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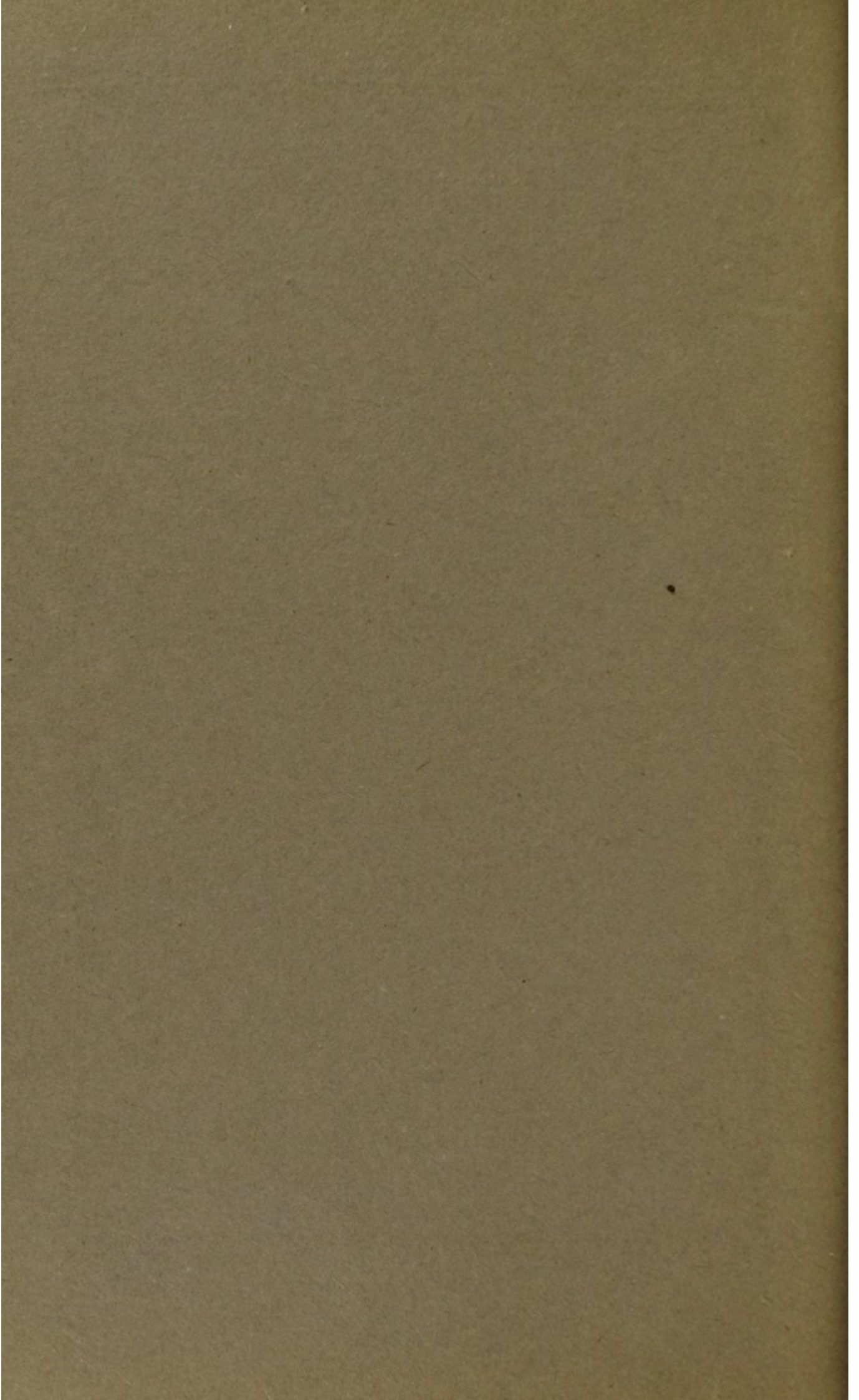
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Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Senior
Public Health Inspector
for the Year 1961



Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

THE
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1911

1911

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the
Sanitary

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1911

General

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To the Chairman and Members of the

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1961 on the health of Bradford and Melksham Rural District.

