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Contributors

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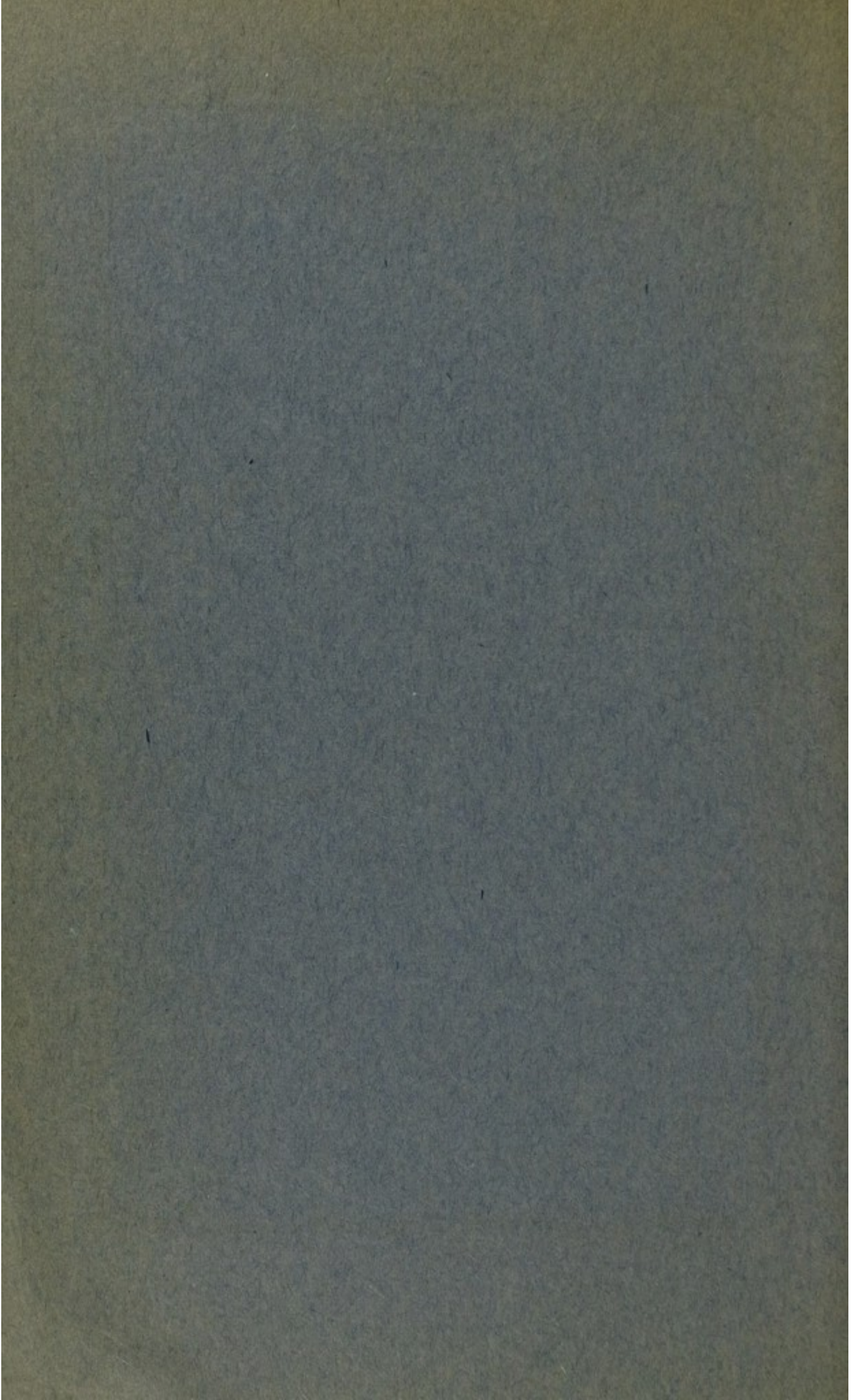
Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Senior
Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1962



