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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

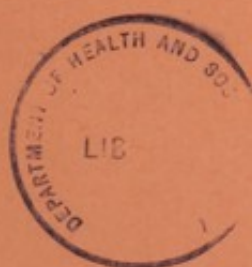
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

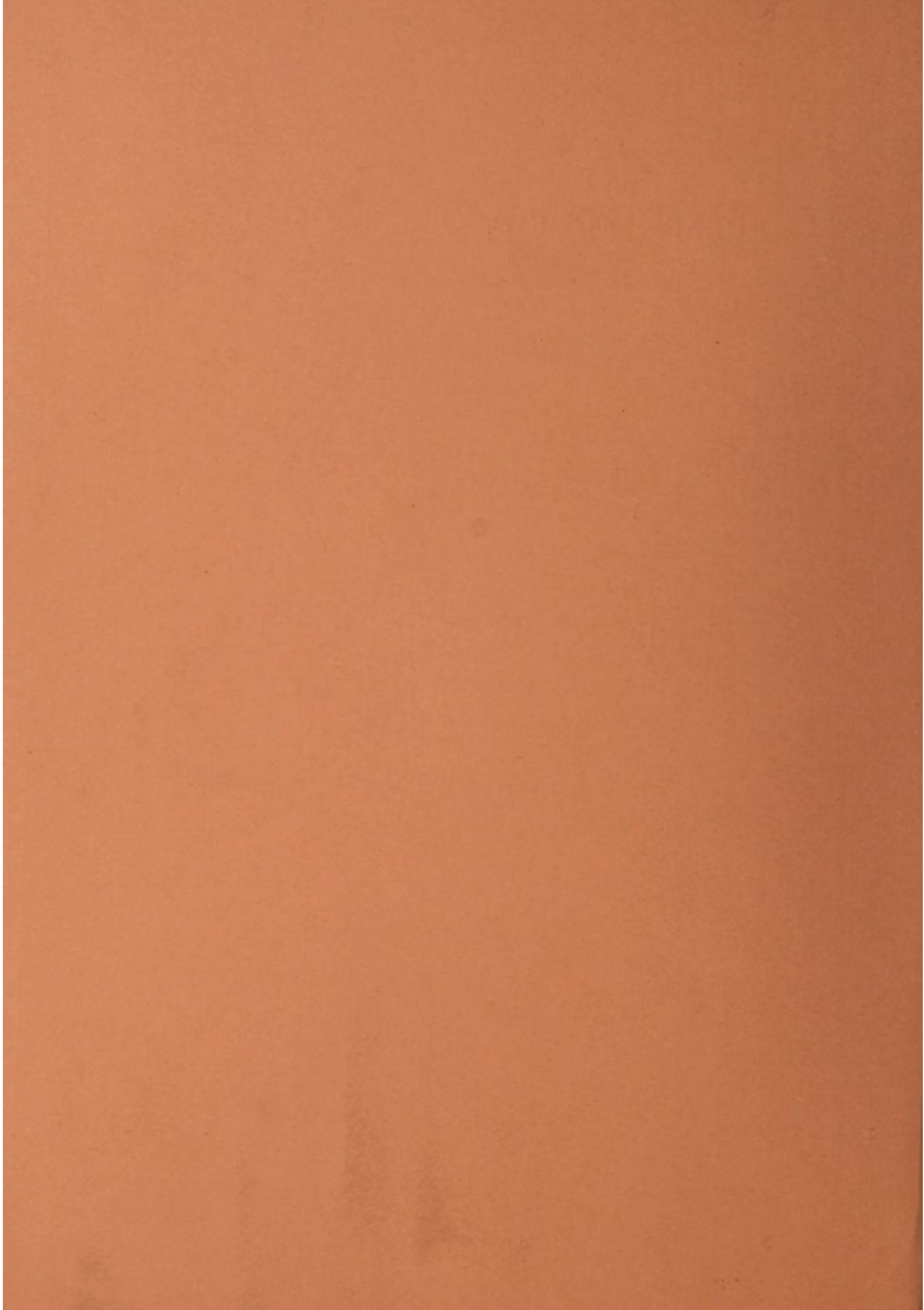
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1968



JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS



BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN: MR. E. A. EDMUNDS.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs. I. S. Forrest.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Mason.

Councillors: Mr. B. A. B. Bathe.

Mr. H. Gulliver.

Mr. P. W. Henn.

Mr. W.F.Land.

Mr. R. C. Nightingale.

Mr. L. S. Prosser.

Mr. E. T. Westlake.

Rev. Sir C. W. Wigram. Bt..

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

FRAGMENTS BY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: MR. R. H. W. MURDOCH, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: MR. F. A. HODGKIN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. I. G. Forrest.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. H. Mason.

Committee:

Mr. B. F. H. B. B. B.

Mr. M. Collier.

Mr. P. H. B. B.

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The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are 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 for 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,
Northamptonshire County Council, and from 1st. October 1967,
Acting Medical Officer of Health for Higham Ferrers Borough,
Rushden, Raunds and Oundle U.D.Cs. and Oundle and Thrapston R.D.C..

Public Health Inspector:

W.E. Turbitt, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.. (Retired 3rd. April, 1968).

Public Health Inspector:

N.R. Caley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.. (From 4th. April, 1968).

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector:

Mrs. S.A. Spiers.

Rodent Operative:

Mr. W.G. Readman.

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 Public Health Inspector. The report serves two functions, the first to give, in detail with statistics, the state of the environmental health control of the district; the second to provide some comment on general trends which show evidence of affecting health adversely either now or in the future.

The environmental health continues to improve and this year has been particularly satisfactory with little infectious disease and no outbreaks. Standards and provision of housing are being maintained and for general housing needs, the Council built 3 bungalows at Chipping Warden and 1 bungalow and 2 houses at Aston-le-Walls. A survey of the district is being undertaken to ascertain the number of houses which are unfit for habitation, and lacking in basic amenities. By the end of the year the parishes of Farthinghoe, Croughton, Syresham and Upper and Lower Boddington had been surveyed. Details of these surveys are given on page 37. Refuse collections, sewerage provision and maintenance have all been satisfactory. The district also has an excellent record in its provision of housing for the elderly; work started on the conversion of Astrop Grange, Kings Sutton, for accommodation for old people. When completed there will be provision for 9 self-contained flats, with community rooms for recreational facilities together with a warden's home and 12 bungalows in the grounds.

The Council continues its policy of providing sewerage works as expeditiously as financial restrictions and other circumstances will allow. Work continued throughout the year on the major combined sewage disposal scheme for the parishes of Kings Sutton, Charlton and Aynho.

The vital statistics for the year show that there were 126 deaths. This gives a standardised rate of 10.6 compared with 9.5 last year, and with the national figure of 11.9. The total number of births was 259 (of which 13 were illegitimate) compared with 232 last year, and showing therefore an increase of 27. There were 10 infant deaths compared with 5 last year.