A measles epidemic following the characteristic biennial pattern occurred during the second quarter of the year with the largest total number of cases in the district during the past decade. Children in the five to nine years age group were principally affected. Happily few complications were recorded. Cases of other infectious diseases were not numerous.

This year saw the first visit to the district of the new mobile unit belonging to the Mass Miniature Radiography Service and, in consequence, more outlying areas could be reached enabling this valuable measure to be offered more readily to a less accessible public. The response showed that this was appreciated and utilized.

Additional details have been included relating to tetanus and poliomyelitis immunisation.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council and particularly the Health Committee for their encouragement and support during the year and the officials for their willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. SPELLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

P. J. SPELLER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

who is also Medical Officer of Health to Melksham Urban District and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. A. NOBLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. L. EVANS, M.A.P.H.I.

Offices:

The office of the Medical Officer of Health is 1 King Street, Melksham. Tel. Melksham 2307.

The office of the Senior Public Health Inspector is in Abbey House, Bradford on Avon. Tel. Bradford on Avon 2174.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (Acres)	...	...	...	26,868
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	13
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel)				12,920
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3,550
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£112,700
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£458

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics have been compiled from information received from the Registrar General :—

Births

Live Births

<i>Births</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	85	102	187
Illegitimate	7	2	9
Total number of live births ...	92	104	196

Birth Rate for the District (i.e., per 1,000 population) 16.7

Comparative figure for England and Wales 17.4

Still Births

<i>Births</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of still births ...	3	1	4

Still Birth Rate for the District per 1,000 total Live
and Still Births 20.0

Comparative figure for England and Wales 18.7

Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Deaths in the Area ...	60	63	123
Local Death Rate (i.e. per 1,000 population)		...	7.6
Comparative figure for England and Wales ...		...	12.0

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total number of deaths ...	—	3	3

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age (included above)

<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	—	1	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age (included above)

<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	—	1	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—Total ...	15.3
Comparative figure for England and Wales ...	21.4
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (1st four weeks)	5.1

Causes of Deaths

The causes of deaths classified according to the Registrar General's system, are given in the following table:—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	—	—	—
(other)	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic disease ...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach) ...	—	1	1
(lung bronchus) ...	2	—	2
(breast) ...	—	1	1
(uterus) ...	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	4	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—	2
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	15	25
Coronary disease, Angina	13	9	22
Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—
Other heart disease	11	10	21
Other circulatory disease	4	5	9
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	6	7
Bronchitis	7	1	8
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	2	6	8
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	—	2	2
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
Totals	60	63	123

Age and Sex Incidence of Death from Heart and Arterial Disease

THESE TABLES HAVE BEEN COMPILED FROM LOCAL INFORMATION

Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90		Over 90	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	—	—	1	—	1	3	9	4	15	14	10	12	1	5

Age and Sex Incidence of Death from Cancer

Location of Cancer	Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90		Over 90	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Bowel ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Lung ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alimentary (other than above)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Genital ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reproductive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

OUTLINE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations in the district.

The laboratory with its skilled staff, provides a most valuable service with regard to the examination of drinking water, food and milk samples, throat swabs, etc., and their willing co-operation and expert advice is much appreciated.

Hospital Facilities

The South-Western Regional Hospital Board is responsible for hospital facilities in this district.

The two hospitals in the area are a general hospital at Melksham, and a hospital for the chronic sick at Semington. Other general hospitals are situated in the neighbouring towns, with larger ones in Bath and Bristol.

The nearest hospital for the treatment of common infectious disease is Bath Isolation Hospital. The nearest Smallpox Hospital is at Bristol.

County Health Facilities

The following health services operating in the district are provided by the County Health Committee :—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Health Visiting.

Home Nursing.

Arrangements for vaccination and immunisation.

Ambulances and ambulance cars.

Domestic Helps.

Arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness; care and after-care; and health education.