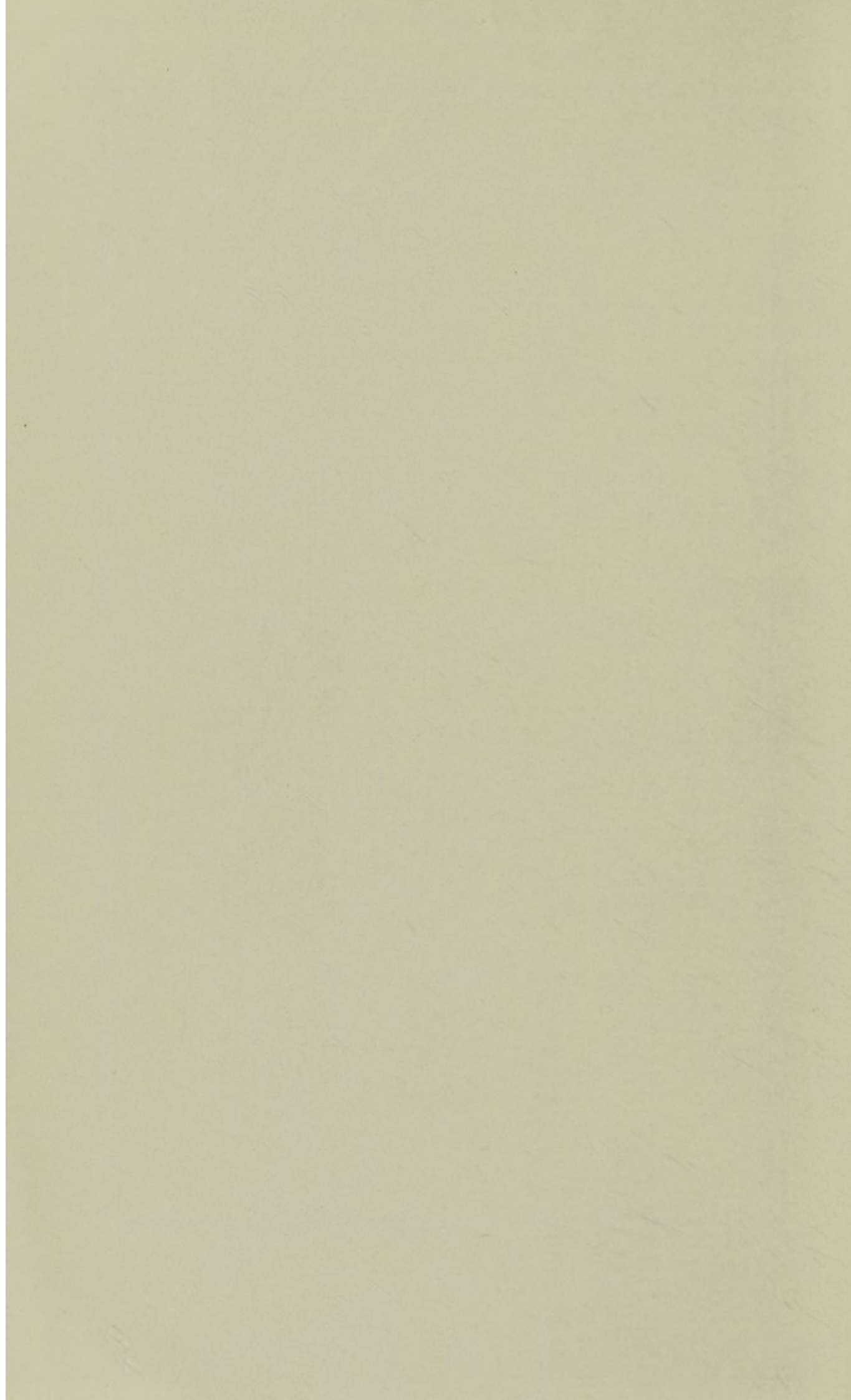


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To the Chairman and Members of the

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1962 on the health of the Bradford and Melksham Rural District.

The district has remained free from serious epidemics throughout the year. In the early part of the year, cases of smallpox occurred in England and Wales which resulted in a public demand for smallpox vaccination. The trend is reflected in the figures given in this report.

