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Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council



THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

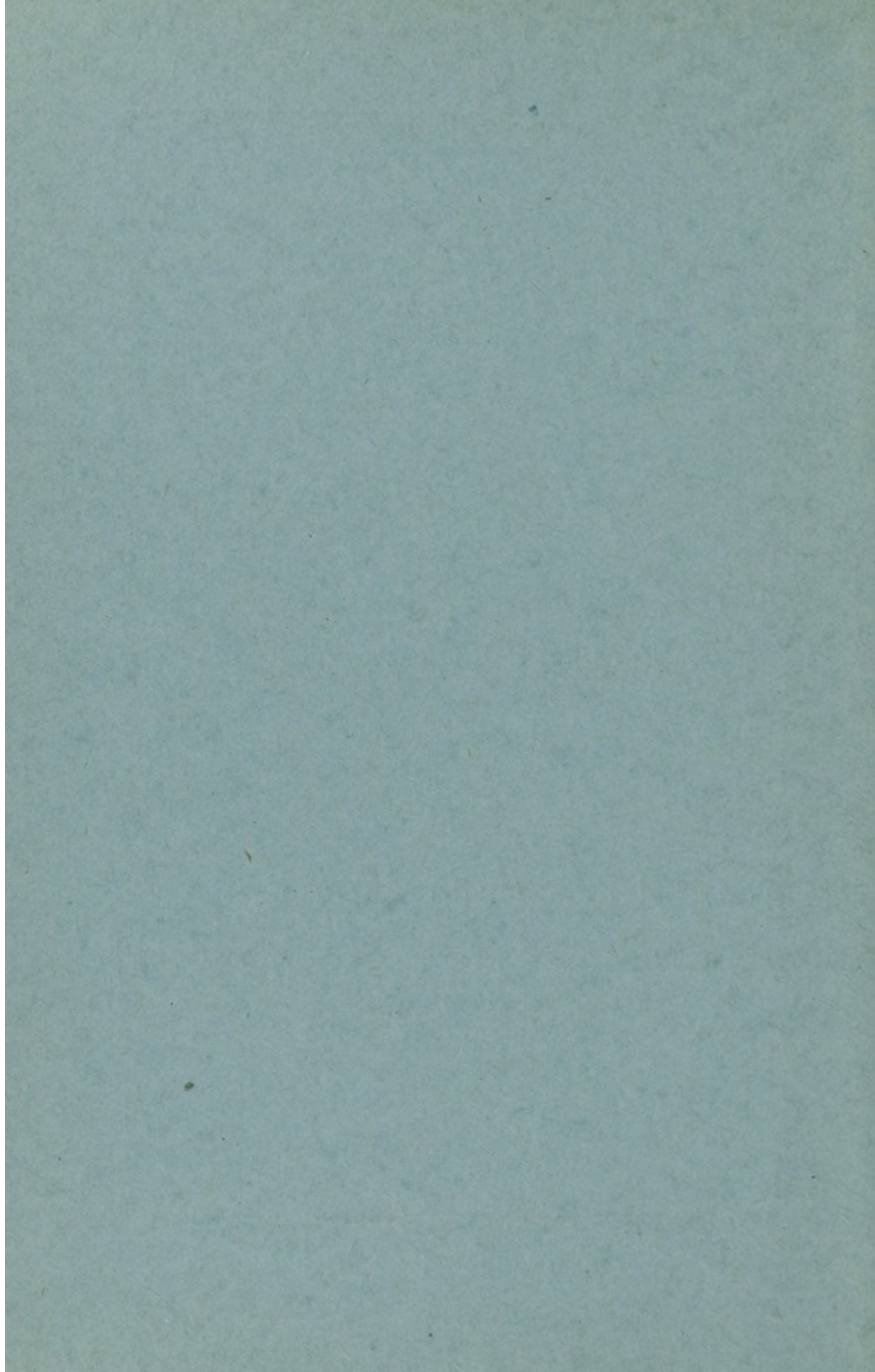
and the

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1964

Venton, Melksham



Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

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*To the Chairman and Members of*

**BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1964 on the health of Bradford and Melksham Rural District.

I have increased the scope of this report slightly, as compared with previous years, within the limits of my present knowledge of the district.

As to the year 1964 this report reveals a very satisfactory state of affairs. The death rates are low and decreasing, birth rate increasing and there was little infectious disease. However, one must view this picture with some caution, as the statistics available to me do not indicate the incidence of non-fatal diseases (except for infectious diseases) and one is completely unaware of the incidence of such conditions as rheumatism, chronic catarrhal states, neuroses and psychoses etc. without which a finer picture of a community's health is impossible to draw.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and Councillors, and also Mr. Noble and the members of the Public Health Department for the help they have given me during 1964.