Mental Health Service.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Comparison with Previous Years

<i>Disease</i>	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Scarlet Fever	6	2	1	4	5	9
Whooping Cough	24	52	4	7	7	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	126	9	191	9	332
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	3	3	3	2	—
Dysentery	—	2	—	1	30	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal infection	—	—	1	—	—	—
Salmonellosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	1	—	1	—
Tuberculosis	2	14	3	5	5	5

Number of Cases and Admissions to Hospital

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	9	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—
Measles	332	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—
Dysentery	1	1
Erysipelas	1	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—
Salmonellosis	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—
Tuberculosis	2	2

The distribution of cases according to age and sex are shown in the following tables.

Analysis under Age Groups

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Acute Poliomyelitis</i>		<i>Measles</i>		<i>Diphtheria</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
1-2 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	25	—	—
3-4 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	29	37	—	—
5-9 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	85	76	—	—
10-14 years	3	3	—	—	—	—	17	23	—	—
15-24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
TOTAL	4	5	—	—	—	—	165	167	—	—

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>		<i>Dysentery</i>		<i>Meningococcal Inf.</i>		<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>		<i>Tuberculosis</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
45-64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2

Distribution in Parishes

Parishes	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis		Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Meningo- coccal Infection	Salmon- ellosis	Tuber- culosis	Puerperal Pyrexia
Atworth	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broughton Gifford	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilperton	2	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holt	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Limpley Stoke	2	—	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melksham Without	1	—	—	—	111	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Monkton Farleigh	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Semington	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wraxall	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staverton	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood	1	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wingfield	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winsley	3	—	—	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	—	—	—	332	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—

Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis were reported.

Tuberculosis

New Cases

1956	...	...	...	...	2
1957	...	...	...	...	14
1958	...	...	...	...	3
1959	...	...	...	...	5
1960	...	...	...	...	5
1961	...	...	...	...	2

Distribution of new cases according to age, sex, and localisation of disease, is as follows:—

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—
26-35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-45 years	—	1	—	—	—	—
46-55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
56-65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	2	—	—	—	—

From the above table it will be seen that 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1961. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded.

Re-housing of Tuberculosis Patients

Cases are referred from time to time by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows:—

Certificate No. 1. Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

Certificate No. 2. Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

Certificate No. 3. Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

None of the above certificates was received during the year.

Mass Radiography

The results of the survey held in the Rural District in July are as follows:—

<i>Site</i>	<i>Total Films</i>		<i>Active Tuberculosis</i>		<i>Inactive Tuberculosis</i>		<i>Other Conditions</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
New Mendip Engineering Co. Ltd., Atworth ...	290	92	—	1	1	1	6	4
J. & T. Beaven Ltd., Holt	124	57	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enfield Cycle Co. Ltd., Westwood ...	73	20	—	—	—	—	—	1
Robbins Lane, Upper Westwood ...	4	26	—	—	—	—	1	1
Farleigh View, Lower Westwood ...	17	35	—	—	—	—	1	—
War Memorial, Winsley ...	23	39	—	—	—	—	1	—

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria immunisation is carried out systematically throughout the district by General Practitioners and County Medical Officers, in homes, schools and clinics.

Immunisation Statistics, 1961

<i>Year of Birth</i>		1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1952-56	1947-51	15 & over
Primary imms. completed during 1961	Diph.	39	61	13	4	2	18	4	—
	Wh/c.	39	61	12	4	2	8	1	—
	Tet.	39	58	8	9	4	59	11	19
Reinf. injections administered during 1961	Diph.	—	4	21	13	11	108	11	—
	Wh/c.	—	1	19	11	4	27	7	—
	Tet.	—	3	8	7	8	43	4	2

As shown in the above table 141 primary and 168 reinforcing immunisations were undertaken against diphtheria. 127 primary and 69 reinforcing immunisations against whooping cough were performed.

Poliomyelitis Immunisations

Completed Injections during 1961

<i>Persons born</i>	2nd	3rd	4th
1943 - 1961	142	113	570
1933 - 1942	43	32	—
Before 1933, but who had not reached 40 years of age ...	164	66	—
Others	9	1	—
	358	212	570

Smallpox Vaccination

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1961:—

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations	63	6	6	11	12
Re-vaccinations	—	—	1	9	22

98 primary vaccinations were undertaken compared with 105 in the previous year. Re-vaccinations fell from 38 to 32.