The publication by the Royal College of Physicians of the report "Smoking and Health" followed by the Ministry of Health's encouragement of Health Education on this subject has been implemented by the distribution of posters and by individual talks on smoking in relation to lung cancer and other diseases.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for providing the immunisation statistics contained within. It will be seen that oral poliomyelitis vaccine has now been introduced for more general use. It has also been shown to be of considerable value in combating outbreaks of poliomyelitis.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council and particularly the Health Committee for the encouragement that they have given me during the year and my colleagues for their interest and 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.

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)				13,000
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3,600
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£115,088
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£472

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

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

Births

Live Births

<i>Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	90	80	170
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	4	11
Total number of live births				97	84	181

Birth Rate for the District (i.e., per 1,000 population) 14.9

Comparative figure for England and Wales ... 18.0

Still Births

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

Still Birth Rate for the District per 1,000 total Live
and Still Births ... 5.5

Comparative figure for England and Wales ... 18.1

Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Deaths in the Area ...	97	73	170
Local Death Rate (i.e. per 1,000 population)	...	...	11.9
Comparative figure for England and Wales	...	...	11.9

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	3	1	4

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

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

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

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

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—Total ...	22.1
Comparative figure for England and Wales ...	21.4
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (1st four weeks)	16.6

Causes of Deaths

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

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	—	2
(other)	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic disease ...	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach) ...	—	1	1
(lung bronchus) ...	9	—	9
(breast) ...	—	2	2
(uterus) ...	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	8	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	12	7	19
Coronary disease, Angina	14	6	20
Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	—	4
Other heart disease	21	21	42
Other circulatory disease	4	8	12
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	5	7	12
Motor Vehicle accidents	5	—	5
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
Totals	97	73	170

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	—	6	1	9	4	22	9	15	20	2	8

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	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Lung ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Alimentary (other than above)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Genital ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Reproductive ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

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 & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Comparison with Previous Years

<i>Disease</i>	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Scarlet Fever	2	1	4	5	9	10
Whooping Cough ...	52	4	7	7	—	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	126	9	191	9	332	14
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	3	3	2	—	2
Dysentery	2	—	1	30	1	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal infection	—	1	—	—	—	—
Salmonellosis	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis	14	3	5	5	5	1

Number of Cases and Admissions to Hospital

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	10	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—
Measles	14	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—
Dysentery	2	—
Erysipelas	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—
Salmonellosis	1	—
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	1

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

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

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Acute Poliomyelitis</i>		<i>Measles</i>		<i>Dysentery</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
3-4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
5-9 years	3	3	—	—	—	—	4	6	—	—
10-14 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15-24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	—	—	—	5	9	2	—

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

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Paralytic</i>	<i>Non- Paralytic</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Meningo- coccal Infection</i>	<i>Salmon- ellosis</i>	<i>Tuber- culosis</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>
Atworth					1								
Broughton													
Gifford													
Hilperton	1												
Holt	1												
Limpley Stoke					2	1							
Melksham													
Without													
Monkton													
Farleigh													
Semington													
South Wraxhall													
Staverton						1					1		
Westwood							2					1	
Wingfield					11								
Winsley	8												
Total	10				14	2	2				1	1	

Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis were reported.

Tuberculosis

New Cases

1957	...	...	...	...	14
1958	...	...	...	...	3
1959	...	...	...	...	5
1960	...	...	...	...	5
1961	...	...	...	...	2
1962	...	...	...	...	1

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 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-55 years	—	—	—	—	1	—
56-65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	1	1	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	1	2	—

From the above table it will be seen that no cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1962. Two 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.

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, 1962

<i>Year of Birth</i>		1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1953-57	1948-52
Primary imms. completed during 1962	Diph.	27	71	18	4	2	13	3
	Wh /c.	27	71	18	4	2	3	—
	Tet.	27	71	17	4	4	50	28
Reinf. injections administered during 1962	Diph.	—	7	20	5	6	73	11
	Wh /c.	—	7	19	5	4	17	—
	Tet.	—	7	21	6	6	83	19

As shown in the above table 138 primary and 121 reinforcing immunisations were undertaken against diphtheria. 125 primary and 52 reinforcing immunisations against whooping cough were performed. 201 primary and 142 reinforcing immunisations were given against tetanus.