There was a decrease in infectious diseases from 302 last year to 143 this year. There were no outbreaks, no cases of dysentery or food poisoning. Infective Jaundice has been locally notifiable in the district since July 1962, and 6 cases were notified as compared with 35 last year. This year 7 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 been vanquished.

The incidence of infectious disease was, apart from measles, low. There were 128 cases of measles. During the year measles vaccination was introduced for special groups and it is to be hoped that the incidence of this hitherto universal disease, often severe and causing both distress and complications, may now decline. It continues to be necessary, however, to maintain a watchful eye in relation to infectious diseases generally. Should standards fall infection could recur. This is particularly important in relation to a high public response to immunisation which in many areas is too low. Parents are reminded that it is vitally important to have their children immunised to diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus, whooping cough, smallpox and now measles when offered, not forgetting the necessary booster immunisations. Tuberculosis vaccination follows later - in the early teens. Infections which are food borne are also far too prevalent, and a high standard in the sale, preparation and storage of food must be maintained. Clean milk, pure water, and efficient meat inspection is also essential. These standards are sustained by constant inspection, exhortation and sampling by the local authority but the public themselves must co-operate both in refusing to accept unsatisfactory practices in shops and cafés and by keeping strict methods in their homes and in their own personal hygiene.

While the environmental situation in relation to health improves annually new problems arise. A rising population together with an affluent, highly mobile society are producing new environmental problems, the solution of which will cause many further challenges. The quantity of refuse increases annually together with the problem of its future disposal. Additional housing and the modernisation of older properties giving everyone a piped water supply and suitable sewage disposal has added to water consumption and emphasised the continual need for modern methods of sewage control. Increasing ownership of motor cars, and transportation by road of goods requires adequate motorways and presents the tragic problem of death and mutilation from road accidents. The pollution of rivers and water courses by insecticides and other chemicals, the

mass production of food using factory farming methods and chemical additives, the universal use of detergents, atmospheric pollution, the increase of noise in cities, all present new problems which could be as hazardous to health as the infectious diseases of the past.

In relation to personal health, while children and young adults have never been healthier, and people are living longer there remain many problems, both of preventable disease, and in the relief of suffering. The causes of some fatal and other crippling diseases are as yet unsolved. There remains the enigma of cancer, and that of the rheumatic diseases with its allied afflictions of bones, joints and muscles. However, many illnesses are preventable, and these depend now less on the control of the environment than on the life the individual chooses to lead. It is our duty to observe the trends and then to inform. This information should be clearly stated, repeated constantly and the advice should give cogent reasons for its acceptance. It is disturbing to note that at the present time the tendency is for warnings to be ignored. The future health of the community will depend increasingly on the response to these facts.

In no other field is the message clearer than in the individual choice of whether to smoke or not. It is probable that 50,000 deaths a year in Great Britain are caused from cigarette smoking not only from cancer of the lung, the annual total of which is steadily rising, but from coronary thrombosis, chronic bronchitis and pneumonia; should such a toll of death and suffering be caused by any other preventable illness, a massive machinery would be demanded to prevent it. There has been recently a national campaign, with much pressure on the government to institute cervical cytology testing, yet cervical cancer is causing less than 3,000 deaths a year. The facts relating to smoking and lung cancer are now well known, yet the message is ignored, and it is probable that the only section of the community who are smoking less are the medical profession. Cigarette smoking is a habit, becoming in some an addiction where there is no apparent immediacy of danger and when abstinence requires a sustained effort over many years with little apparent benefit. In addition the tobacco industry is world wide involving capital, employment and governments obtain large revenues from taxation. Economic problems could result should the habit cease. Large amounts of capital are used to promote advertising, while the puny efforts of health educators with infinitesimal reserves at their disposal go unheeded. Individuals therefore remain apathetic for lack of clear initiative. The

efforts of the medical profession must continue and the need for action be assiduously pressed.

In assessing illnesses which can be preventable, while smoking is a habit which can be accepted or refused, the prevention of early arterial disease is more complex. There is evidence however, that cigarette smoking may contribute to the incidence of coronary thrombosis. However, the early onset of arterial disease in males would appear to be increasing in all civilised countries in the world. Men are dying or being crippled in their prime, at the time of their greatest contribution to society, and while their commitments to their families are still high. The causes of arterial disease can only be inferred, and like cancer, these may be multiple. Some are known to be hereditary. Of the known facts the salient ones are that the incidence is lower in those who have taken regular physical exercise throughout life, and in those who are not obese. Modern life with its tendency to lessen physical exertion, with abundance of many highly refined foods increase both these factors. Thus excessive calorie intake without the compensatory effect of exercise combine to cause this early degenerative condition. It is disturbing now to consider that many young people are starting to smoke earlier than their predecessors, cease to take any form of regular exercise on leaving school and often eat excessively. Perhaps the early onset of coronary thrombosis of epidemic proportions may occur in the next or succeeding generations, should not urgent measures be taken to prevent such a catastrophe.

In the field of mental health, in spite of the relief of poverty and its attendant anxieties, there is little evidence of improvement. Indeed, the incidence of crime, the new problem of drug addiction together with disruption of family life by the increased divorce rate, in sexual permissiveness and cruelty to children indicate that our society, while experiencing both more material prosperity and physical comfort, remains immature and lacking in stability. However, I believe the present generation of young people to be the most physically sound of any yet produced, are probably the best educated, and indeed the great majority are leading useful and energetic lives. A minority only are seeking those diversions which are harming both themselves and others.

In April 1968, Mr. W.E. Turbitt retired after 28 years service with this Council. By his courteous approach to the public, his integrity and careful attention to all public health matters he maintained the high tradition of this service. His particular

interest, that of food hygiene, he practised with diligence and by assiduous perseverance achieved a high standard in the district. Mr. Caley succeeds him and has now taken over the department single handed with extra clerical assistance. I thank him for his good work throughout the year, and for his help in the compilation of this report. I extend also my thanks to the Clerk and Chairmen of the Council and the Public Health Committee for their interest and help and accord the County Medical Officer of Health my thanks for his ready co-operation in all matters throughout the year.

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..

October, 1969.

SECTION A

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT

The 91 square miles of the District are devoted almost entirely to agriculture with 329 agricultural holdings of more than 1 acre. There is only one factory of appreciable size which specializes in the packing of products, mainly of the motor industry, for export.

The District is on the eastern edge of the Cotswolds and much of it lies above the 400ft. contour line; here are the headwaters of the Cherwell and Great Ouse rivers.

