

[Report 1967] / Medical Officer of Health, Brackley R.D.C.

Contributors

Brackley (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1967

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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1967

JOAN M. St. V. DAWKINS

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

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

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Rev. R.J. Rowbury. (Died 8th. September 1967).

Chairman: Mrs. I.S. Forrest.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Mason.

Councillors: Mrs. E.A. Bazin.
Mr. B.A.B. Bathe.
Mr. J.H. Goodwin.
Mr. P.W. Henn.
Mr. R.C. Nightingale.
Mr. J.A.C. Thorneycroft.
Mr. L.F. Warren.
Rev. Sir C.W. Wigram. Bt..

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

ALASKA DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: MR. L. S. ROBERTS, D.D.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: MR. E. N. H. DASHWOOD, D.D.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Rev. H. J. Heston, (1955-56, September 1957).

Chairman: Mr. I. B. Heston.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Heston.

Members: Mr. E. A. Heston.

Mr. E. A. Heston.

Mr. J. H. Goodwin.

Mr. P. H. Heston.

Mr. E. C. Heston.

Mr. J. A. C. Heston.

Mr. J. E. Heston.

Rev. Sir C. H. Heston, D.D.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and ex officio members 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..

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northampton-
shire County Council, and from 1st. October 1967,
Acting Medical Officer of Health in Higham Ferrers Borough,
Rushden, Raunds and Oundle U.D.Cs., and Oundle and Thrapston
R.D.C..

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

I. Majid, M.B., B.S., D.P.H..(From 1st May).

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.

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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. This report serves two functions, the first to give an account with statistics of the environmental health of the district; the second to make some observations on those trends in the general pattern of living which show evidence of becoming a hazard to health either now or in the future.

The health of the district has proved to be satisfactory this year. There have been no outbreaks of infectious disease, and the general standard of environmental amenities continues to improve with the provision of new and improved housing, adequate refuse control and new sewage installations. The maintenance of the high standards of food hygiene, of which the district can be proud, has continued. This has been achieved by careful work in the past, and by continued vigilance in the present.

Work on the joint sewage works scheme for Kings Sutton, Charlton and Aynho started towards the end of the year. There are still some further necessary schemes and it is to be hoped that these will be completed in the not too distant future. Adequate housing is being provided and this district has a splendid record in its provision for the elderly. Thirty five houses were improved by both Discretionary and Standard Grants. Pure water is available.

The vital statistics for the year show that there were 110 deaths. This gives a standardised rate of 9.5 compared with 10.1 last year, and with the national figure of 11.2. The total number of births was 232 (of which 12 were illegitimate) compared with 258 last year, and showing therefore a decrease of 26. There were 5 infant deaths.

There was an increase in infectious diseases from 129 last year to 302 this year. This was, however, largely due to an increase in measles notifications from 104 to 258. There were no outbreaks, no cases of dysentery or food poisoning. Infective Hepatitis has been locally notifiable in the district since July 1962, and 35 cases were notified. This year 5 people died from pneumonia, and 6 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.

It remains necessary, however, to maintain a watchful eye particularly in relation to food borne infection and to continue to keep a high level of immunisation in the community. Personal hygiene and high standards in the storage and preparation of food, are the most important factors in controlling the former, while for the latter it is necessary for parents not to neglect to have their children immunised to diphtheria, poliomyelitis, whooping cough, tetanus and smallpox, not forgetting the necessary booster immunisations. Tuberculosis vaccination follows later - in the early teens. It is probable that next year vaccination against measles will be available and this almost universal and often unpleasant disease will be eliminated, thus saving much distress to children and expense to the economy.

Each year conditions improve and even in remote rural areas amenities are now available. Standards of health are high and the condition of our children from infancy to school leaving is probably the highest that has ever been achieved in our history. There remain, however, many challenges to be met among which are mental illness, the enigma of cancer, rheumatic diseases with its allied affection of joints, bones and muscles, and the disturbing trend in the increase of early degenerative disease of the arteries. By controlling environmentally caused disease, much ill-health is prevented. Some illnesses can also now be delayed or even prevented by individual care. I list these latter conditions as my report, while seeking to provide a statistical account of the health of the district is also, in part, a vehicle for health education; in some conditions by modification of faulty living habits and by exertion of certain disciplines, ill health may be averted. Cigarette smoking is the most relevant in this context. The relationship of the habit and lung cancer, its association with chronic bronchitis and coronary heart disease, has now been universally accepted. The facts are known, yet the habit persists and probably consumption is increasing. The exhortations of health educators are failing and where there is no immediacy of danger, the public response is apathetic.

The majority of infectious diseases can now be either prevented by immunisation or averted by hygiene, early diagnosis and treatment by the many antibiotics now available. However, food borne infection causing inflammation of the intestinal tract is still a common occurrence. Regular inspection and the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations must be aided by personal action. Carelessness in food handling is often responsible for spread of infection. The keystone to prevention lies with individual personal hygiene, particularly in those who handle or prepare food, in adequate cooking of all meat, fish and poultry, and in careful storage of all foods.

Though people are living longer the death rate among middle-aged males remains too high. This is due to deaths from arterial disease resulting in coronary thrombosis, strokes and from cancer. The prevention of early arterial disease is a problem which now besets all civilised communities. It is a condition of multiple causes known and unknown, some of which are hereditary. Of those known facts, the salient one is that early arterial disease is not so evident in those who take regular physical exercise. Increasing transport, highly urbanised communities and sedentary amusements such as television, all contribute to a failure to take sufficient exercise. In addition food is abundant, highly refined and of a high calorie content, and many people have developed the habit of eating in excess of their needs. Excessive calorie intake without the compensatory effect of exercise combine to cause the degenerative condition which takes its toll from a valuable section of society who are at the time of life when their experience can contribute much to the community. Young people should be encouraged to be active in all forms of sport and physical exercise, to eat less sweets, ice-creams and other starchy foods and this habit should continue throughout life, modifying the exercise to be appropriate with the years.