Poliomyelitis Immunisations

Completed during 1962

<i>Persons born</i>	2nd inj.	3rd inj.	4th inj.	3 oral	3rd oral after 2 injs.	4th oral
1943—1961	29	112	7	109	17	103
1933—1942	3	29	1	28	6	—
Babies born in 1926	—	—	—	5	—	—
Others	10	74	2	30	18	1
Totals	42	215	10	172	41	104

Smallpox Vaccination

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1962.

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations	77	30	40	221	312
Re-vaccinations	—	—	19	201	512

680 primary vaccinations were undertaken compared with 98 in the previous year. Re-vaccinations rose from 32 to 732.

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

One case of food poisoning was 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 fifteenth Annual Report to this Council.

During 1962, routine inspections and improvements have continued. Special mention should be made of the progress under the Clean Air Act, the special survey made under the Public Health Act on Means of Escape from Fire and the delegation by the County Council of licencing and sampling under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

I would ask the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees to accept my sincere gratitude for their guidance and consideration. My thanks are also due to Dr. Speller for his co-operation and to Mr. Evans and Miss Penny for assistance so 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) (resigned on 30th May, 1962.) Mr. J. M. Browne (Driver) (commenced duties on 7th June, 1962.) Mr. P. Sutherland (Loader/Relief Driver) Mr. R. C. Trott (Loader/Relief Driver) (resigned on 10th May, 1962.)

	Mr. R. G. Howe (resigned on 23rd May, 1962.)
	Mr. W. A. Holcombe
	Mr. T. Cain (commenced duties on 11th May, 1962.)
	Mr. D. A. Smith (commenced duties on 9th July, 1962.)
Tip Operators	Mr. P. Sawyer (retired on 28th October, 1962.)
	Mr. G. Humphries
	Mr. R. G. Lewis (commenced duties on 30th April, 1962.)

MEAT AND FOODS

			<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Bakehouses	...	...	1	4	—	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2	397	—	—
Butcher's Shops	...	...	4	13	1	—
Catering Establishments	...	...	23	47	2	3
Food Shops	...	...	44	152	7	4
Schools	...	...	12	12	—	—
Licensed Premises	...	...	33	89	4	3
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	4	—	—	—
Licensed Game Premises	...	...	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 1961, being completed in 1962.

The two private slaughterhouses have continued in operation during the year (animals slaughtered and condemnation figures are shown in Appendix "A"). Each slaughterhouse has a stunning pen and complies with the Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

100% inspection has been maintained by the working of overtime including every Sunday and Bank Holiday. Whilst this may suit the meat trade, it does seem unfair to the Council's Officers.

During the year, some complaints have been received of foreign bodies in foodstuffs such as some wire in a tea cake. In each case the matter has been dealt with informally and ready co-operation obtained from the manufacturers and the Health Department of the District where the food was prepared. This Council has felt satisfied that such informal action was adequate to meet the circumstances.

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>
Sausage Rolls	2	2
Ham	2	2
Pork Sausages	1	1
Fish Cakes	11	11
Cornish Pasty	1	1
Fish Fingers	2	2
Beef Sausages	1	1
Pork Pie	1	1
English Minced Beef	3	3
Dessicated Coconut	1	1
Polony	1	1
Clotted Cream	1	1
Faggots	1	1

These results are excellent.

ICE CREAM

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Retailers	38	178	—	—
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.

Total Number of Samples 147

Percentage of Samples

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade I or II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
91%	100%	—	—

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

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Dairies	1	284	—	—
Distributors	6			
Dairymen operating from outside district ...	18			
Producer/Retailers	4			

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

"Tuberculin Tested" Dealers Licences	1
Dealers (Pre-packed milk) Licences for "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	7
Dealers (Pre-packed milk) Licences for "Pasteurised" Milk	7
Dealers (Pre-packed milk) Licences for "Sterilised" Milk	4

Set out below are the sample results of "designated" milk.