The 26 parishes contain picturesque villages each with its beautiful church, manor house and stone cottages. Many of the inhabitants are employed in the neighbouring towns of Brackley and Banbury and further afield in Oxford, Coventry and Northampton and the natural growth of these towns has increased the pressure for houses in this attractive rural area. It is to be hoped that the fixing of village boundaries together with reasonable planning development will prevent the villages being spoilt by extensive urbanisation.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 1968

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area in acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58,132 |
| Population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13,680 |
| Number of separate dwellings occupied at 1st April, 1968 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,500 |
| Rateable value at 1st April, 1968 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £331,636 |
| Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1968 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £ 1,362 |

LIVE BIRTHS

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 127 | 119 | 246 |
| Illegitimate | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| | | | <u>259</u> |

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population).

| | <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> | <u>England & Wales</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Adjusted Rate | 23.06 | 18.8 | 16.9 |
| Crude Rate | 18.9 | | |

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS (per cent of total live births)

| <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5.02 | 7.2 |

STILL BIRTHS

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

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

| <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> | <u>England & Wales</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7.6 | 12.45 | 14.0 |

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

| <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 137 | 124 | 261 |

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under one year) see page 11.

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| | | | <u>10</u> |

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)

| | <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> | <u>England & Wales</u> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 38.6 | 19.0 | 18.0 |

Legitimate

| <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 36.58 | 19.94 |

Illegitimate

| <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 76.9 | 25.35 |

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births)

| <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> | <u>England & Wales</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19.3 | 12.77 | 12.3 |

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week of age per 1,000 live births)

| <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> | <u>England & Wales</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 15.4 | 9.62 | 10.5 |

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths & deaths under 1 week of age)

| <u>Brackley R.D.C.</u> | <u>Northamptonshire</u> | <u>England & Wales</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 22.9 | 21.95 | 25.0 |

MATERNAL MORTALITY

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

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS:

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Respiratory infections | 1 | 2 |
| Multiple burns | 1 | - |
| Diaphragmatic hernia | 1 | - |
| Congenital abnormalities | 2 | 1 |
| Prematurity | 2 | - |
| | <u>7</u> | <u>3</u> |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| <u>DEATHS FROM:</u> | Cancer (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | 20 (Lung cancer 5) |
| " | " | Pneumonia | ... | ... | 7 |
| " | " | Bronchitis | ... | ... | 4 |
| " | " | Coronary Thrombosis | ... | ... | 33 |
| " | " | Strokes | ... | ... | 13 |
| " | " | Car Accidents | ... | ... | 5 |

DEATHS (see table on page 12) Total ... 126

DEATH RATE (per 1,000 population)(area comparability factor = 1.16)

Brackley R.D.C.

England & Wales

10.6

11.9

THE REGISTERED CAUSES OF DEATH WERE:-

| Causes of death. | Males | Females | Totals |
|---|-------|---------|--------|
| Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Malignant Neoplasm - Breast | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other Malignant Neoplasm, etc.. | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Avitaminoses etc.. | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.. | 1 | - | 1 |
| Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease | 1 | - | 1 |
| Hypertensive Disease | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease | 20 | 13 | 33 |
| Other Forms of Heart Disease | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | 4 | - | 4 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System | 2 | - | 2 |
| Peptic Ulcer | - | 1 | 1 |
| Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Congenital Anomalies | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.. | 2 | - | 2 |
| Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality | 1 | - | 1 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| All Other Accidents | 2 | - | 2 |
| Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries | 2 | - | 2 |
| TOTALS | 76 | 50 | 126 |

In a review of the causes of death the primary concern is to assess which could have been prevented and in the district out of the total of 126 deaths, 41 occurred before the age of 65 with a further 25 between 65-75. There were 10 infant deaths. This is higher than usual and the causes of their deaths are listed on page 11. In the next 5 decades up to age 45, there were only 10 deaths. Between 45-55, 8; and 13 deaths between 55- 65. In the latter two decades the causes were mainly ischaemic heart disease (coronary thrombosis) and cancer. 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; in 1967, 28,250; 23,946 males and 4,304 females; and in 1968, 28,826; 23,896 males and 4,930 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 and in 1968, 6,810 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 7% of 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 7 deaths from pneumonia; 4 from bronchitis and emphysema and 2 from other respiratory diseases.

Confirmed figures regarding accidents in the home in 1968 have not yet been published but provisional figures indicate a general worsening of the situation. A report published in the Home Safety Journal in July 1969 giving details of home accidents in 1967 is given on the following pages (with acknowledgement to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).

HOME ACCIDENT DEATHS IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1967

The total number of accidental deaths in and around the home in Great Britain in 1967 was 7,909. There were 6,722 deaths in private homes and 1,187 in residential institutions. Thus there were 674 (or 7.9 per cent) fewer fatalities than in 1966. It was in fact the lowest total for ten years.

Home accident deaths constituted over 38 per cent of all accident fatalities in 1967, and accounted for 1.3 per cent of deaths due to all causes.

The annual totals of home accident fatalities in England and Wales and in Scotland for the ten years 1958-67 are given in the table below.

In England and Wales there was a reduction of 7.2 per cent compared with the previous year. In Scotland deaths decreased by 11.9 per cent.

| Deaths | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| England & Wales | 7,001 | 7,010 | 7,030 | 6,882 | 7,627 | 8,024 | 7,370 | 7,330 | 7,470 | 6,929 |
| Scotland | 1,156 | 1,147 | 1,115 | 1,262 | 1,297 | 1,275 | 1,276 | 1,157 | 1,113 | 980 |
| Total | 8,157 | 8,157 | 8,145 | 8,144 | 8,924 | 9,299 | 8,646 | 8,487 | 8,583 | 7,909 |

The second table gives an analysis of the 1967 figures according to cause, age-group and sex. Death rates per 100,000 population are also given.

In the four main cause categories fatalities showed a reduction compared with 1966, although deaths due to 'other' causes increased. Deaths to children aged 5-14 numbered the same as before, and in the age-group 45-64 years there was a slight increase.

| Cause of death | Age-group (years) | | | | | Sex | | Total |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| | 0-4 | 5-14 | 15-44 | 45-64 | 65 &+ | Male | Female | Deaths |
| Poisoning | 33 | 13 | 316 | 494 | 624 | 637 | 843 | 1,480 |
| Falls | 78 | 12 | 75 | 336 | 3,906 | 1,252 | 3,155 | 4,407 |
| Burns & Scalds | 123 | 45 | 60 | 135 | 428 | 325 | 466 | 791 |
| Suffocation & Choking | 526 | 7 | 71 | 74 | 64 | 421 | 321 | 742 |
| Others | 114 | 38 | 115 | 89 | 133 | 288 | 201 | 489 |
| Total | 874 | 115 | 637 | 1,128 | 5,155 | 2,923 | 4,986 | 7,909 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Death Rate* | 18.8 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 8.5 | 77.5 | 11.2 | 18.1 | 14.8 |
|-------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|

*Deaths per 100,000 population

Sixty-five per cent of the deaths in 1967 were in the age-group 65 and over. Eleven per cent of the total fatalities were to children under five years old. The annual figures of home accident fatalities in Great Britain for the five years 1963-67, analysed according to cause, are given in the following table:-

| Cause of Death | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Poisoning | 2,124 | 1,782 | 1,697 | 1,719 | 1,480 |
| Falls | 4,830 | 4,641 | 4,538 | 4,660 | 4,407 |
| Burns & Scalds | 1,058 | 886 | 872 | 951 | 791 |
| Suffocation & Choking | 792 | 896 | 900 | 812 | 742 |
| Others | 495 | 441 | 480 | 441 | 489 |
| Total | 9,299 | 8,646 | 8,487 | 8,583 | 7,909 |

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all specimens 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.
Cottage Hospital, Brackley.
Northampton General Hospital.