In the field of mental health there appears, in spite of the benefits of the Welfare state, to be little evidence that mental or psychiatric illness is diminishing. The increase in delinquency, in drug taking, crime, divorce and cruelty to children indicate that the community, though experiencing increasing material prosperity, is still lacking in maturity and stability.

The present generation of young adults now manifest a degree of robust physical health never previously seen, and the majority are leading useful and energetic lives. However, high pay, increasing leisure, together with their superabundant energy can cause a few to seek diversions that are both harmful to themselves and anti-social to others.

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 ready co-operation in the supplying of information.

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..

September 1968.

SECTION A

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 1967

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,360
Number of separate dwellings occupied in 1967. (This figure includes dwellings on Crown property not shown in previous Reports).							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,354
Rateable values at 1st. April, 1967.	...	...	...	...	...	...	£311,291
Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1967.	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 1,295

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	114	106	220
Illegitimate	6	6	12
			<u>232</u>

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population. Area comparability factor = 1.22)

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
21.3	18.0	17.2

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS (per cent of total live births)

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>
5.2	7.07

STILL BIRTHS

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

STILL BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 live and still births)

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
17	15.0	14.8

DEATHS (per 1,000 population. Area comparability factor = 1.15).

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
9.5	10.1	11.2

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

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate -	-	5	5
Illegitimate -	-	-	-
			<u>5</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births).

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
22	18.00	18.3

Legitimate (per 1,000 legitimate live births).

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>
22	18.03

Illegitimate (per 1,000 illegitimate live births).

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>
NIL	12.59

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

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
17.2	11.41	12.5

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births).

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
17.2	8.97	10.8

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths).

<u>Brackley R.D.C.</u>	<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
34	24.00	25.4

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Cerebral haemorrhage and prematurity.	-	1
Intra cranial haemorrhage.	-	1
Multiple congenital anomalies.	-	1
Congenital heart disease.	-	1
Haemolytic disease of the newborn.	-	1
		<u>5</u>

<u>DEATHS FROM:</u>							
	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	18 (Lung Cancer 4)	
"	"	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	
"	"	Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	
"	"	Coronary Thrombosis	...	...	...	36	
"	"	Strokes	...	...	...	14	
"	"	Car Accidents	...	...	...	4	

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	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infectious and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	-	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	4	-	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	5	4	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	-	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	9	5	14
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	...	...	...	24	12	36
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	-	2	2
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	2	4	6
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	-	2	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	3	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	1	6
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	2	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	2	8	10
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	1	4
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	-	2	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	-	-	-
36.	Homicidal and operations of War	...	...	...	-	-	-
TOTALS:					60	50	110

In a review of the causes of death the primary concern is to assess which could have been prevented. In the main, people are living longer and the majority of deaths are those which occur in the older age groups, and are primarily caused by degenerative disease of the arteries and the cancers, still the inevitable concomitants of the ageing process. However, coronary thrombosis, strokes and cancer of the lung are major causes of death in the middle aged male taking an increasing toll from men in their prime and at a time when they are making a major contribution to society. These are unnecessary deaths, and must be a serious cause of concern. Apart from a few who inherit a tendency to early arterial disease the condition results mainly from sedentary life. Certain groups are not affected, and these are men who take regular exercise. Farmers, postmen, gardeners and bus conductors are known to have a lower incidence of coronary disease than commercial travellers, business executives and bus drivers. The message is clear but few heed it. Regular exercise, throughout life should be the universal practice, and all members of society from childhood to old age should remember this precept. With the mechanisation of industry and increasing motor transport, the need for physical activity is ever diminishing. It is therefore increasingly necessary that leisure instead of being sedentary should involve the taking of some form of pleasurable exercise.

The mass production of highly refined food, its year round availability, and the means to purchase has enormously increased food consumption. This combined with lack of exercise, resulting in an excess of calorie intake over energy output is the probable major factor in cause of early arterial disease, the stress of modern life adding perhaps a further cause. Obesity needs now to be regarded as a major hazard to health particularly in males who are more prone than females to arterial disease. Females are however affected equally with men after the menopause.

Nationally this year again 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; in 1966, 27,013 and in 1967, 28,250; 23,946 males and 4,304 females. The relationship between heavy cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung has been firmly established. Yet each year thousands of young people start to smoke and many others continue to indulge in heavy cigarette smoking. Health education in this field appears to have failed and the public response to a habit which is pleasurable and where there is no immediacy of danger is apathetic.

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 and in 1967, 7,319 died. 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. Since the introduction of the breathalyser there would appear to be, so far, a decrease of 8% of deaths.

Confirmed figures regarding accidents in the home for 1967 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 5 deaths from pneumonia; 6 from bronchitis and 1 from other respiratory diseases.

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, 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 whom I thank for his ready co-operation at all times.

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. There is an ambulance station in Brackley.

(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 who 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.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

National Assistance Act, 1948 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951:

No action was necessary under section 47 during the past year.

The following provide services for old people.

1. National Health Service
 - (a) General Practitioner.
 - (b) Hospital and Specialist Services, including the Almoner Service.
2. The County Council
 - (a) The Health Department
 - (i) District Nurses
 - (ii) Health Visitors
 - (iii) Home Help Service. The Home Help Service is of inestimable value in the prevention of breakdown in the aged, and many are able to remain in their own homes who would otherwise have to be removed to institutions. Several old people were kept under observation during the year.
 - (b) The Welfare Department
 - (i) Part III accommodation and homes
 - (ii) Special Services for the Blind, etc., and home fittings where necessary.
3. The National Assistance Board

Financial help where necessary.
4. The District Council

Homes for the aged, flats, and in some cases flatlets with Warden supervision.
5. Voluntary Organisations

These are many and services vary in different areas. They include holiday schemes in which old people are taken on seaside holidays in off-season times; the Darby and Joan Clubs; "Meals on Wheels" Service; the Home Visiting. The Women's Voluntary Service very often undertakes many of the above duties, while in other areas local voluntary committees run the various organisations. The Rural Communities' Council, together with the Old People's Welfare Committee, provide co-operation between the various services.