Number of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	82
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	82
Number of "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	127
Number of Satisfactory "Pasteurised" Milk Samples ...	127
Number of "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	87
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	86
Number of "Sterilised" Milk Samples	8
Number of Satisfactory "Sterilised" Milk Samples ...	8
Number of Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus	22
Number of Satisfactory Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus	22
Number of Satisfactory Biological Samples for Brucella Abortus	20

In February, this Council accepted delegation from the County Council for licencing and sampling under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960. However, the sample results shown above are for the full year because this Council re-commenced our sampling routine in May, 1961 as the County Council did not appear to be implementing the terms of the Regulations.

At the end of the year, investigations were in progress regarding two positive Brucellosis biological samples. This milk is retailed by a Dairyman operating from outside this district.

WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District	...	7
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1962		56
Number of Samples taken for Chemical analysis during 1962		—

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.

As from 1st October, 1962, the North West Wilts Water Board took over control of the Holt and Chippenham Water Schemes mentioned in Appendix "B".

FACTORIES

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Factories with power	... 24	41	4	2
Factories without power	2	3	—	—
Outworkers	... 2	—	—	—

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

SHOPS

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Shops	... 43	24	1	—

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	... 13	70	2	2
Licences Refused	... —	—	—	—
	21			

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 relating to number of caravans, 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 nine 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, Atworth, Holt, Semington Rd., Melksham Without, Spa Road, Melksham Without and Winsley sewerage systems were test baited. It is pleasing to report that there were "no takes."

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 Council have two 10 cu. yd. refuse collection vehicles — one Bedford and one Ford. Apart from normal running troubles, these give very good service.

During October, the Ford was given a thorough overhaul, as regards the brakes, electrical system, engine and bodywork.

In view of the increase in the number of houses in the district and the increase in the bulk of the refuse, a visit was made to the Public Works Exhibition in November to view the latest models which incorporate compression of the refuse in the vehicle.

The old tip at Upper Westwood was handed back to the owner in July, 1962. A good supply of excellent top soil was spread over the tip and this should prove a useful piece of land.

At the end of the year, planning application had been made for the use of a disused quarry as a refuse tip. This was necessary as the tip at present in use on the Western end of our district has only capacity for another two years.

SALVAGE

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

				Weight				Approx. Value		
				tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Wools	...	...	...	—	4	2	10	14	9	8
Rags	...	...	...	3	2	2	0	27	3	0
Waste Paper	...	...	...	15	4	2	0	94	18	9
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	5	17	2	2	97	18	6
Total								£234	9	11

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, brought into operation in 1948, has been utilised to clear 435 cesspools and septic tanks during 1962.

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 clearances with the Council.

The service has grown from 75 clearances in 1948 to 435 clearances in 1962.

HOUSING

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Closing Orders issued	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	—

The Council's policy is to deal formally 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 17 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, 16 cottages were demolished and 5 re-conditioned.

21 Discretionary Grants (total £6,923 0s. 0d.) and 9 Standard Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 have been made during 1962. 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.

A special survey was made and a report submitted to the Housing Committee on the one house in multiple occupation (as defined by the Housing Act, 1961) situated in this rural district. Conditions are so good that no action is necessary except attention to the Fire Prevention Officer's recommendations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	236
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	7
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	—
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	10
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	—

During the year, a special survey was made to ascertain the number of premises in the district to which Section 60 (dealing with means of escape from fire) of the Public Health Act was applicable. 22 schools, nursing homes, public houses, old peoples homes, hotels, hospitals and buildings let in flats were noted and advice obtained from the Wiltshire Fire Brigade. The owners of any such premises, which were not considered to have adequate means of escape, have been formally advised. Some improvements have already been made and I hope to report during 1963 that all the premises are satisfactory in this respect.

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 Management of various firms has been well maintained and it is very pleasing to note the definite improvement in the case of premises "F" below.

Three hand fired boilers are to be replaced with oil burning furnaces at premises "E" and conditions in this district should, thereafter, be very satisfactory.