Infectious Diseases

Slade Isolation Hospital, Oxford.
Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton.

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 Services

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 Service

(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 Department of Health and Social Security.
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 sea-side 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.

It is hoped to include from time to time, reports of the activities of the various clubs in the district.

3. The Department of Health and Social Security, and the
Homes for the aged, etc., and to some extent the
various voluntary organizations.

4. The District Council
Homes for the aged, etc., and to some extent the
various voluntary organizations.

5. Voluntary Organizations
These are many and services vary in different areas. They
include holiday schemes in which old people are taken on sea-
side holidays in off-season times; the Daisy and Jean Clubs;
'Meals on Wheels' service; the Home Visiting Scheme; the
Voluntary Service very often undertake many of the above
duties, while in other areas local voluntary committees run
the various organizations. The Rural Committee's 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-ordi-
nation and co-ordination between these many agencies. Early action
of provision can be prevented by early application of these services.

It is hoped to include from time to time, a detailed list
of the various clubs in the district.

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SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply

The statutory undertakers who supply water to this District are the Bucks Water Board. The main source of supply is the River Great Ouse at Buckingham supplemented by water from the Mid-Bucks Water Board.

Treatment consists of storage, sedimentation, super-chlorination and accelerator-chloramination. The water is non-plumbo solvent and fluoride content at the last chemical analysis was 0.12 parts per million.

Almost every part of the District is within reach of the supply but there are, of course, a few isolated farms which must rely on private supplies. Due to the increase in house building in the district it has been found necessary to increase the capacity of the supply and the Water Board, this year, laid a 12 inch main through part of the district terminating at Marston St. Lawrence.

The supply is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity and I am pleased to report that all the 70 samples taken during the year throughout the district by the Public Health Inspector were bacteriologically satisfactory.

Two samples of the supply taken at different times of the year were sent for chemical analysis. The analyst's report and comments are given on pages 24 and 25.

A statement of the number of dwellings in each Parish supplied with mains water is given on page 23.

There are no public stand pipes in the district but a very small number of houses are served with water from taps outside the house.

Samples from 10 private supplies were taken at the request of the respective owners. Almost without exception such supplies showed some degree of contamination, were potentially dangerous and the owners were therefore advised on the measures for purification. It is interesting to note that two natural springs in the area, the Lions Head Spring at Chacombe and the Bog Well at Kings Sutton, have been reported upon as being bacteriologically satisfactory for several years.

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

| <u>Parish or Village</u> | <u>Number taken</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Aston-le-Walls | 2 |
| Aynho | 2 |
| Boddington | 4 |
| Chacombe | 1 |
| Chipping Warden | 4 |
| Croughton | 2 |
| Culworth | 2 |
| Evenley | 9 |
| Eydon | 2 |
| Farthinghoe | 2 |
| Greatworth | 4 |
| Helmdon | 4 |
| Hinton-in-the-Hedges | 2 |
| Kings Sutton | 4 |
| Marston St. Lawrence | 1 |
| Middleton Cheney | 5 |
| Moreton Pinkney | 2 |
| Newbottle | 3 |
| Radstone | 2 |
| Sulgrave | 2 |
| Syresham | 3 |
| Thenford | 1 |
| Thorpe Mandeville | 3 |
| Warkworth | 1 |
| Whitfield | 3 |
| | <hr/> 70 <hr/> |

All the above samples were satisfactory.

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS SUPPLIED WITH MAINS WATER AS AT 31.12.68.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Aston-le-Walls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Aynho | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 223 |
| Boddington | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 161 |
| Chacombe | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 136 |
| Chipping Warden | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 193 |
| Croughton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 165 |
| Culworth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 146 |
| Edgecote | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | NIL |
| Evenley | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 147 |
| Eydon | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| Farthinghoe | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 106 |
| Greatworth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 187 |
| Helmdon | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 226 |
| Hinton-in-the-Hedges | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Kings Sutton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 517 |
| Marston St. Lawrence | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 |
| Middleton Cheney | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 934 |
| Moreton Pinkney | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 98 |
| Newbottle | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 147 |
| Radstone | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Sulgrave | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 129 |
| Syresham | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 173 |
| Thenford | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Thorpe Mandeville | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| Warkworth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Whitfield | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>4,122</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: 22nd. May, 1968.

From: Brackley R.D.C.

Description: Mains water from 37, The Green, Evenley. 22nd. May, 1968.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| Appearance: | ... | ... | ... | ... | Bright, few small particles. |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.056 |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.12 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40.8 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5.0 |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27° C. in 4 hrs.. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.2 |
| Total Solids dried at 100°C | ... | ... | ... | ... | 380 |
| Nitrite Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| pH | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7.25 |
| Free Chlorine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.15 |
| Radioactivity | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| Electrical Conductivity at 20°C. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 452 microhms/cm ³ . |

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality. Having regard to the presence of available chlorine and the satisfactory bacteriological condition reported to us, we are of the opinion that the water, in its present condition, is safe for use for drinking purposes.

(signed)

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY.
Public Analysts.

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: 16th. October, 1969.

From: Brackley R.D.C..

Description: Mains water from 37, The Green, Evenley. 16.10.68.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| Appearance | ... | ... | ... | Bright, few small particles. |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | 0.01 |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | 0.033 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | ... | ... | ... | 38.7 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | 1.4 |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hrs.. | ... | ... | ... | 1.5 |
| Total Solids dried at 100°C. | ... | ... | ... | 505 |
| Nitrite Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| pH | ... | ... | ... | 7.05 |
| Free Chlorine | ... | ... | ... | 0.03 |
| Radioactivity | ... | ... | ... | - |
| Electrical Conductivity at 20°C. | ... | ... | ... | 585 microhms/cm ³ . |
| Fluoride, F. | ... | ... | ... | 0.12 |

The above results show that this water is organically of fair quality. Having regard to the presence of available chlorine and the satisfactory bacteriological condition reported to us, we are of the opinion that, the water, in its present condition, is safe for use for drinking purposes.

(signed)

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY.
Public Analysts.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council have continued their policy of improving and modernising the sewage disposal system in each village as expeditiously as financial and other circumstances will permit. Hence, most villages are adequately sewered and provided with modern sewage disposal works.