Your Medical Officer of Health, having a special interest in the welfare of the aged, and by virtue of her appointment both to the District and the County Council, and by her relationship with other medical colleagues, endeavours to fulfil the function of co-operation and co-ordination between these many agencies. Many cases of breakdown can be prevented by early application of these services.

Voluntary organisations have also requested your Medical Officer to give lectures and talks, and each invitation received is accepted and fulfilled.

The following clubs have kindly provided these reports of the activities of their clubs and I am most grateful to them. The voluntary organisers who give so freely of their time to this worthwhile activity are fulfilling an important and necessary function and are gratefully thanked for their services.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB, AYNHO. Secretary, Mrs. S.A. Stevens, who has supplied this report.

Our club has a membership of 30, this includes a small number of helpers. On an average 6 of our members go each year to Clacton.

The club meets once a fortnight and during these afternoons they play cards, etc., have occasional entertainment and tea is provided.

Over the past twelve months we have had four day outings, a trip to Oxford Pantomime, a successful Jumble Sale which provided an excellent Christmas Party, also a kind invitation to dinner and entertainment at the local Great Western Arms.

BODDINGTON OVER 60 FRIENDLY CLUB. Chairman and Correspondent, Mr. F. Mason; Treasurer, Mrs. Mabel Davis. Report supplied by Mr. F. Mason.

This club was founded in 1961 and its membership is 30 in 1968. Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30p.m.. The weekly subscription is 3d.. Members contribute 3d. towards a raffle and also pay 3d. for tea and biscuits.

Club outings average six a year including a visit to a theatre followed by a Christmas Dinner.

During the last year or two we have visited Bournemouth, Brighton, Minehead, the Pennines with calls in Matlock and Buxton. Other places included the Cotswolds, the Malvern area, the Spalding Bulb Fields and Wales.

The Members arrange Jumble Sales, Bingo sessions, plus a draw at Christmas under the Small Lottery Act.

We also run the Health Department Chiropody Scheme.

CHACOMBE OLD PEOPLES CLUB. The Secretary, Mrs. E. Bricknell, supplied the report.

We have 45 members who are provided with a Chiropody Service also tea, Bovril, Ovaltine and Horlicks at reduced prices.

As we have no Village Hall our activities are limited. We hold a monthly afternoon meeting in members' houses when we play Bingo, etc. and an evening Whist Drive each month in the village schoolroom. Prizes and refreshments are provided by the Committee.

In July we arranged an outing to Windsor and high tea was provided before returning home. At Christmas we had a small party and each member was given a large parcel of groceries.

We raise funds for these events with sales and a monthly draw.

HELMDON OLD PEOPLES WELFARE ASSOCIATION. Chairman, Mr. H. Gulliver; Treasurer, Miss Nicholls; Secretary, Mrs. H. Seckington. Mr. Gulliver has supplied this report.

This association is a well established organisation and has been functioning for many years.

Members are invited to pay an annual subscription of 1/- which entitles them to full benefits, although the Committee have the welfare of all elderly people in the village as their concern.

Each member of the Committee has a section of the village as their responsibility and carry out regular visitation of the elderly in their homes, to be of whatever help and service they can.

A chiropody and chimney sweeping service is provided and coal is distributed at Christmas. During the winter months a monthly social gathering has been arranged and through the summer, evening and half day trips are organised. Various commodities are supplied at reduced rates to members of the Association.

The financial requirements are met by various social efforts, carol singing etc. which are well supported by the village.

MIDDLETON CHENEY OLD FOLKS WELFARE COMMITTEE. President, Mrs. A. Green; Treasurer, Mr. A. Bain; Secretary, Mrs. M. Bain, who has supplied this report.

The Old Folks Club has a membership of 150. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month and the average attendance is 80. Tea is served and concessionary foods sold to all members.

In June an outing was arranged to Cheltenham where a hot lunch was served, followed by a tour round the Cotswold villages. 143 members took advantage of this outing, costing 2/6d. each.

In October we had our Harvest Exhibition and Sale. Entries from members were of a very high standard particularly from those over 70. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Pettifer, the wife of the County Councillor for our area. The goods were then sold to raise money to finance the outing and Christmas Party.

In January the Christmas Party was held, members sat down to a meat tea with trifle and mince pies to follow. During the evening we were entertained by the Cherwell Valley Players and Middleton Cheney Women's Institute. All the old folk in the village not able to attend received a parcel of food.

We also have a chiropodist now able to attend the old folks.

SYRESHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB. President, Mrs. W.M. Cunningham; Hon. Secretary, Mr.P.J. Bradbury; Hon. Treasurer, Mr.P.J. Westcott, who has supplied this report.

This club was formed in November 1965 and has a membership of 60.

Meetings are held fortnightly in the village hall, where games are arranged, tea and cakes are provided free by the Ladies Committee, together with a rota amongst the village for cakes, etc..

During the summer months bus tours, canal and river trips, visits to theatres and pictures are arranged. A week's holiday at the seaside is arranged with the County Authorities for those who wish to participate.

We obtain and sell at reduced rates tea, Oxo and Ovaltine. Advice is given to members regarding welfare, insurance, etc.. We also arrange a car pick up for the handicapped.

I would state that all members greatly appreciate the club and all that can attend meetings and outings do so.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Most parishes are adequately sewered and provided with modern sewage disposal works. Work on the proposed joint scheme for Kings Sutton, Charlton and Aynho started towards the end of the year. This will serve a joint population of some 2,500 persons and the estimated cost is £222,200.