G. WOLFENDEN.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL**

### **Medical Officer of Health.**

G. Wolfenden, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

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

(Dr. P. J. Speller, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. was Medical Officer of Health until 31st March, 1964).

### **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

The Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council area is made up of thirteen parishes and occupies an area of 26,868 acres. The estimated mid-year population for 1964 was 12,850 (which includes Service personnel).

### BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Compiled from figures kindly supplied by the Registrar General :—

#### (a) Births

<i>Live Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	115	106	221
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	7	8
Total	...	...	...	116	113	229

The figure of 229 live births is an increase over 1963 when 202 were born, and gives a Birth Rate of 17.7 per 1000 (as compared with 15.6 in 1963). To compare it with the National birth rate, our birth rate has to be multiplied by an "area comparability factor" of 1.21. This then gives a figure of 21.4, as compared with the National figure of 18.4.

#### Still Births

There was only one still-birth in the district last year, an illegitimate female child. Any statistical calculations on this figure would likely be very inaccurate but it is obviously an excellent low figure.

#### (b) Deaths

Number of Deaths—62 Males, 65 Females, 127 Total.

Death rate per 1000—9.8.

Death rate + "comparability factor" of .89—8.7.

National Death rate—11.3.



Deaths have dropped considerably, this year being 49 less than in 1963, this being mainly due to a decrease in female deaths of 32 (33%).

This year the death rate is less than the National average, last year it was more. The majority of deaths were, of course, in the later age groups, 12 only being under 45 years, 30 were 45—55 years, 28 were 65—75 years and 67 were 75 and over—in other words about half the deaths were 75 years of age or over.

### (c) Infant Mortality

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 years of age

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

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

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

The small numbers involved makes the calculation of Infant Mortality Rate, and Neo-natal and Perinatal Mortality Rates of doubtful accuracy. However, as one of these two deaths was due to congenital malformation, only one death of an infant due to disease in 229 live births is a very satisfactory record indeed.

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	8.7
Comparative figure for England and Wales	...	...	20.0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (deaths in first few weeks of life).	...	...	4.3
Comparative figure for England and Wales	...	...	13.8
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 births (Still births and deaths (live and still) under 1 week)	...	...	8.7

## Causes of Death

Classified according to the Registrar General's system.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i> <sup>1</sup>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ... ..	2	—	2
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Cancer) Stomach	2	1	3
Lung and			
Bronchus	4	—	4
Breast	—	1	1
Uterus	—	1	1
Others	11	4	15
Diabetes ... ..	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System ...	5	13	18
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	8	10	18
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	1	1
Other Heart Diseases ... ..	14	15	29
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	1	4	5
Influenza ... ..	—	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	4	4	8
Bronchitis ... ..	8	—	8
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations ... ..	—	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	—	2	2

Deaths from cancer are virtually unchanged from 1963 and constitute about 19% of the deaths. Deaths due to heart and circulatory diseases have dropped from 111 in 1963 to 71 and make up 56% of all deaths.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable infectious disease was notable by being almost non-existent in 1964.

The only new case of tuberculosis was in a school child who fortunately had not infected any of his fellow pupils.

## Comparison with Previous Years

<i>Disease</i>	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet Fever	4	5	9	10	—	1
Whooping Cough	7	7	—	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	191	9	332	14	72	5
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	2	—	2	1	—
Dysentery	1	30	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	1	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salmonellosis	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	5	5	5	1	1	1

## Age and Sex Distribution

	Under 1 M. F.	1— M. F.	5— M. F.
Tuberculosis	— —	— —	1 —
Scarlet Fever	— —	— 1	— —
Measles	— —	2 2	1 —

## Distribution by Parishes

	Tuber- culosis	Scarlet Fever	Measles
Atworth	1	—	—
Melksham Without	—	—	3
Monkton Farleigh	—	—	2
Winsley	—	1	—

## IMMUNISATION

The immunisation statistics, given below, were kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health. The immunisation state that these figures, together with those for 1963, reveal is far from satisfactory. It would appear that only about a half of the infants born in this district are being immunised.