Vaccination is performed under the National Health Service by General Practitioners. Emergency clinics can be operated in the event of an outbreak of smallpox in County Health Clinics at Salisbury and Swindon. Vaccination propaganda is undertaken by the County Health Authority.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948

SECTION 47: REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

It was not found necessary to obtain compulsory removal of any persons against their will from their homes.

This step is one that should only be considered after all the assistance that can be given by Home Helps, District Nurses, National Assistance Officers and Welfare Officers, etc., has failed to provide the care and attention needed.

REPORT of the SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourteenth Annual Report to this Council.

During 1961, routine inspections and improvements have continued. Special mention should be made of the progress under the Clean Air Act, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, and of the fact that both slaughterhouses in the district now comply with the Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

I would ask the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees to accept my gratitude for their guidance and consideration, also Dr. Speller for his co-operation and Mr. Evans and Miss Penny for their assistance so readily and willingly given. The Rodent Operator and the Refuse Collection and Disposal Staff have continued their duties to the obvious satisfaction of householders in the District.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. A. NOBLE,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

STAFF

Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. D. L. Evans
Clerk/Typist	Miss J. Penny
Rodent Operator	Mr. A. H. Hart
Refuse Collection	Mr. J. H. Goodenough (Foreman/Driver) Mr. H. Genders (Driver) Mr. P. Sutherland (Relief Driver) Mr. R. C. Trott (Relief Driver) Mr. R. G. Howe Mr. W. A. Holcombe (from 24th August, 1961)
Tip Operators	Mr. P. Sawyer Mr. G. Humphries

MEAT AND FOODS

			<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Bakehouses	...	...	1	12	—	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2	459	2	2
Butchers' Shops	...	...	4	4	1	1
Catering Establishments	...	...	22	35	1	3
Food Shops	...	...	44	110	—	2
Schools	...	...	14	12	—	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	30	46	—	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	4	—	—	—
Licensed Game Premises	...	...	1	2	1	1

Note—It will be noticed throughout this report that, on occasion, more notices are shown as "complied with" than "served." This is explained by work, requested in 1960, being completed in 1961.

The two private slaughterhouses have continued in operation during the year (animals slaughtered and condemnation figures are shown in Appendix "A").

From Appendix "A", it will be noticed that a high percentage of cows are shown as affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci. Approximately 2/5ths of this figure relates to liver fluke.

I was able, in October, 1961, to report to the Council that both slaughterhouses now comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. The installation of a stunning pen, at each slaughterhouse, has proved a great success.

We have maintained 100% inspection by the working of overtime including every Sunday and Bank Holiday. Ante-mortem inspection is not possible. No horses have been slaughtered during the year.

The few cases of Tuberculosis, which have been discovered, were referred to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry for enquiries at the farms concerned.

In November, I reported to the Council on the very poor hygiene conditions at a catering establishment in the District. A severe warning was issued and it is pleasing to say that an immediate and very definite improvement resulted.

As mentioned in previous Annual Reports, we have a modest routine of sampling pies, ham, fish cakes, etc., for bacteriological examination.

The results for the year are as follows:—

<i>Nature of Sample</i>				<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. of Satisfactory Samples</i>
Bottle of Double Cream	...	...	...	1	1
Steak and Kidney Pie	...	...	...	1	1
Beef Steak Pie	...	...	...	1	1
Fish Fingers	...	...	...	2	2
Sausage Rolls	...	...	...	1	1
Peeled Prawns	...	...	...	1	1
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	6	6
Cornish Pasty	...	...	...	4	4
Beef-burger	...	...	...	1	1
Dessicated Coconut	...	...	...	1	1
Polony	...	...	...	1	1
Faggots	...	...	...	1	1
Cooked Tongue	...	...	...	1	1
Beef Sausage	...	...	...	1	1
Brawn	...	...	...	1	1
Pork Pie	...	...	...	3	3
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	1	1

These results are excellent and a great improvement over last year's figures. Dr. Mann, of the Bath Public Health Laboratory, has been in close touch with the Manufacturers of a brand of fish cakes which gave us some concern in 1960.