A scheme for Marston St. Lawrence was submitted in outline to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in October 1965 but they are continuing to withhold their approval to allow the scheme to proceed. It has now been suggested that when the Greatworth Stage II. scheme is submitted to the Ministry that their authority is sought to proceed with the two schemes as a joint contract. The local investigation into the proposed scheme for Upper Middleton Cheney was held in July this year and following this the Ministry required certain minor modifications to be made to the scheme which have been incorporated in the detailed design. Formal approval for the scheme to proceed has now been given by the Ministry.

A scheme to enlarge the existing works at Croughton was submitted to the Ministry in July this year and the result of a local investigation made by the Ministry's Inspector is awaited.

Although outline survey work has been carried out for Hinton-in-the-Hedges and Radstone there is no further progress to report at present.

The scheme for Thenford is still in abeyance.

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 consists of storage, sedimentation, super-chlorination, rapid sand filtration and accelator-chloramination. The water is non-plumbo-solvent and Fluoride was not added to the water in 1967. The natural fluoride content of the water is about 0.2 parts per million.

The quality and quantity of the water as supplied to this district was found to be satisfactory generally. The cause of the failure of the samples taken at Thorpe Mandeville showing numbers of coliform organisms could not definitely be established. Both the Water Board and the Health Department took many extra samples until the infection eventually disappeared. The system was thoroughly examined physically by the Board without any defects being found; the village mains were flushed and additional chlorine added to the local reservoir. This contamination like others discovered during sampling at Greatworth and Helmdon was of a local and transient nature.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF MAINS WATER TAKEN BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTORS WITH RESULTS OF EXAMINATION.

<u>Parish or Village</u>	<u>Number taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Aston-le-Walls	2	2	-
Aynho	3	3	-
Boddington	4	4	-
Chacombe	3	3	-
Chipping Warden	2	2	-
Croughton	3	3	-
Culworth	3	3	-
Edgcote	-	-	-
Evenley	11	11	-
Eydon	3	3	-
Farthinghoe	3	3	-
Greatworth	11	10	1
Helmdon	6	5	1
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	1	1	-
Kings Sutton	5	5	-
Marston St. Lawrence	3	3	-
Middleton Cheney	8	8	-
Moreton Pinkney	3	3	-
Newbottle	5	5	-
Radstone	3	3	-
Sulgrave	3	3	-
Syresham	6	6	-
Thenford	2	2	-
Thorpe Mandeville	29	25	4
Warkworth	2	2	-
Whitfield	3	3	-
	<u>127</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>6</u>

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS SUPPLIED WITH MAINS WATER AS AT 31.12.67.

Aston-le-Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Aynho	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Boddington	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
Chacombe	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Chipping Warden	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Croughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Culworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Edgcote	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Evenley	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
Eydon	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Farthinghoe	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Greatworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Helmdon	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Kings Sutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	515
Marston St. Lawrence	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Middleton Cheney	...	...	...	...	...	...	877
Moreton Pinkney	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Newbottle	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Radstone	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sulgrave	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Syresham	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Thenford	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Thorpe Mandeville	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Warkworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Whitfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>3,917</u>

COPY OF RESULT OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF MAINS WATER

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

Water Analysis Results Expressed in Parts per 1,000,000.

Received on: 3rd October 1967.
From: Brackley R.D.C.
Description: Mains water from Skaigh House, Evenley. 3.10.67.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.061
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.16
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	40.5
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.4
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4hrs	...	...	...	...	1.2
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	380
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0
pH	...	...	...	...	6.95
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.12
Radioactivity	...	...	...	...	-
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	534 microhms.

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality, and in the presence of a small quantity of free chlorine we consider it to be suitable for use for drinking purposes.

(signed)

BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY.
Public Analysts.

Private Water Supplies (non-mains).

By request, 11 samples of private water supplies were taken for bacteriological examination. In two cases only was the result satisfactory. Where practicable the owners concerned with the unsatisfactory samples are induced to take the mains supply.

Caravans Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

Although much has been said recently in the national press and on the air concerning problems presented by gypsies and other travellers in areas up and down the country, they have caused very little trouble in this district during the year.

There are 27 caravans permanently stationed on 16 sites each of which is satisfactorily maintained and complies with the requirements of this Act. During 1967 the Health Inspectors made 29 visits to these caravans.

At Chacombe a caravan was stationed without previous application for a licence, although the individual concerned had received a warning to apply after the caravan was first observed. Legal proceedings under the Act were taken, but on the morning of the hearing the caravan was discovered to have been moved away. The Justice made a general adjournment with the proviso that should the caravan return to the site the case could be resumed without the issue of a new summons. This was not a very satisfactory conclusion as the site has now deteriorated into an unsightly condition. The matter has been referred to the County Council as planning authority for such action as they consider necessary.

Schools.

The school at Thorpe Mandeville was closed permanently during the year. The other 19 schools are visited by the Health Inspectors mainly for sampling milk and water and for inspections of school canteens.

Each school is equipped with modern amenities and appears well maintained.

Smoke Abatement.

The few factory premises existing in this district gave no trouble in the emission of smoke or ash as to cause a nuisance.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

As mentioned on previous occasions there are unfortunately no such facilities provided within this area. The public swimming pools in the neighbouring towns of Banbury and Brackley are no doubt supplying the needs of those persons from this district who desire to swim or learn to do so in safety.

Verminous Premises.

Only one case of house fleas, was dealt with in premises owned by the Council.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of house refuse is made at approximately weekly intervals and is disposed of by tipping at Greatworth and Moreton Pinkney. This service is carried out under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor and has worked smoothly and efficiently throughout the year. At each tip infestation by flies and rodents was kept under reasonable control.

Factories Acts.

The following table on page 24 gives the factories at present in the district with the number of visits made to them and any contraventions which were discovered at that time.

Outworkers.