All parents of infants born in Wiltshire are reminded by post at appropriate ages of the need to get their children immunised, either at the clinics or by their family doctors and the whole procedure is made as simple and convenient as possible. So one must assume that a great indifference towards their childrens welfare exists among a large proportion of parents in this district.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus (triple vaccine) and against poliomyelitis (oral vaccine) is given at County Council Infant Welfare Clinics at Bradford and at Melksham, and also by the general practitioners of the area. Vaccination against smallpox is given by general practitioners only.

### Triple Vaccine

This is normally commenced at 3 months of age and takes 3 monthly injections to complete. The number completed in 1964 was 47 (in relation to say,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the births i.e. 115) this comes to 54%. Of all the babies born in 1963 (202) 110 have been immunised i.e. 54.5%. This compares badly with other districts of the County, the County average being 78.2%.

### Poliomyelitis

Rather fewer children born in 1963 received their oral poliomyelitis vaccine course than had the triple vaccine—namely 90. Of those born in 1964 only 3 had completed their courses.

### Vaccinations

Remained at a very low level even though infant vaccinations trebled in numbers this year.

### Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination Statistics

<i>Year of Birth</i>		1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54
Primary imms. completed during 1964	Diph.	47	73	4	4	1	—	—
	Wh/c.	47	72	4	4	1	—	—
	Tet.	47	73	4	4	1	13	10
Reinf. injects. administered during 1964	Diph.	—	18	41	2	7	108	2
	Wh/c.	—	15	34	1	4	12	—
	Tet.	—	18	41	2	7	72	6

Age group	<i>Months</i>				<i>Years</i>			
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-14	15& over
Vaccinations	3	11	3	13	23	3	2	7
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	—	5	11	33	40

### Poliomyelitis Immunisation Statistics

<i>Age Groups</i>	2nd. inj.	3rd. inj.	4th. inj.	3 oral doses	3rd oral after 2 inj.	3rd oral after 2 inj. and 1 oral	4th. oral after 3 inj. or 3 oral
1964	—	2	—	3	—	—	—
1963	—	11	—	81	—	—	—
1962	1	—	—	27	—	—	—
1961	—	1	—	10	—	4	—
1943-1960	—	—	—	24	—	5	98
1933-1942	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Others	—	1	—	5	—	1	1
Totals	1	15	—	153	—	10	99

## HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### Laboratory Facilities

All our laboratory examinations, mainly of milk, food and faecal specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath. As usual we have had perfect co-operation and ready advice when needed, which we greatly appreciate.

### Hospital Facilities

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the provision of hospital facilities in this district.

There are general hospitals at Melksham and Bradford-on-Avon, a Maternity Hospital at Bradford-on-Avon, a hospital for the chronic sick and elderly at Semington (St. Georges) and a Chest Hospital at Winsley.

### County Council Services

Health services provided by the County Council Health Committee:—

Domiciliary midwifery and care of expectant mothers.

Health visiting including the care of the elderly,  
nursing mothers and young children.

Home nursing.

Home helps.

Ambulance service.

Health education.

Mental health service.

and under the County Council Education Committee—

The school health service.

The opening of the new Health Clinic at Melksham has improved the Infant Welfare, Ante-natal Care and School Dental facilities in the eastern half of this district.

The Infant Welfare Clinic at Bradford-on-Avon has moved to the new Youth Club, a big improvement on its previous venue in the Trinity Church Hall.

Health Visitors also run Ante-natal Clinics in various villages.

## HOUSING

New houses have sprung up in most parishes in the district, in all 167 new private houses have been built in 1964 and 16 new houses for the Council.

The problem of "unfit" and "approaching unfit" houses is not very acute in this district due to the fact that so many of these houses are bought and reconditioned, in many cases at considerable expense, by those who prefer to live, if not work, in the countryside.

These houses so reconditioned, often with the help of Standard or Discretionary Grants, are usually not just "made fit" but are fully modernised and so saved from the "scrap heap" for many years to come. Unfortunately, these houses, especially the cottage type of property, cease then to be the low rental (even if damp and inconvenient) housing of the low-income groups.

## SANITATION

Piped sewerage schemes are installed in Westwood, Winsley, Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Hilperton, Holt and in parts of Melksham Without.

Unsewered areas with major sewage disposal problems are Shaw and Limpley Stoke villages, and the Snarlton Lane and Woodrow Road areas of Melksham Without. The problems of the first two are also increased by new housing construction.

However, these areas will all be sewered in the near future. The taking over by the Council of the R.A.F. sewerage plant at Berryfields and a new sewerage reticulation to it will give adequate sewage disposal to the developing rural area around Melksham including Snarlton Lane and Woodrow Road. Complete sewerage schemes are also planned for Shaw and Whitley 1965/6 and Limpley Stoke 1967/69.