ICE-CREAM

				<i>Number Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Retailers	...	...	...	36	199	—
Manufacturers	...	...	...	—	—	—

One additional premises has been registered by the Council for the retail sale of ice-cream. Our sampling routine of both ice-cream and iced lollies has been maintained with very good results. The one sample failure related to an iced lolly. Later samples of the same product were satisfactory.

Total Number of Samples 169

Percentage of Samples

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade I or II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
99.4%	99.4%	—	0.6%

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, no more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

MILK AND DAIRIES

By virtue of the Milk (Special Disegnation) Regulations, 1960, the duty of licensing and sampling was transferred to the County Council as from 1st January, 1961.

However, the Public Health Committee instructed me in May, 1961, to resume sampling as the standard of sampling appeared to have greatly deteriorated since the County Council assumed responsibility. The following results are, therefore, on samples taken between May and December, 1961.

Number of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	58
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	51
Number of "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	69
Number of Satisfactory "Pasteurised" Milk Samples ...	69
Number of "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	44
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	44
Number of "Sterilised" Milk Samples	3
Number of Satisfactory "Sterilised" Milk Samples ...	3
Number of Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus	21
Number of Satisfactory Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus	21
Number of Satisfactory Biological Samples for Brucella Abortus	20

At the end of the year, negotiations, regarding delegation of the duties to this Council, were still in progress.

Investigations were in progress, at the end of the year, regarding the one unsatisfactory biological sample. In any case, the retailer concerned had made arrangements to sell only heat treated milk in the very near future.

WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District ...	5
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1961	52
Numbers of samples taken for chemical analysis during 1961	—

Appendix "B" of this report sets out the sample results for the year.

I am not in a position to give, with any degree of accuracy, the number of houses and the population in each parish supplied from public water mains direct to houses or by means of standpipes. None of the water supplies appear to be liable to plumbo-solvent action.

Some assistance was given to an Estate Owner in connection with a private water supply and arrangements are in hand for the installation of a chlorinator.

Additional samples of the Chippenham water were obtained at the end of the year as the sufficiency of the supply gave some concern following a long spell of dry weather.

FACTORIES

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Factories with power ...	24	30	9	9
Factories without power ...	2	3	—	—
Outworkers ...	10	1	—	—

The requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, appear to be complied with and full details, as required by the Ministry, are mentioned in Appendix "C".

SHOPS

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Shops ...	44	12	—	—

The requirements of the Shops Act are fulfilled and conditions are generally satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Site Licences ...	16	120	6	8
Licences Refused ...	—			

It is pleasing to report that no complaints have been received during the year regarding gypsies at Norrington Common.

All sites, licensed by the Council, have been inspected to ensure compliance with the licence conditions.

Sixteen licences, under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, were issued and very good co-operation obtained with the site owners regarding compliance with the Council's standard conditions relating to number of caravans on site, water supply, sanitary accommodation, disposal of waste water, paths, fire extinguisher and refuse bin.

All the sites are small (the largest having nine caravans).

RODENT CONTROL

Details, in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are given in Appendix "D".

The Rodent Operator has continued with routine inspections, including farm inspections. We now have thirteen farm contracts for which a fixed charge is made, each farm is visited every four months and the necessary treatments carried out. Two business premises have similar contracts with us for regular inspection and treatment.

During the year, Hilperton, Holt and Winsley sewerage systems were test baited. There were "no takes" except at Holt where a poison treatment was carried out.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection throughout the District is maintained with a limited service for some trade refuse. A collection, under contract, at the R.A.F. Station, Melksham Without, is in operation with very satisfactory results. The contract for the R.A.F. was not renewed on the 1st May, 1961. But after two days with another Contractor, the R.A.F. asked us to resume our service to them. This was immediately done.

The Council have two 10 cu. yd. refuse collection vehicles—one Bedford and one Ford. Apart from normal running troubles, these give very good service. The Public Health Committee agreed that, with a view to replacing our existing 1956 lorries, it would be advisable to visit the Public Works Exhibition to inspect new models.

One of our loaders met with a serious accident on the 17th May, 1961—the loaded refuse lorry passing over his feet. Very fortunately, no bones were cracked.