Work has continued throughout the year on the major combined sewage disposal scheme for the parishes of Kings Sutton, Charlton and Aynho; it is expected that the works will be in operation by September 1969.

The relatively rapid increase in recent years of private house development has resulted in unsatisfactory conditions as regards sewage disposal in some villages. In particular in the parish of Middleton Cheney the old works for Upper Middleton Cheney are grossly overloaded causing serious pollution and obstruction of the water-course into which the effluent discharges. The works at Croughton are similarly overloaded. I am pleased to report that approval for improvements of both these works has been given and it is anticipated that tenders will be invited early in 1969.

With regard to future improvements, additional sludge drying beds are urgently needed at Greatworth and the works at Marston St. Lawrence are overloaded. It is planned to dispense with the unsatisfactory works at Marston St. Lawrence and to divert the sewage to the works at Greatworth, in which case the works at Greatworth will need to be enlarged. Of the remaining parishes which could be effectively sewered only Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Radstone and Thenford remain to be dealt with. Preparation of a new scheme is now in progress for Hinton-in-the-Hedges where some new housing development has taken place but it is considered that the present disposal arrangements at Radstone and Thenford could be deferred until the more urgent work in other parishes has been done. At Halse in Greatworth parish, new housing development has taken place - some of the houses being drained to individual septic tanks. It is considered that with some modification the existing small works could cope with these new properties making it possible to dispense with the septic tanks.

Public Cleansing

House refuse is collected weekly from premises; this is not a kerbside collection but the empty dustbins are left at the entrance for the occupier to take back to the premises. Three rear loading compression vehicles are used and the refuse is disposed of at tips at Greatworth and Moreton Pinkney.

A special collection is made at fortnightly intervals from the more isolated premises. Trade refuse is collected on a pre-payment basis.

As an experiment a paper sack liner system of storage was introduced at Whitfield. Special paper sacks in which the refuse was placed and which fit into standard dustbins were distributed to householders. The full sack could readily be removed by the collector or the householder and replaced by a new sack liner. The system was appreciated by both the householders and the collectors but unfortunately it had to be discontinued during the current financial restrictions.

The tips at Greatworth and Moreton Pinkney have never been entirely satisfactory and in spite of every precaution nuisances have occurred from time to time due to flies, rodents and tip fires. There is in addition, the problem of finding sufficient covering material although this year local building operations provided ample top soil. Due to the disadvantages of this method of tipping the Council have under consideration the pre-pulverisation of collected refuse. This method breaks down the refuse to small particles and the resultant granular material when tipped occupies less space and is not attractive to flies and vermin. It is proposed to site the plant between Farthinghoe and Middleton Cheney and as a preliminary step the Council have purchased part of a disused railway cutting and adjoining land which should prove ideal for this purpose.

Under the Civic Amenities Act 1967 the Council have allocated land at Helmdon for the disposal of old vehicles and yearly collections are made from each village of scrap and bulky articles.

An effort was made to clear the hedgerows and highway verges of the litter which nowadays accumulates despite the Litter Act. This was done for one day each week but little headway was made; no sooner had the litter been removed than fresh litter appeared within a week.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960.

No difficulties were experienced this year in the control of caravans; there are 18 caravans on 12 licensed sites. During the year the Public Health Inspector made 45 visits to these sites. All are reasonably satisfactory and give little cause for concern.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Although there are a number of private swimming pools, in the Rural District there are none to which the general public have access. There are public swimming pools in the neighbouring towns of Brackley and Banbury. The possibility of a new enclosed swimming pool within Brackley Borough was considered and it was suggested that the cost be shared between the Councils of the County, the Borough and the Rural District, however, the project has been deferred during the current financial restrictions.

It is to be regretted that this scheme cannot yet go forward Brackley is an educational centre and many children from the surrounding district attend schools here. A modern enclosed swimming pool would be of great benefit to the children in teaching them to swim.

Smoke Abatement

There have been no complaints regarding nuisances from smoke and it has not been necessary to take any action against any industrial premises under the Clean Air Act.

Verminous Premises & Disinfestation

Four dwelling houses were disinfested for fleas. Two at the request of building contractors working in the premises and the others at the request of the occupiers. In each case cats or dogs were the cause of the infestations.

Factories Acts

The table on page 31 shows the number of factories in the district and the number of visits of inspection made. No serious contraventions of the Acts were found.

Outworkers

There are no factories in the district employing outworkers. However neighbouring authorities have notified 2 outworkers working in their homes in this area. These homes and working conditions have been inspected and found to be quite satisfactory.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963

This Act is concerned with the working conditions of persons employed in these premises. In effect it has applied the requirements of Factories Acts to office and shop workers.

The table on page 33 shows the number of registered premises in the district and the classification of the employees who work in them.

It is obligatory on the occupier of the registered premises to provide proper working conditions and to report any accidents to the Local Authorities.

Most of the premises in this area employ one or two persons and regular inspections are made of the larger premises. The contraventions of the Act were of a minor nature and no accidents were reported.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964

This Act requires the registration of any premises which are used for the storage of scrap metal which is incidental to a business.

Three applications were received by the Public Health Department during the year and all were registered.

Petroleum Storage (Petroleum Consolidation Act 1928)

The above Act prohibits the keeping and storage of petroleum spirit unless the occupier of the premises involved has a licence from the Council. The number of licences held in this district is 69. Twenty licences are for filling stations and 49 for private use.

The conditions governing the storage of petroleum are rightly very stringent and great care is taken by the Public Health Inspector that there are no serious contraventions of the Act or Regulations. The filling stations are inspected at least once a year and advice is given to all licence holders on the precautions which must be taken.

Some 30 of the underground storage tanks are now twenty years old or more and a programme of pressure testing these tanks, before the renewal of the licences, has been started.

The Department is indebted to the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Fire Brigade for his advice and assistance which are readily given at all times.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

The above Act is concerned with the welfare of animals (mainly cats and dogs) in boarding establishments. Three persons are licensed with the Council to keep animal boarding establishments. The premises are inspected regularly by the Public Health Inspector.

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 | - | - | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 21 | 18 | 2 | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises). | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 21 | 18 | 2 | - |

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> | | <u>Number of cases of which prosecutions were instituted.</u> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | | | <u>To H.M. Inspector.</u> | <u>by H.M. Inspector.</u> | |
| 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 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| TOTAL | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - |

The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1962

Total number of registered premises at 31st. December 1968. 41

Number of visits made to registered premises. 65

Analysis by Workplaces of persons employed in registered premises at end of 1968.

| | <u>No. of persons</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offices | 20 |
| Retail Shops | 57 |
| Wholesale Departments | 10 |
| Catering Establishments | 41 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | 3 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 131 (56 males, 75 females) |

The above figures relate to premises which are inspected by the Public Health Inspector. H.M. Inspector of Factories administers this Act in factories which are supervised by the Inspectorate for the purposes of the Factories Act 1961.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS TO AND INSPECTIONS OF PREMISES IN 1968

| | |
|--|-----|
| <u>DWELLINGS</u> (under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts) | 428 |
| Infectious Disease Enquiries | 13 |
| Verminous Premises | 4 |
| Disposal of Refuse | 6 |
| Council Houses | 6 |
| Noise Abatement | 3 |
| Caravans | 45 |

WORKPLACES ETC..