We have no factories in this district employing outworkers. The Borough of Banbury has notified 3 outworkers as working in their homes in this area for factories in Banbury. The homes of each of these was found clean and satisfactory when visited by the Health Inspectors.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

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.	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	25	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	22	26	-	-

Factories Act 1961. (continued).

2. Cases in which defects were found.

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

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

SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSPECTORS VISITS TO PREMISES 1967.

Inspections - Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	426
Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspections - Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	229
Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of Public Health Notices Complied With	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	193
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	26
Factory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factory Notices Complied With	...	...	...	...	...	3
Building Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	15
Interviews with Owners, Builders etc.	...	...	...	...	...	85
Offices and Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	166
Improvement Grants Enquires and Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	12

Visits to:-

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	124
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	36
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	79
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	265
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	91
Cafes and Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	52
Itinerant Food Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	5
Schools and School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	72
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	3
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	29
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	14
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	13
Food Notices Complied With	...	...	...	...	...	12

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED 1967.

Drainage, sewerage and sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	40
Insanitary accumulations and disposal of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	8
Insanitary Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	4
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisance from keeping animals	...	...	...	...	...	4
General housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	79
Food and Milk	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	11

STATEMENT OF HOUSING REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS DEALT WITH DURING 1967

Completely reconditioned as a result of statutory action by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	9
Improvements to private houses principally installation of bathrooms and W.C.s. and connections of drains to sewers	...	...	...	...	...	56

NUISANCES ABATED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.

Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage and sewerage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	40

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

All registered premises have been visited by the Health Inspectors. The number on register is 40 employing 129 persons, 63 males and 66 females. Generally the premises were considered to be reasonably satisfactory and complying with the requirements of the Act. No complaints were received from employees regarding working conditions and none was found upon inspection during the year. No accident was notified by any employer.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

THE PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

Council Houses

The number of new dwellings built by the Council this year was 25, providing 14 units at Chipping Warden and 11 at Middleton Cheney.

In addition the Council completed the reconditioning of a block of sub-standard stone cottages at Evenley to provide 2 dwellings in keeping with the character of similar cottages around Evenley Village Green.

Approximately 7 acres of land was purchased near the centre of Middleton Cheney and a scheme is being prepared which will provide for approximately 80 units of accommodation on this site.

The Council also commenced negotiations with private developers to purchase the remaining 6 bungalows on an estate of 12 bungalows at Croughton; six of these were purchased by the Council in 1966.

The Council acquired Astrop Grange, a large country house, in Kings Sutton and it is proposed to convert this into some 20 units of accommodation for old people.

Modernisation of Council Houses.

The improvement of pre-war Council houses continues, and from the total of 346 dwellings which lacked internal W.C.s. and a supply of hot water only 58 remain to be improved.

Private Enterprise Houses.

The number of dwellings built by private enterprise during the year was 128; this is 33 fewer than in 1966.

SLUM CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

As will be seen by the table on page 29 the rate of slum clearance is now fairly constant.

Towards the end of the year a start was made on a further survey of the District with a view to implementing the provisions of the Housing Act 1964. This Act seeks to require the improvement of houses up to the Standard Grant level in designated areas. As the survey proceeds no doubt homes will be found which have deteriorated since the first slum clearance survey in 1954 and which could now be classed as "unfit for habitation". However, in this District most of these houses, if they are in stone, possess a 'character' which cannot easily be replaced and it is pleasing to note that they are becoming more and more sought after and reconditioned. It is to be regretted that the financial support from central government for the purchase by the Council and consequent reconditioning of these properties compares unfavourably, in some instances, with the subsidy received for a new Council House.

Many of these houses being small and often conveniently near the centre of a village could provide homes for our ageing population.

SLUM CLEARANCE

<u>Number of dwellings</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
a. Demolished	6	6	9	8	6	6
b. Closed	8	7	3	4	2	4
c. Made fit for habitation following formal action under the Housing Acts.	5	9	13	8	8	9

Other Changes in the stock of Private Dwellings

The following causes resulted in a decrease in the stock of private dwellings by 7.

	<u>No. of dwelling units.</u>
Changed to agricultural use.	1
Becoming derelict and demolished.	1
Demolished to make way for other development.	3
Nett loss resulting from the conversion of dwellings.	2
	<hr/> 7

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year applications for Improvement Grants were approved for the improvement of 35 dwellings; 16 by way of Standard Grants and 19 Discretionary Grants.

STATEMENT OF HOUSING PROGRESS.

PROVISION OF COUNCIL DWELLINGS.

	Pre-War and War-time dwellings.	Post-War dwellings.	Sub-standard dwellings acquired and reconditioned.	TOTAL
Aston-le-Walls	16	5	-	21
Aynho	-	30	6	36
Boddington (Upper & Lower)	6	23	-	29
Chacombe	17	21	-	38
Chipping Warden	-	59	-	59
Croughton	8	25	-	33
Culworth	21	21	-	42
Edgcote	-	-	-	-
Evenley	-	13	4	17
Eydon	12	13	-	25
Farthinghoe	10	20	-	30
Greatworth and Halse	16	41	-	57
Helmdon	16	44	-	60
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	-	6	-	6
Kings Sutton	66	180	-	246
Marston St. Lawrence	6	16	-	22
Middleton Cheney and Overthorpe	71	217	-	288
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:	349	844	10	1203

STATEMENT OF HOUSING PROGRESS

PROVISION OF COUNCIL DWELLINGS

	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	TOTAL
Whitfield	1	1	1	3
Northworth	1	1	1	3
Thorne Handville	8	8	8	24
Thornford	1	1	1	3
Thorncliffe	1	1	1	3
Newcliffe and Chapton	18	17	17	52
Northon Parkway	8	8	8	24
Middleton Cheney and Overcharge	17	17	17	51
Winton St. Lawrence	1	1	1	3
Kings Sutton	180	180	180	540
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	1	1	1	3
Healdon	18	18	18	54
Greatworth and Halses	18	18	18	54
Partington	10	10	10	30
Rydon	18	18	18	54
Evenley	1	1	1	3
Edgote	1	1	1	3
Colworth	21	21	21	63
Crofton	8	8	8	24
Chipping Norton	1	1	1	3
Chacombe	17	17	17	51
Reddington (Upper & Lower)	6	6	6	18
Aynho	1	1	1	3
Ashton-le-Walls	18	18	18	54
TOTALS:	369	364	364	1103

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

Generally.