In July, great difficulties were experienced as three men were off duty owing to sickness and injury and great credit is due to the remaining men that the service was maintained with practically no complaints from the public.

Tipping was commenced during the year on the new site at Upper Westwood and I anticipate that the old tip will be completed, covered with soil and handed back to the owner during 1962.

SALVAGE

During the year, the following items of salvage have been sold :—

				<i>Weight</i>				<i>Approx. Value</i>		
				<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Wools	...	...	...	—	2	1	22	8	2	6
Rags	...	...	...	4	10	2	24	35	17	0
Waste Paper	...	...	...	12	16	2	0	86	8	6
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	4	11	3	3	86	15	6
				Total				£217	3	6

The price of salvaged waste paper was reduced from £7 per ton to £6 10s. 0d. per ton on the 1st November, 1961.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, brought into operation in 1948, has been utilised to clear 440 cesspools and septic tanks during 1961.

The Contractors, employed by the Council, visit the District every three months and it has been useful to many householders to have a standing order for such clearance with the Council.

The service has grown from 75 clearances in 1948 to 440 clearances in 1961.

HOUSING

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	36
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	36
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	9
Number of Closing Orders issued	...	...	10
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	9
Number of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	—

The Council's policy is to formally deal with dwellings which were placed in Category IV in the Housing Survey and similarly to deal with properties becoming vacant where re-letting might provide a "stepping stone" to Council re-housing. The policy has been pursued through the year and 36 cottages have been so formally reported to the Housing Committee as suitable for action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. Every endeavour is made to persuade owners to undertake re-conditioning schemes and to take advantage of Improvement Grants.

During the year, 22 cottages were demolished and 11 re-conditioned.

18 Discretionary Grants (total £6,303 10s. 0d.) and 19 Standard Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, have been made during 1960. Some considerable discussion and inspections are a preliminary to such applications but the work is well justified by the results.

No applications have been made during the year for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	214
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	14
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	—
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	13
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	—

In common with other districts (as shown in correspondence in the technical journals), difficulties are arising in connection with private sewage disposal plants. Plans are submitted showing settlement tanks and land drain soakaways. These cannot be rejected under the Byelaws. The nature of the sub-soil sometimes turns out to be very unsuitable and this leads to difficulties between owners and builders, particularly when the builder has only come into the trade for quick speculative purposes.

RIVERS, STREAMS AND SEWERAGE

Five of the thirteen parishes (Atworth, Hilperton, Holt, Melksham Without—Spa Road and Semington Road areas, and Winsley) now have sewerage systems and further schemes are envisaged by the Council. Throughout the District informal action has been taken to prevent pollution of streams and water courses, but sewer ditches continue to be a problem.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area. Various samples and some advisory work was undertaken for private pools at schools in the District.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Co-operation with the Managements of various firms has been well sustained. At the end of the year, structural work was in progress at one factory (shown as premises "E" below) for the installation of new boilers and the provision of steam storage. In the case of premises "F", the Regional Board who control the premises are taking special steps to obtain compliance with the Regulations.

The following condensed results of smoke observations taken with Ringelmann Charts show the improvement which has been obtained.

Premises		Smoke Observations										Percentage of Compli- ance with Regulations	
		1961											
		1959	1960	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-Jun.	Jul.-Sep.	Oct.-Dec.						
	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	
A	15	9	15	0	5	1	5	0	3	1	3	2	80%
B	20	4	15	0	6	0	5	0	4	0	5	0	100%
C	17	2	14	1	6	0	5	0	4	0	5	0	100%
D	16	5	15	2	6	0	5	0	4	0	5	0	100%
E	19	0	10	8	0	6	3	2	1	2	2	4	30%
F	12	7	12	6	2	4	5	0	2	2	3	2	60%
Total	99	27	81	17	25	11	28	2	18	5	23	8	78%

"C" indicates compliance with the Clean Air Act and the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958.

"N" indicates non-compliance.

RAG FLOCK

AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premises Registered	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	6
Number of Samples obtained	...	...	...	9

Six samples of rag flock, one of coir fibre, one of cotton felt and one of feathers were obtained during the year. To save expense, these samples were taken informally.