Monkton Farleigh, Wingfield, Beanacre, Semington, South Wraxall and Staverton are all areas which lack sewage facilities. These will be dealt with, one hopes, in the not too far distant future.

**REPORT**  
of the  
**SENIOR**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

During 1964, we have maintained our standard of routine work with various encouraging features. By the end of the year, we were well in the throes of the inspections and records necessary under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. The implementation of The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 by October, 1965 presents a very real problem which is receiving active consideration by the Council.

For many years, there has been an unofficial arrangement between the Public Health Inspectors of the two Urban District Councils in the area and ourselves, whereby we "stand in" when there are absences due to illness, holidays etc.

During the year, this was placed on a formal basis by the three Councils. The position of the official is thus protected.

This is, I think, a happy example of co-operation and mutual help.

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. Wolfenden 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 house-holders in this District.

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

Your Obedient Servant,

**W. A. NOBLE,**

*Senior Public Health Inspector*

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**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. S. H. Morris (Driver) (Commenced duties on 26th, October, 1964). Mr. P. Sutherland (Loader/Relief Driver). Mr. T. Cain. Mr. E. J. Phillips (Commenced duties on 4th May 1964). Mr. F. G. Hall (Commenced duties on 2nd November, 1964).
Tip Operators	Mr. R. G. Lewis. Mr. J. E. Lydall (Commenced duties on 9th July, 1964).

### MEAT AND FOODS

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Slaughterhouses	2	416	—	—
Butcher's Shops	2	4	—	1
Catering Establishments	13	28	3	1
Food Shops	43	196	3	6
Schools	12	19	1	—
Licensed Premises	34	71	2	5
Licensed Slaughtermen	3	—	—	—
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 1963, being completed in 1964.

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.

The carcase and offal of every animal is inspected 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.

The implementation of The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 is receiving active consideration by the Council. The larger of the two slaughterhouses in this district has a daily kill of between 5 and 16 beasts. The hours of slaughter are most irregular. Thus the Regulations present a big problem.

During the year, detailed investigations were made into complaints of a clothes peg in a bottle of beer, a mouldy loaf and mould in a Cornish pasty. Very full and ready co-operation was obtained from manufacturers, retailers and the Public Health Inspectors of other districts. This Council were satisfied that adequate steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence and no legal proceedings were instituted.

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>	<i>No. Showing High Colony Count</i>
Fish Sticks ... ..	1	1	—
Cod Steak ... ..	1	1	—
Tins of Rice Pudding ... ..	2	2	—
Marsh Mallow ... ..	1	1	—
Jars of Cream ... ..	2	2	—
Desiccated Coconut ... ..	1	1	—
Meat Patty ... ..	1	1	—
Cooked Ham ... ..	3	1	2
Pork Pie ... ..	1	1	—
Fish Cakes ... ..	4	3	1
Kipperettes ... ..	1	1	—
Beefburgers ... ..	4	2	2

In the case of the cooked ham, production (at a small shop) ceased. The Public Health Inspector for the district where the beefburgers are manufactured, is in close touch with the firm concerned. Sampling at the production point is being stepped up.

## ICE - CREAM

		<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Retailers	...	37	164	—	—
Manufacturers	...	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Number of Samples</b>			...	...	134

### Percentage of Samples

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade I or II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
95.5%	98.5%	—	1.5%

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

		<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices</i>	<i>complied</i>
Dairies	...	1	} 292	—	—
Distributors	...	5			
Dairymen operating from outside district	...	17			
Producer/Retailers		3			

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

“Tuberculin Tested” Dealers Licences (“Untreated” as from 1st October ,1964)	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers (Pre-packed milk) Licences for “Tuberculin Tested” Milk	...	...	...	...	6
Dealers (Pre-packed milk) Licences for “Pasteurised” Milk					6
Dealers (Pre-packed milk) Licences for “Sterilised” Milk					3

Set out below are the sample results of “designated” milk.