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

Smoke Observations

Premises	1960		1961		1962										Percentage of Compli- ance with Regulations
					Jan.-Mar.		Apr.-Jun.		Jul.-Sep.		Oct.-Dec.				
	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N			
A	15	0	16	4	5	0	6	0	3	0	4	0	100%		
B	15	0	20	0	5	0	6	0	3	0	4	0	100%		
C	14	1	20	0	5	0	6	0	3	0	4	0	100%		
D	15	2	20	0	5	0	6	0	3	0	4	0	100%		
E	10	8	6	14	4	1	4	2	3	0	2	2	72%		
F	12	6	12	8	5	0	6	0	3	0	4	0	100%		
Total	81	17	94	26	29	1	34	2	18	0	22	2			

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

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premises Registered	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	6
Number of Samples obtained	...	...	...	7

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

All the samples satisfied the requirements of the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1961.

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 26 farms have been officially recorded.

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

Only three premises are now in use for boiling swill. Regular inspections have been made and conditions appear quite reasonable.

OFFICES ACT, 1960

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

However, it appears likely that new legislation can be expected and that the 1960 Act is likely to be repealed before ever coming into effective use.

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 ACT, 1961

This Act extends the definition of "trade effluent" to include drainage from farms. A special survey was made and farms draining to the Council's sewers or to "sewer ditches" have been recorded.

LAND DRAINAGE ACT, 1961

This Act may prove very useful for dealing with blocked watercourses. By the end of the year steps were in hand to ensure liaison between the Ministry of Agriculture, The River Boards, the County Council and District Councils.

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 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	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	652
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Housing Visits and Small Dwellings								
Acquisition Act enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	747
Refuse Collection and Disposal					...	...	...	382
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 ...	577	1,273	725	43	16	—
Number inspected ...	577	1,273	725	43	16	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	9	16	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	56	505	11	6	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	9.7	40.4	3.7	16.3	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "B" BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1962

<i>Name of Supply</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun.</i>	<i>Jul.</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Bath City (Combe Down) Supply	S (2)	—	—	S (2)	—	S (2)	—	—	S (1) U (1)	S (4)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply
Holt Water Supply	S (2)	—	—	S (1)	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated Supply (taken over by the North West Wilts Water Board as from 1st Oct., 1962)
Chippenham Water Scheme	S (4)	—	—	S (4)	—	S (4)	—	—	S (3) U (1)	S (8) U (1)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply (taken over by the North West Wilts Water Board as from 1st Oct., 1962)
Turleigh Troughs Supply	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Warning Notice fixed in August, 1949.
West Wilts Water Board	S (2)	—	—	S (1)	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated Supply.
Estate Supply	—	—	S (2)	S (1)	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	—	Chlorinator installed.
Estate Supply	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	—	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"

FACTORIES

Inspections

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Written</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power)	2	3	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power)	24	41	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—

Defects

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Referred By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
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	12	9	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "D"