One sample of rag flock failed to meet the requirements of the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1961, in respect of the chlorine content. The matter was referred to the Public Health Inspector for the area in which the suppliers operate. Investigations disclosed a source of contamination which was at once eliminated.

All the remaining samples proved satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premises Licensed	...	...	...	1
Number of Visits	...	...	...	1

Before renewal of the licence, the premises are visited by me and the Local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. to whom my thanks are due for co-operation and advice.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

The Rodent Operator has continued with the inspections of farms under this Act in conjunction with his rodent control farm inspections. The necessary details of 19 farms have been officially recorded during the year.

So far, we have not found it necessary to serve any notices under the Act and it seems to me that, as far as the provisions enforceable by local authorities are concerned, the type of farm in this area does not provide difficulties.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

One of the premises licensed by the Council under the above Order has been discontinued and the licence cancelled. The remaining six premises have been visited and conditions appear quite reasonable. The total number of routine inspections was 21.

OFFICES ACT, 1960

This Act comes into force on the 1st January, 1962. When the regulations regarding health, safety and welfare are issued, a preliminary survey appears desirable.

However, it has been indicated that the Government is unlikely to issue these Regulations in the near future.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No complaints have been received during the year and no action has been necessary under the terms of this Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

I would like to make special mention of the very good service given to this Council by Dr. Mann and the Public Health Laboratory at Manor Hospital, Bath. All our milk, ice-cream, food and water samples are given prompt attention and it is of very great assistance to have Dr. Mann's advice so readily available.

GENERAL

The following visits have been made in connection with miscellaneous items requiring attention :—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	622
Water Supply		...	...	...	...	95
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Housing Visits and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act enquiries		...	...	...	...	1,008
Refuse Collection and Disposal			...	...	...	433
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	23

APPENDIX "A"

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed ...	601	1,376	1,131	84	12	—
Number inspected ...	601	1,376	1,131	84	12	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	10	11	3	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	100	551	13	12	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysti- cerci ...	16.6	40.8	2.1	17.9	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	—	3	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	0.29	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "B" BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1961

Name of Supply	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks
Bath City (Combe Down) Supply	S (5)	—	—	S (2)	—	S (2)	—	—	—	S (2)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply
Holt Water Supply	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	S (1)	—	—	—	S (1)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply
Chippenham Water Scheme	S (4)	—	—	S (3)	—	S (3)	—	—	—	S (3)	—	S (4)	Chlorinated Supply
Turleigh Troughs Supply	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949
West Wilts Water Board	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	S (1)	—	—	—	S (1)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply
Estate Supply	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	U (6)	S (1)	—	Chlorinator being installed
Estate Supply	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	S (1)	—	—	—	U (2) S (2)	—	—	Main water fed to Estate Reservoir

Note—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to the presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

APPENDIX "C"

FACILITIES

Inspections

- (1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power)
- (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power)
- (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...

Number on
Register

Inspections

Written
NoticesOccupiers
Prosecuted

2

3

—

—

24

30

3

—

—

—

—

—

Defects

- Want of cleanliness (S.1)
- Overcrowding (S.2)
- Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)
- Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)
- Drainage of Floors (S.6)
- Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)
- (a) Insufficient
- (b) Unsuitable or Defective
- (c) Not separate for sexes

Found

Remedied

Referred
To H.M.
InspectorBy H.M.
InspectorNumber of cases in
which prosecutions
were instituted

—

(1) 2

—

(1) 2

—

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(1) 2

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(1) 2

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(1) 2

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APPENDIX "D"

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 Report for twelve months ended 31st December, 1961