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Factories | 18 |
| Offices & Shops | 65 |
| Petroleum Stores | 21 |
| Schools | 26 |
| Animal Boarding Establishments | 9 |

FOOD PREMISES

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Butchers | 71 |
| Bakehouses | 9 |
| Greengrocers | 3 |
| Provision Shops | 141 |
| Public Houses | 29 |
| Catering Establishments | 43 |
| Ice-Cream Vendors | 25 |
| Dairies | 20 |
| Food Delivery Vehicles | 22 |

It was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices in respect of the above premises with the exception of statutory notices relating to unfit houses (see section D).

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED 1968

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Drainage, sewerage and sanitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Refuse | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Insanitary Conditions | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Insect Pests | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Nuisance from keeping animals | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| General housing defects | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Water supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Rats and Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 80 |
| Food | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Noise | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

For accommodation for all people and when finished the Council of ... will provide 9 self-contained flats, several accommodation, a garden's space and 12 houses to be built in the grounds.

The remaining 5 houses constructed by private enterprise at ... were required by the Council. A table showing the number of Council Houses in each Parish is shown on page 33.

Private Enterprise Houses

The number of dwellings built by private enterprise during the year was 13; this is 11 more than in 1967. The number of houses built by the Council and by Private Enterprise over the last 10 years is shown in the table on page 37.

Home Clearance and Improvement of Dwellings

Council Houses

It is pleasing to report that all the 100 pre-war Council houses have now been improved and all have bathrooms, hot water supply and internal S.C.s.

Improvement Grants (Private Houses)

During the year applications for Improvement Grants were approved for improvement of 31 dwellings; 24 by way of Standard Grants and 10 Discretionary Grants.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED 1968

| Category | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 | 1962 | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Drainage, sewerage and sanitation | 23 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Refuse | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Insect Pests | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| General housing defects | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Water supply | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Rats and Mice | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Food | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Noise | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 |

At section 10, the following complaints were received during the year 1968:

SECTION D

HOUSING

The Provision of New Houses

Council Houses

The number of new dwellings built by the Council this year was 6, providing 3 bungalows at Chipping Warden and 1 bungalow and 2 houses at Aston-le-Walls.

Work commenced on the conversion of Astrop Grange, Kings Sutton, for accommodation for old people and when finished the completed scheme will provide 9 self-contained flats, communal accommodation, a warden's house and 12 bungalows to be built in the grounds.

The remaining 6 bungalows constructed by private enterprise at Croughton were acquired by the Council. A table showing the number of Council Houses in each Parish is shown on page 39.

Private Enterprise Houses

The number of dwellings built by private enterprise during the year was 139; this is 11 more than in 1967. The number of houses built by the Council and by Private Enterprise over the last 10 years is shown in the table on page 37.

Slum Clearance and Improvement of Dwellings

Council Houses

It is pleasing to report that all the 346 pre-war Council houses have now been improved and all have bathrooms, hot water supply and internal W.C.s..

Improvement Grants (Private Houses)

During the year applications for Improvement Grants were approved for improvement of 34 dwellings; 24 by way of Standard Grants and 10 Discretionary Grants.

As stated in my last report a survey of the district is now in progress to ascertain the number of houses which are "unfit for habitation" and/or are lacking in the basic amenities of the Standard Improvement Grant.

By the end of the year the Parishes of Farthinghoe, Croughton, Syresham and Upper and Lower Boddington had been surveyed. The results of the survey are shown in the following table:-

| | <u>Unfit for habitation</u> | <u>Lacking in some or all of the Standard Grant Amenities</u> | <u>Satisfactory dwellings</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Farthinghoe | 6 | 4 | 106(30) | 116 |
| Croughton | 4 | 29 | 140(37) | 173 |
| Syresham | 6 | 29 | 114(75) | 149 |
| Boddington (Upper & Lower) | 5 | 20 | 137(29) | 162 |

The number of Council houses is shown in parenthesis.

| | <u>Provision of New Dwellings</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 |
| By the Council | 8 | 37 | 18 | 18 | 27 | 26 | 34 | 23 | 25 | 6 |
| By Private Enterprise | 30 | 26 | 26 | 75 | 111 | 168 | 126 | 161 | 128 | 139 |

Slum Clearance

| | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Demolished | 6 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 2 |
| Closed | 8 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Made fit for habitation following formal action under the Housing Acts. | 5 | 9 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8 |

Other Changes in the Stock of Private Dwellings (in addition to the above table).

The following causes resulted in a decrease in the stock of private dwellings by 6.

| | <u>No. of dwelling units</u> |
|--|------------------------------|
| Becoming derelict and demolished | 3 |
| Demolished to make way for other development | 2 |
| Nett loss resulting from the conversion of dwellings | 1 |
| | <hr/> 6 |

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 | 8 | - | 24 |
| Aynho | - | 30 | 6 | 36 |
| Boddington (Upper & Lower) | 6 | 23 | - | 29 |
| Chacombe | 17 | 21 | - | 38 |
| Chipping Warden | - | 62 | - | 62 |
| Croughton | 8 | 31 | - | 39 |
| Culworth | 21 | 21 | - | 42 |
| Edgcote | - | - | - | - |
| Evenley | - | 13 | 4 | 17 |
| Eydon | 12 | 13 | - | 25 |
| Farthinghoe | 10 | 20 | - | 30 |
| Greatworth & 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 & Overthorpe | 71 | 217 | - | 288 |
| Moreton Pinkney | 8 | 9 | - | 17 |
| Newbottle & 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 | 856 | 10 | 1215 |

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

Food Premises

Details of the various food premises in the district are shown on page 46 . 341 visits were made by the Public Health Inspector to these premises in the year.

In general improvement continues in most of the shops, and all premises comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations in respect of facilities for washing food and equipment and for hand washing. The advent of refrigeration and deep freeze appliances have done much to enlarge the range of products which the village store can offer. Unfortunately many of these shops are too small and difficult to adapt to make ideal conditions for the storage of food.

There are 14 catering establishments in the district providing full meals; all of them are efficient and the kitchens maintain a high standard. However there are often changes of staff and one is concerned that properly trained staff are difficult to obtain nowadays. It needs little imagination to envisage the trouble that could be caused by untrained personnel handling foodstuffs in an unhygienic manner even in the best equipped and well-run kitchen.