The relentless visitation of all premises where food for public consumption is sold has continued throughout the year. It has been mentioned in earlier Annual Reports - and I repeat yet again - there is no substitute for competent routine inspection for achieving and maintaining a satisfactory standard of food establishments.

Because so much time is devoted to this branch of public health work one sometimes feels a little discouraged to find that bad habits and mishandling is still much too prevalent amongst those people whose job it is to deal with the preparation and sale of our food-stuffs. Much more requires to be done in the endeavour of breaking down these bad habits but this presents a problem to which the answer is doubtless health education. But trying to educate the food operative requires much time and tact on the part of the official and all too frequently co-operation or appreciation is reluctant on the part of those persons engaged in the food trade.

Public health officials often discuss the merits and demerits for registering food premises which seems somewhat paradoxical whilst untrained employees are still allowed to work in food premises. Just as food equipment is tested before use so should employees pass a test in basic food service principles. If this were done then physical and hygienic requirements in food premises should take care of themselves. Such a progressive step is likely to be dismissed by many as being impracticable. The certificating or licensing of employees would, in turn, eliminate the need to register premises for they would all be staffed by professionals. We have a long way to go in personal education of the food handler.

Details of the Various Food Premises in the District are as follows:-

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Public Houses and Inns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Distributers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

Of the above food premises, 45 are registered for the sale of ice cream and 9 for the sale of preserved foods.

All the food premises comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations and therefore are provided with hand washing facilities (Regulation 16) and facilities for washing food and equipment (Regulation 19).

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

It is important to know that foods and drinks for sale for public consumption are not only clean and free from harmful bacteria but are satisfactory from the chemical aspect and do not contain any adulterants. Years ago many foods were adulterated in various ways and especially was this so in regard to milk which was often found to contain added water or from which milk fat was extracted before sale to the customer. Also, foods contained certain chemical constituents which could prove harmful when consumed. Others were not what they were purported to be as inscribed on the label affixed to the food container or as appeared in the sale advertisement of the food. Some unscrupulous food traders were intent on actually defrauding the public. Such malpractices have now been almost eliminated by taking samples for chemical analysis. Whilst most of the larger public health authorities are also the food and drugs authorities so far as rural districts are concerned the County Council is usually charged with this duty and this is so in respect to our own rural district.

Samples taken in the Brackley Rural District by the Northamptonshire County Council are shown on page 36. I did express an opinion in my previous report, and for the reasons mentioned at that time, that this work could be taken over by the local health inspector provided, of course, that adequate staff is available at the time.

Ice Cream

The popularity of this food appears still to be on the increase and is consumed all the year round. The number of registered premises where ice cream is stored and sold is now 45. Visits to these places totalled 91 and all are suitable and comply with the Regulations. Results of the 33 samples taken were:- Grade I, 18; Grade II, 9; Grade III, 6; and Grade IV, 0. It was not possible to discover the reason for the 6 Grade III samples but after promptly following up by the taking of check samples these were found to be satisfactory. Ice cream samples within Grade I and Grade II are considered to be satisfactory. One ice lollie sample was taken and this was satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD SPECIMENS

Details of the results are shown in the table below:-

<u>Food Specimen</u>	<u>Result of Examination</u>
Sausage roll unwrapped.	No member of the Salmonella or Shigella groups isolated. Staph. aureus not isolated. Cl. welchii not isolated.
Steak and Kidney Pie.	No member of the Salmonella or Shigella groups isolated. Staph. aureus not isolated. Cl. welchii not isolated.
Pork Pie.	No member of the Salmonella or Shigella groups isolated. Staph. aureus not isolated. Cl. welchii not isolated.
Unwrapped Beef Sausages.	Heavy growth of Staph. aureus. No member of the Salmonella or Shigella groups isolated. Cl. welchii not isolated

<u>Food Specimen</u>	<u>Result of Examination</u>
Wall's skinless pork sausages.	No member of the Salmonella or Shigella groups isolated. Staph. aureus not isolated. Clostridium welchii not isolated.
Pork sausages.	A heavy growth of Staph. aureus. No members of the Salmonella or Shigella groups isolated. Clostridium welchii not isolated.
Beef sausages.	Very scanty growth of staph. aureus. No member of the Salmonella or Shigella groups isolated. Cl. welchii not isolated.
Beef sausages.	No member of the Salmonella, enteric dysentery or food poisoning groups isolated.
Pork sausages.	No member of the Salmonella, enteric dysentery or food poisoning groups isolated.
Beef sausages.	No member of the Salmonella, enteric dysentery or food poisoning groups isolated.
Pork sausages.	No member of the Salmonella, enteric dysentery or food poisoning groups isolated.
Beef steak pie with Kidney.	Plate Count: Less than 1,000 organisms per gram. Culture: No growth. (the specimen appeared to be sterile).
Meat Pie.	Plate Count: Less than 1,000 organisms per gram. Culture: No growth. (the specimen appeared to be sterile).
Pressed Beef.	Plate count: 800,000 organisms per gram. Culture: No Salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food-poisoning organisms isolated.
Pork sausage.	Plate count: More than 5,000,000 organisms per gram. No Salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food-poisoning organisms isolated.

