17
Marston St, Lawrence ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middleton Cheney ...	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	7
Moreton Pinkney ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newbottle & Charlton ...	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Radstone ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sulgrave ...	1	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Syresham ...	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Thenford ...	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Thorpe Mandeville ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warkworth ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitfield ...	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
TOTAL:	5	-	1	104	9	1	-	-	4	-	124

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Incidence of New Cases during 1966.

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	1	-	-	-

Total cases on the Register at the end of the year is 76 an increase of 1 male and 1 female and are classified as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
28	26	14	8	42	34

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Details of these figures are now only given in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION G.

RODENT CONTROL.

For the most part the Rodent situation throughout the year was fairly quiet.

The months of November and December, however, were notable for the unusually high number of complaints received of mice. Private houses seemed to be most affected and in several instances new houses were seriously infested in the roof space. It is possible that infestation actually took place during the erection of the new houses, prior to occupation by the tenants, as building operatives are known to leave food lying about on the building site thereby encouraging rodents to the area.

Mice also caused considerable trouble at the factory premises of the Export Packing Service at Chipping Warden, where the contents of large crates were found to have been damaged by field mice.

At the request of the Divisional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the sewers at Eydon were treated specially because of previous trouble experienced in these sewers. On this occasion, however, the sewers were found to be clear of rats. Sewers generally are due for treatment in the coming year.

This year has seen the completion of the first twelve months of the Contract Scheme for rodent control on farms in this district. The goodly total of 40 farms were under contract during 1966 of which 38 have renewed their contracts for a further year whilst 2 new applications for contracts have been received, so the overall total of contracts for 1967 will be precisely the same.

This contract scheme brought in approximately £200 in its first year of operation. The annual contract fee is £5.5.0. for which three treatments are given and judging by the scarcity of rodent population on these farms at the present time it would appear that the treatments are sufficient to keep the situation well under control.

Warfarin bait continues to be completely effective in this area - no resistance to warfarin has so far been experienced.

Again it was unnecessary to take any formal action in accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, which is due to the popularity of Mr. Readman, your Rodent Operative, who has carried out his duties efficiently and apparently to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Details of the work on rodent control performed during the year are shown in the following statement, viz:-

Number of requests for Rodent Control Service	... ..	55
<u>Number of treatments undertaken.</u>		
Sewers, sewerage disposal works & ditches and hedgerows	... ..	61
Refuse tips (including roadside "lay-bys" and unofficial tips).	... ..	49
Farms and smallholdings...	... ..	115
Private dwellings	... ..	26
Business premises (factories, shops etc.) and schools	... ..	14
Total number of visits made to premises including visits for survey purposes.	... ..	1604
<u>Quantity of material used.</u>		
Oatmeal with Warfarin	... ..	3462 lbs.