In this district much food is sold from delivery vehicles, sometimes operating from premises outside the district. Most of these vehicles are badly designed for this type of trade. The general control of them is provided by the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

It may not be generally known that neither persons nor vehicles need to be registered under these Regulations and any person may use any type of vehicle and start a food business. Among other things, the Regulations require the provision of adequate washing facilities on food delivery vehicles; it is almost impossible to install these in some of the smaller vans which are usually filled to capacity with commodities. Fortunately vehicle manufacturers are beginning to supply this demand for a purpose made vehicle and some traders, especially butchers, have acquired these properly equipped mobile shops.

It is to be regretted that local authorities have not yet been given the power to require premises and vehicles to be licenced before a food business is started. In fact persons about to start a business of this kind are often surprised upon enquiring at the Health Department, that it is not necessary for them to obtain a licence from the Council.

Consequently it is possible for property to be purchased or a delivery vehicle to be acquired which may be quite unsuitable for a food business and which may need expensive additions or alterations after the business has been started.

Milk Supply

The sale of milk within the district is controlled by the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations and the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations. Milk distributors selling milk from premises within the district are required to have their premises registered with this authority and must also hold a licence to retail milk which is now designated as "Untreated", "Pasteurised", "Sterilised", or "Ultra Heat Treated". There are 15 licence holders in the district; the licences all expire at the same time i.e.: 31st. December 1970 and applications may then be made for the licences to be renewed for a further period of five years.

Dairy farms and producer-retailers are not registered with this authority and their supervision is the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

There are no heat-treatment or pasteurising plants in the district and all milk distributed by licenced dealers is sold already bottled and capped. Most of the dealers are licenced to sell "Sterilised Milk" but in fact very little of this milk is sold in the district.

The Public Health Inspector took 52 samples of milk and submitted them for the statutory tests.

Results of this sampling are:-

| <u>No. of samples of pasteurised milk</u> | <u>Methylene Blue Test</u> | | <u>Phosphatase Test</u> | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | <u>Passed</u> | <u>Failed</u> | <u>Passed</u> | <u>Failed</u> |
| 52 | 47 | 5 | 52 | NIL |

Most of the milk samples which failed the Methylene Blue test originated from a dairy (pasteurising plant) outside this district and these failures occurred in summer. Upon investigation it was found that the bottled milk was being delivered in the early morning by the dairy to a point outside this district and left, unprotected from the heat of the sun, on the highway verge. The crates were then collected by the retailer several hours later for delivery to his customers. It was pointed out to both dairy-men that this was a contravention of the Milk and Dairies Regulations and the method of collection and delivery was altered and subsequent samples of milk satisfied the statutory tests.

A complaint was made to the department by a milk distributor in the district that of the consignment of milk he had received that morning a number of the bottles - possibly three dozen - contained what appeared to be small particles of rubber. An inspection and analysis of milk confirmed that the particles were of rubber and an investigation was made at the pasteurising plant. The result of this inspection revealed that the lining of a rubber stream hose, used to sterilize the plant, had perished and the particles had been blown into the plant. The milk to this distributor had apparently been the first "run-off" resulting in all the particles being in his consignment.

Possibly this accident could not have been prevented but the fact that the milk was despatched showed a lamentable lack of inspection on the part of the owners of the plant. However, as this was the first complaint made in this district about this dairy, the Council decided not to take proceedings but a warning was given.

Similar action was taken in respect of another complaint of a bottle of milk which obviously contained particles of foreign matter. The bottle intact was sent to the Chief Weights and Measures Inspector for examination by the Public Analyst and the report is shown on page 47. In a letter to the Council the dairy concerned explained the precautions which are taken at the dairy to prevent such an occurrence. In spite of these, this particular bottle was overlooked by at least three employees viz. the persons inspecting the bottle after washing, after filling and finally the roundsman.

Ice-Cream

This popular food continues to maintain a high standard of bacterial cleanliness and there are 44 premises registered for its sale in the district; 25 visits were made to these premises by the Public Health Inspector.

Seventeen samples were taken and graded by the laboratory as follows:-

Grade I = 15. Grade II = 1. Grade III = 1. Grade IV = 0.

Samples within Grades I and II are satisfactory. The sample in Grade III appeared to be an isolated carton; check samples from the same shop refrigerator resulted in Grade I and II samples.

Bacteriological Sampling of Other Foods.

Eleven samples were taken of pies and cooked meats from foodshops chosen at random and the foods sampled were those which are normally eaten without further cooking. The bacteriologist examined the foods for possible food poisoning organisms and also plate counted each sample as an indication of the total contamination. The results are shown in the table on pages 45 & 46. It will be seen that in nearly every case especially with the cooked ham, the contamination is far too high. This heavy contamination is caused by the unsatisfactory storage and handling of these foodstuffs. Cooked meats should be kept in a refrigerator but if it is necessary to display the product it should be protected as much as is possible by a display cabinet. Fortunately refrigerator display cabinets are becoming increasingly used, and with the advent of the "deep freezer" the general public are becoming increasingly aware of the value and need of the temperature control of food. However one can still see many shops and public houses where meat products, pies and similar foodstuffs are displayed unprotected and at ambient temperature, on the counter. Cooked meat can also be contaminated during slicing from careless and unnecessary handling by the shop assistant using his fingers instead of tongs or grease proof paper. Contamination can also occur from the machine itself as occurred in the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak.

Ideally two slicing machines should be in use; one for slicing bacon and the other reserved for cooked meats. Some of the larger shops do provide two machines but where one machine is used it should be kept as clean as possible. Similarly, if the products are sliced by hand, a separate knife should be put aside for slicing only cooked meats. This is of course of paramount importance in butchers shops where the indiscriminate use of knives for cutting raw and cooked meats will result in the cooked meats becoming grossly contaminated. An ideal arrangement would be the separation of the premises into two departments, one for cooked meats and the other for raw meat.

A complaint was investigated of minute particles of broken glass in a jar of food extract. The Public Analyst reported that the glass had broken off the top edge of the jar and could have been caused by anyone using a knife to remove the food from the bottle. The bottle was returned to the food firm concerned and they in turn, sent the bottle to the bottle manufacturers with instructions to alter the bottle mould to prevent a sharp, fragile edge being formed in the moulding process.

Sampling of Foods for Adulteration etc.

The sampling of foods for this purpose is undertaken by the County Council. A copy of the report of the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department is shown on page 47.