Food SpecimenResult of Examination

Beef sausages	Plate count: More than 5,000,000 organisms per gram. Culture: No Salmonella, dysentery, enteric or food poisoning organisms isolated.
Cooked ham.	Plate count: More than 5,000,000 organisms per gram. Culture: No Salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food-poisoning organisms isolated.
Cooked ham.	Plate count: Approx. 200,000 organisms per gram. No Salmonella, enteric, dysentery or food poisoning organisms isolated.
Cooked ham.	Plate count: 2,000 organisms per gram. Culture: Staph. albus only.
Cooked ham.	Plate count: 50,000 organisms per gram. Culture: Staph. albus & Strep. viridans.
Pork sausages.	Plate count: Approx. 650,000 organisms per gram. Culture: Bact. coli, Bact. anitratum, Staph. albus & Paracolon organisms.
Cooked ham.	Plate count: 60,000 organisms per gram. Culture: Staph. albus, Bact. anitratum, Paracolon organisms, and non-haemolytic strepto-cocci.
Savoury Duck.	Plate count: 8,000 organisms per gram. Culture: Staph. albus & a Paracolon organism.
Cooked ham.	Plate count: 1,000 organisms per gram. Culture: Staph. albus, Bact. anitratum & a Paracolon organism.
Bacon.	Plate count: 10,000 organisms per gram. Culture: Staph. albus only.

Some of these results, to say the least, are rather disturbing and clearly indicate the necessity for more sampling of this nature to be carried out by the health inspectors.

At the premises where a heavy growth of staphylococcus aureus was found in pork sausages the butcher admitted that a member of his staff was subject to boils on his neck but had never been stood off from work for this reason. It might well have been this person who was responsible for this food poisoning organism in the sausages. Fortunately, most people prefer sausage adequately cooked which may destroy any pathological organisms present but apparently staphylococcus aureus produces toxins which are heat resistant so there may be a risk of infection to the consumer even after cooking the sausages.

In the case of cooked ham where high plate counts were shown one must remember that this food is usually eaten without further preparation.

Often unsatisfactory sample results tie up with places and persons where mishandling or bad habits or poor personal hygiene has manifested itself.

SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st. MARCH, 1968, BY THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT.

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drinking Chocolate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Products	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grapes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Products	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Medicaments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Orange Drinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Starch Reduced Rolls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Table Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75

The above samples were taken for the purpose of finding out whether any of the foods were adulterated or were not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser. In addition a total of 6,220 articles of food were checked for weights or measure.

MILK SUPPLY

A dairy in this district closed down during the year. The customers are now supplied by a firm in a neighbouring town who bring in the milk daily.

All milk retailed in this area is heat-treated. Most being pasteurised and only a small proportion supplied is sterilised. There is no treatment plant in this district.

The number of milk distributors under licence is 14. There was one deletion and two additions this year.

The public health inspectors made 36 inspections at milk premises and took seventeen samples, a considerable proportion of which were obtained from schools. Results of this sampling are:-

<u>No. of samples taken.</u>	<u>Result of Test.</u>					
	Methylene Blue.		Phosphatase.		Turbidity.	
	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.
Pasteurised Milk.						
16.	13	3	16	-	-	-
Sterilised Milk.						
1	-	-	-	-	1	-

No trouble was experienced with dirty milk bottles during transport and no complaint was made at the offices concerning milk distribution in this district. Again I am able to report that milk supplied to consumers in this area may be considered as safe and satisfactory.

It has not been possible for the department to sample milk for the presence of antibiotics but this is a matter which should be considered for action in the future.

MEAT INSPECTION

No slaughterhouses are operating in this district and all carcase meat displayed for sale in the local butchers shops is inspected previous to its delivery from outside sources. Nevertheless a watchful eye is kept on this meat by your own inspectors.

CONDEMNED FOODS

Only 6lbs 3ozs of Neck of Pork was surrendered and destroyed due to abscesses.

FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD

Complaint was received alleging that plain flour bought in a packet in this district contained some substance which caused a "grating" sensation when in contact with the complainant's teeth. A quantity of this flour had been used in the making of a Yorkshire pudding and this was when the grating sensation was first discovered. The flour when examined visually looked normal and when quantities were rubbed with the fingers the substance also felt normal. But when a quantity was mixed with water the grating sensation was very pronounced on the utensils. The flour was despatched to the Public Analyst who eventually stated in his report that "the sample contained a considerable amount of cleansing powder consisting of aluminum-silicate together with an anionic detergent. The sample was not fit for human consumption nor was it of the substance demanded". The matter was taken up with the manufacturers of the flour who stated that it was impossible for such a contamination to enter the flour at their factory. This statement was corroborated by a report received from the public health inspector for the town in which the factory is situated and which receives frequent inspections by members of his staff. The retailers shop in this district, which supplied the flour to the complainant, also seemed an unlikely place where the contamination had entered the flour which was stored in sealed packets and not near to any stock of detergent. The complainant was emphatic that no detergent could have gained access to the flour at his home. Just how or at which place the contaminant did get mixed with the flour could not be established so one is left to form ones own conclusions. The important point being that no one apparently came to any harm. Results of further sampling of packets of the suspect flour proved negative.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - SECTION 16

Places registerable under this Act are butchers where sausages and pickled or preserved meat is manufactured. Also places where ice cream is sold. There are at present 9 Butchers and 45 Ice Cream shops. All are subject to frequent inspection.

INNS AND HOTELS

Many of these now prepare and serve meals and therefore receive visits to ascertain if they comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations which they usually do apart from a minor contravention which is encountered from time to time but quickly remedied.

By and large these establishments attain a good standard and are no trouble to the department. There are 32 such places which have received 131 inspections during the year.

FOOD POISONING

Reference to this subject is dealt with under section F of this Report.

SECTION F.

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 302 an increase of 178 on last year's figure. This was largely due to an increase in the incidence of measles which continues to show its biennial pattern. There were also 35 cases of infective hepatitis, twenty five of which occurred during the months of January and February.