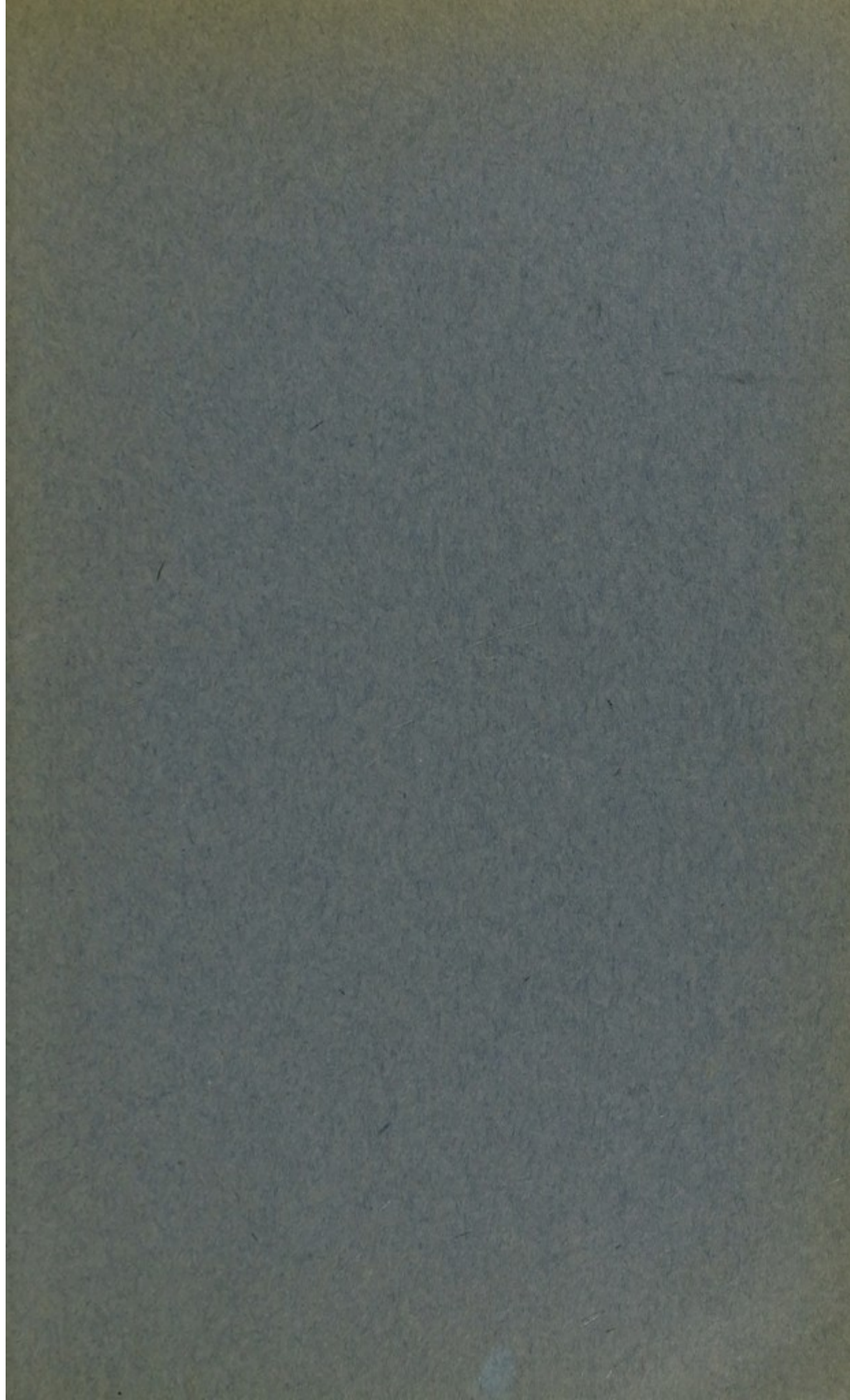
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 Report for twelve months ended 31st December, 1962

<i>Type of Property</i>					
<i>Non-Agricultural</i>					
<i>Local Authority</i> (1)	<i>Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)</i> (2)	<i>All other (including Business Premises)</i> (3)	<i>Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)</i> (4)	<i>Agricultural</i>	
I. Number of properties in Local Authorities' District	7	3,620	313	3,940	220
II. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	—	91	7	98	6
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—					
Common rat	—	—	—	—	—
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	75	6	81	5
Ship rat	—	—	—	—	—
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
House mouse	—	—	—	—	—
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	16	1	17	1
III. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act ...	6	80	5	91	46
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—					
Common rat	2	—	1	3	—
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	4	74	2	80	7
Ship rat	—	—	—	—	—
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
House mouse	—	—	—	—	—
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	2	—	2	—

APPENDIX "D" (continued)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
Report for twelve months ended 31st December, 1962

	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)	
IV. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	16	124	140	—
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—					
Common rat	Major	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	1	6	7	—
Ship rat	Major	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
House mouse	Major	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	2	1	3	—
V. Total inspections carried out :—					
including re-inspections	Not	readily	available	—	—
VI. Number of infested properties (in Sections II, III & IV) treated by the L.A. ...	6	164	10	180	10
VII. Total treatments carried out :—					
including re-treatments	Not	readily	available	—	—
VIII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
X. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
XI. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	11	—	11	—



VENTON, MELKSHAM