Meat Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses in this district but frequent inspections are made of the meat in butchers' shops in the course of routine visits to these premises. At the request of one butcher some quarters of beef were examined and found to be affected with "bone-taint", some 4 cwts of beef were rendered unsaleable.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD SPECIMENS

Details of results are shown in the table below:-

| <u>Food Specimen</u> | <u>Result of Examination</u> |
|----------------------|---|
| Pork Pie | Plate count: less than 1,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: No growth. |
| Cooked Ham | Plate count: 8,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: Light growth of Staph. aureus and light growth of Staph. albus. |
| Pork Pie | Plate count: less than 1,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: No growth. |
| Pork Pie | Plate count: less than 1,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: No growth. |
| Cooked Ham | Plate count: 1,000,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: Heavy growth of Staph. albus and Strep. viridans. |
| Pressed Beef | Plate count: 3,000,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: Heavy growth of Staph. albus only. |
| Cooked Ham | Plate count: 3,800,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: Heavy mixed growth of Staph. albus, Bact. coli and Pretens. |

Food SpecimenResult of Examination

| | |
|------------|--|
| Cooked Ham | Plate count: 1,300,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: Moderate growth of Staph. albus and Paradox organisms. |
| Pork Pie | Plate count: less than 1,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: No growth. |
| Cooked Ham | Plate count: 1,500,000 organisms per gram. Routine culture: Moderate growth of Staph. albus and Strep. faecalis. |
| Pork Pie | Plate count: less than 1,000 coli per gram. Routine culture: No growth. |

Details of Various Food Premises (by trades)

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Provision Shops. Greengrocers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Butchers' Shops & Fishmongers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Catering Establishments (including Public Houses) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Factory Canteens | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| School Canteens | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Milk Distributors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |

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

SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
31st. MARCH 1969, BY THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL -WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Milk | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Antibioticmilk | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Milk Bottle | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Almonds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Butter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Coffee Etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Fish Products | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Ice Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Lard | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Margarine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Meat Products | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Medicaments | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Preserves Etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Soft Drinks | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Tinned Fruit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>75</u> |

Remarks

A sample of milk was submitted for examination at the request of the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Rural District. It consisted of a full one pint bottle with its cap intact and it was reported by the Analyst to contain foreign matter consisting of organic debris and general dust adhering to the cap, sides and base of the bottle as well as in suspension in the milk. The report was passed to the Chief Public Health Inspector so that he could continue with his enquiries and take any necessary action.

Weights and Measures Act, 1963

Of the 3,520 articles of food which were checked for weight or measure during the period under review only 14 were found to be incorrect. Generally the errors were of a minor nature and called for no particular comment.

SECTION F

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 143 showing a decrease on last year's figure of 302. This was largely due to a decrease in the incidence of measles which continues to show its biennial pattern. There were only 6 cases of infective jaundice compared with 35 in 1967.

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 this became available for general use this year, and it is anticipated that in future years measles in common with poliomyelitis and diphtheria will be virtually eradicated. This year there were 128 cases.

WHOOPING COUGH There were 2 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 Six cases were notified, three from Culworth, two from Kings Sutton and one from Greatworth. 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 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.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE 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. Under the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 this disease has now become nationally notifiable as Infective Jaundice. Six cases were notified during the year.

Acute Infective Jaundice 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 jaundice, 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

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 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 6 |
| Diphtheria | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | ... | - | 2 | - | - | 13 | 14 | 77 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 128 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Food Poisoning | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Infective Jaundice | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 6 |
| Poliomyelitis | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 15 | 77 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 143 |

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Over the past 10 years (other than Tuberculosis)

| | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Diphtheria ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia ... | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Measles ... | 108 | 36 | 234 | 3 | 160 | 161 | 79 | 104 | 258 | 128 |
| Whooping Cough ... | 17 | 5 | 3 | - | 10 | 4 | - | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| Food Poisoning ... | - | - | - | 5 | - | 7 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Dysentery ... | 7 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas ... | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Infective Jaundice (Not notifiable until 1962) | | | | 5 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 35 | 6 |
| Poliomyelitis ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1968
(other than Tuberculosis)

In individual Parishes.

| Parish | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Pneumonia | Measles | Whooping Cough | Food Poisoning | Dysentery | Erysipelas | Infective Jaundice | Poliomyelitis | Totals |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Aston-le-Walls | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Aynho | ... | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Boddington | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chacombe | ... | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Chipping Warden | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Croughton | ... | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Culworth | ... | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Edgcote | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Evenley | ... | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Eydon | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farthinghoe | ... | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Greatworth | ... | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| Helmdon | ... | - | - | 6 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 9 |
| Hinton-in-the-Hedges | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Kings Sutton | ... | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| Marston St. Lawrence | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Middleton Cheney | ... | - | - | 103 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 104 |
| Moreton Pinkney | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Newbottle & Charlton | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Radstone | ... | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Sulgrave | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Syresham | ... | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Thenford | ... | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Thorpe Mandeville | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Warkworth | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whitfield | ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS: | ... | 6 | - | - 128 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 6 | - | 143 |

TUBERCULOSIS

There was one new case of respiratory tuberculosis in a man 27 years of age.

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

| <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> |
| 33 | 26 | 14 | 7 | 47 | 33 = 80 |

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

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

S E C T I O N G

RODENT CONTROL.

The number of requests received in the department for the services of the Rodent Operative was 89. This was much the same number as in 1967, however, most of these requests were received in the autumn when it was found that the infestations were much heavier than in previous years.

The bait used is warfarin and in some parts of the Country it has been found that rodents have become resistant to this poison. It was thought that this may be the case in this district as increased amounts of bait were having to be used, but in fact the rats were not resistant; there were just many more of them than usual.

During the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak of 1967, rodents were suspected of being one way by which the disease may spread from farm to farm; one more reason why these pests should be destroyed whenever possible. Because of this the Council sent a letter to all farmers in the district informing them of the Rodent Control Contract Service. For a fixed annual charge of £5.5.0. the Rodent Operative provides three treatments at a farm in the year. This has been found to be adequate to deal with any infestation which may occur and ensures that infestations are not allowed to build up to major infestations. There are now sixty farms serviced under this scheme.

In addition the Council abolished the charge of 5/- for the treatment of private houses. It was felt that even this small charge might prevent an infestation being brought to light. The presence of a few rats in a garden may be the fringe of a much larger infestation in the adjoining fields and hedgerows.

Mr. Readman, the Rodent Operative, has continued to discharge his duties with efficiency and zeal. As well as treating agricultural and other business premises, and dwellinghouses, he also regularly treats sewage disposal works and refuse tips. Much of his time is taken up in survey work and many infestations particularly of the hedgerows are uncovered in this way.

Details of his work are shown on the following page.

Number of treatments undertaken

| | |
|--|------|
| Sewers, sewerage disposal works and ditches and hedgerows | 60 |
| Refuse tips (including roadside 'lay-bys' and unofficial tips) | 28 |
| Farms and smallholdings | 175 |
| Private dwellings | 110 |
| Business premises (factories, shops etc.) and schools | 19 |
| Total number of visits made to premises including visits for survey purposes | 1524 |

Quantity of material used

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Oatmeal with Warfarin | 2227 lbs. |
|-----------------------|-----------|