MEASLES. This highly infective illness from which few individuals escape has its incidence almost exclusively during childhood. It usually follows a biennial incidence, with high numbers occurring in alternate years. The course of the illness is almost invariably benign, but complications which include otitis media, pneumonia, eye infections and very occasionally encephalitis do occur, and the illness itself is often severe. Complications can be effectively dealt with by the many antibiotics which are now available, but these drugs are themselves not all without side effects, are expensive and involve medical supervision. An effective measles vaccine has now been developed and it is anticipated that this will be available for general use during the course of the next year, and it is anticipated that in future years measles in common with poliomyelitis and diphtheria will be virtually eradicated.

WHOOPING COUGH. There were 7 notifications. Acceptance rate to immunisation is high and the incidence of this condition is low. Cases still occur as immunisation is not completely effective, however in the majority of children who have received immunisation the illness is usually mild.

SCARLET FEVER. Two cases were notified which occurred in separate parishes. This disease continues to exhibit its mild phase. The principal interest in its notification is that it gives some 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 It is pleasing to record that no cases were notified during the year.

The condition is usually caused by one of the Salmonella organisms, of which there are a large number. The commonest strain being that of typhimurium. Salmonella infection is common in bovines, and the incidence of infection on farms is now notified by the Divisional Veterinary Officer to the Medical Officer of Health. Farm workers are then warned of the possibility of human infection, and given details of hygiene precautions to prevent incidence in themselves or their families.

Other causes of food poisoning are staphylococcus which may gain entry to food from an infected spot on the face, hands or arms of a food handler which may cause a severe form of the illness. As the symptoms result from a toxin which is unaffected by heat, cooking the infected food, in this case does not prevent the illness. More rarely typhoid fever, botulism or chemical contaminants may occur. However the commonest germ is the salmonella which gains entry into food because of the faulty personal hygiene of food handlers. The sources of infection are numerous, probably uncooked contaminated (often imported) meat being today 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. Thirty-five 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 a jaundiced 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 1967.

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	...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	...	9	1	34	80	75	21	29	8	1	-	-	258
Whooping Cough	...	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Food Poisoning	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	10	15	5	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	35
Poliomyelitis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	...	19	21	43	81	77	21	29	10	1	-	-	302

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis).

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Scarlet Fever ...	-	8	3	4	7	2	4	7	5	2
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	1	4	1	3	4	1	-	-	1	-
Measles ...	111	108	36	234	3	160	161	79	104	258
Whooping Cough ...	3	17	5	3	-	10	4	-	9	7
Food Poisoning ...	1	-	-	-	5	-	7	1	1	-
Dysentery ...	-	7	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis (Not notifiable until 5 1962)					5	9	1	1	4	35
Poliomyelitis ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1967.

(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	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aynho	...	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
Boddington	...	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
Chacombe	...	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Chipping Warden	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croughton	...	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	1	-	38
Culworth	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edgcote	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evenley	...	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	3	-	10
Eydon	...	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Farthinghoe	...	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Greatworth	...	1	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Helmdon	...	1	-	37	4	-	-	-	-	-	42
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kings Sutton	...	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	22	-	49
Marston St. Lawrence	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Middleton Cheney	...	-	-	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	22
Moreton Pinkney	...	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Newbottle & Charlton	-	-	-	23	2	-	-	-	1	-	26
Radstone	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sulgrave	...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	6
Syresham	...	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Thenford	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Mandeville	...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Werkworth	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitfield	...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS:	2	-	-	258	7	-	-	-	35	-	302

TUBERCULOSIS

Age incidence of New Cases during 1967.

		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
<u>Age Periods</u>					
<u>Years</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		2	-	-	-
65 and over		-	-	-	-
TOTAL:		2	-	1	-

Total cases on the Register at the end of the year is 80

<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>	
32	27	14	7	46	34	= 80

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.

Although the number of complaints of rodent infestation increased to 79 this year, as against 55 the previous year, the situation generally throughout this year was again reasonably quiet. There were no major infestations requiring attention and most of the work was spent in dealing with rats. Few complaints were received of mice infesting premises.

Apart from attending to routine inspections and the servicing of agricultural premises under contract with the Council, of which there are now 45, an increase of 5 over the previous year, your Rodent Operative carried out the bi-annual checking of all the sewers in the district which entailed the check baiting of sewers in 28 villages. This work commenced on June 6th. and was completed by October 24th. during which period he also gave attention to other matters of rodent control which included the farm premises. In each village at least 10% of the manholes on the sewers were baited when evidence of slight rat infestation was discovered in the villages of Aynho, Evenley, Eydon and Syresham. The sewers at these villages were thoroughly treated and kept under observation until all traces of rats had been eliminated.

The disastrous outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which broke out this year has fortunately not so far reached this district and it is hoped we shall continue to escape this scourge. Nevertheless, the case which occurred at Quinton in Northamptonshire had far reaching effects and virtually stopped all visits to agricultural premises in this district by the Rodent Operative for several weeks both before and after Christmas 1967. This situation is now gradually getting back to normal in this area and visits by the Rodent Operative to farms have been resumed on a reduced scale - usually at the request of individual farmers.

The normal warfarin bait has been used throughout the year and continues to be most effective in the destruction of both rats and mice.

Once again it has been unnecessary to take any formal action under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, which is the Act which governs this important work performed by local authorities. This reflects credit on your Rodent Operative, Mr. Readman, who is a popular officer with those who receive his services. He continues to discharge his duties with satisfaction and efficiency.

Details of this work are given in the statement on the following page.

Number of treatments undertaken

Sewers, sewerage disposal works and ditches and hedgerows	107
Refuse tips (including roadside "lay-bys" and unofficial tips)	42
Farms and smallholdings	154
Private dwellings	44
Business premises (factories, shops etc.) and schools	16
Total number of visits made to premises including visits for survey purposes.	1448

Quantity of material used

Oatmeal with Warfarin 3180 lbs.