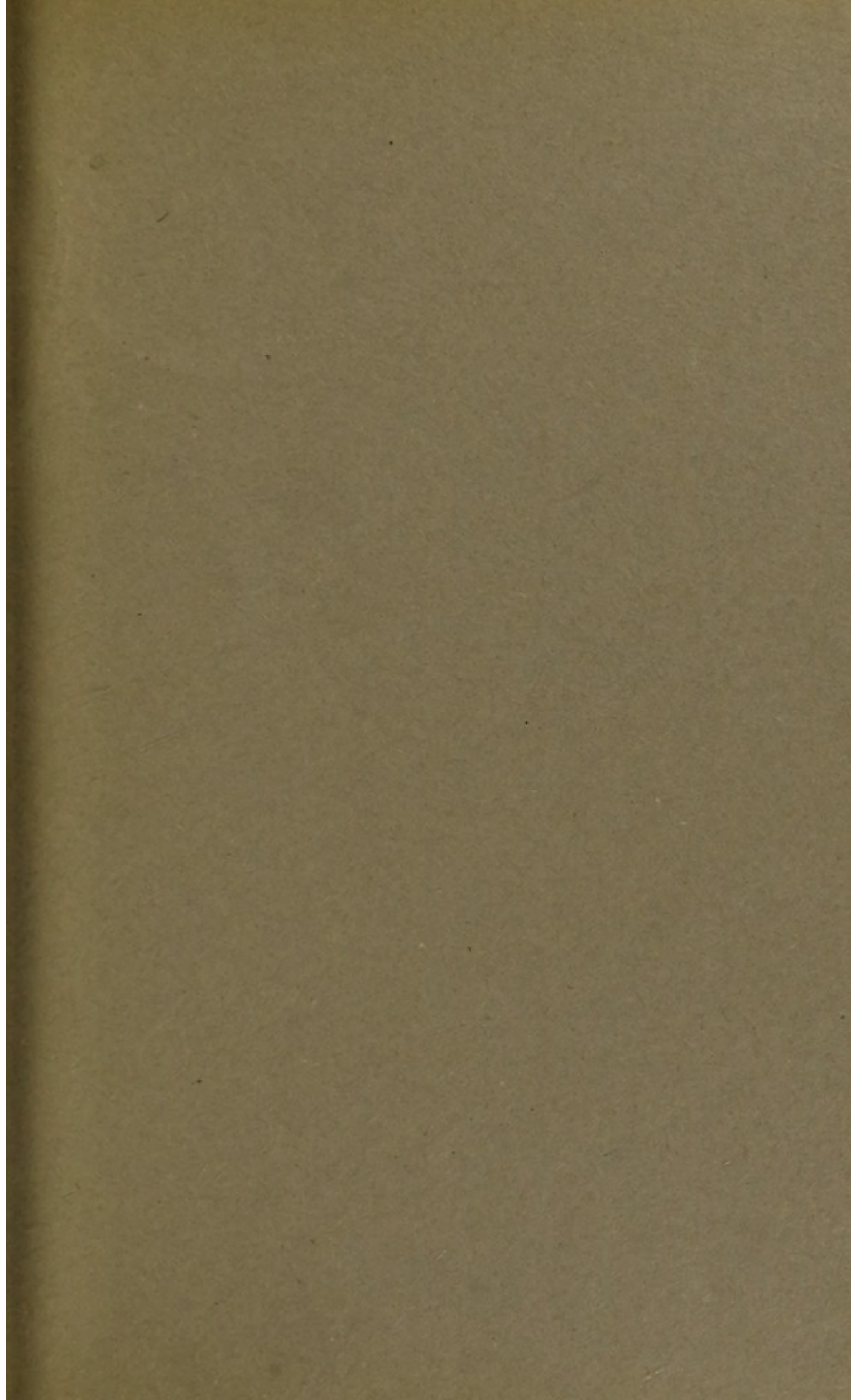
	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authorities' District	7	3,550	313	3,870	220
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	43	6	49	7
(b) Survey under the Act	7	137	7	151	34
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	12	199	211	—
III. Total Inspections carried out, including re-inspections	Not	readily	available	16	—
VI. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats	—	12	1	13	1
Major					
Minor	6	152	6	164	27
(b) Mice	—	1	—	1	—
Major					
Minor	—	8	—	8	—

APPENDIX "D" (continued)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for twelve months ended 31st December, 1961

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	
V. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	6	171	7	184	17
VI. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	Not	readily	available		
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act: (a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	—	11	—	11	—



A. C. BOLWELL
Electric Press
Melksham