Number of “Tuberculin Tested” Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	66
Number of Satisfactory “Tuberculin Tested” Milk Samples					61
Number of “Pasteurised” Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	78
Number of Satisfactory “Pasteurised” Milk Samples					74
Number of “Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)” Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	136
Number of Satisfactory “Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)” Milk Samples					135
Number of “Sterilised” Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	8

Number of Satisfactory "Sterilised" Milk Samples	...	8
Number of Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus	... ..	27
Number of Satisfactory Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus	... ..	27
Number of Satisfactory Biological Samples for Brucella Abortus	... ..	20

Our sampling record has largely been spoilt by two dairymen operating from outside the district. However, a thorough veterinary examination of the milk herd has been carried out in one case. I am delighted to say that another dairyman has ceased retailing raw milk and now only sells heat treated milk obtained from a large milk company.

### WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in this District	...	7
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1964		37
Number of Samples taken for chemical analysis during 1964	—	

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.

The Appendix illustrates the value of routine sampling. One estate supply gave a poor result and lack of proper maintenance to the chlorinator was quickly discovered.

### FACTORIES

			<i>Notices</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>with</i>
			<i>Notices</i>	<i>complied</i>
Factories with power	... 23	23	3	1
Factories without power	2	1	1	—
Outworkers	... .. 11	2	—	—

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</i>	
						<i>Served</i>	<i>with</i>
Shops	...	...	...	42	13	—	—

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

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

				<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices</i>	
						<i>Served</i>	<i>with</i>
Site Licences	...	...	...	16	61	1	2
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 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 9 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.

Sewers were test baited at Holt, Semington Road, Spa Road, Hilperton and Berryfields. There were 3 "takes" at Holt and a sewer treatment was carried out. The remaining four sewer systems showed "no takes".

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection throughout the District is maintained with a limited service for some trade refuse.

The Council use a Shelvoke and Drewry Diesel 16 cubic yard rear loader and a Ford 10 cubic yard side loader. The Bedford was sold during the year.

All the refuse is now taken to Beanacre Tip which provides ample space but is, unfortunately, at one end of the district. Westwood Tip was handed back to the land owner during the year.

## SALVAGE

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

	Weight				Approx. Value		
	tons	cwts	qrs.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Wools	—	5	0	22	29	2	0
Rags	3	1	0	14	36	14	0
Waste Paper	8	7	0	0	54	5	6
Scrap Metal	5	7	3	10	111	15	8
	TOTAL				£231	17	2

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, brought into operation in 1948, has been utilised to clear 405 cesspools and septic tanks during 1964.

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 405 clearances in 1964.

## HOUSING

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	11
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	11
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	—
Number of Closing Orders issued	...	...	5
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	1
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 11 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 reconditioning schemes and to take advantage of Improvement Grants.

During the year, 7 cottages were demolished and 3 re-conditioned.

17 Discretionary Grants (total £5,724) and 20 Standard Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1958 have been approved during 1964. 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 Certificate of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	137
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	1
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	—
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	6
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	—

#### RIVERS, STREAMS AND SEWERAGE

7 of the thirteen parishes (Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Hilperton, Holt, Melksham Without—Spa Road and Semington Road areas, Westwood 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.

Another problem which arises is when Byelaw approval has been granted by the Council for septic tank drainage and later it is found that the sewage disposal plant does not function properly due to a clay subsoil. It is often <sup>not</sup> possible to foresee these difficulties when the plans are considered.

## 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

The excellent co-operation with the Management of various firms shows very definite results.

The following condensed results of smoke observations illustrates the high standard reached.

<i>Premises</i>	Smoke Observations										<i>Percentage of Compli- ance with Regulations</i>		
	1962		1963		1964								
	<i>C</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Jan.-Mar.</i>		<i>Apr.-Jun.</i>		<i>Jul.-Sep.</i>			<i>Oct.-Dec.</i>	
				<i>C</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>N</i>		
A	18	0	12	0	3	0	3	1	2	2	3	0	79%
B	18	0	12	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	100%
C	18	0	11	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	100%
D	18	0	12	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	100%
E	13	5	11	1	3	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	100%
F	18	0	12	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	100%
G	1	0	12	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	100%
	104	5	82	1	21	0	27	1	26	2	21	0	

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

The one stack giving less than 100% compliance, received vigorous action by the firm's Managing Director. The National Coal Board's Advisory Staff quickly found the solution.

## RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

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



Two samples of rag flock, one of feathers, one of woollen mixture felt, one of coir fibre and one of hair were obtained during the year.

The feathers exceeded the required standard for extracted matter. However, the Prescribed Analyst pointed out this was due to the protein content of immature broiler feathers and there was no cause for alarm. The other samples all satisfied the prescribed standard.

#### **ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963**

Number of Premises Licensed	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	18

With the welcome assistance of the Fire Prevention Officer and the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector, we have obtained very definite improvements at the five premises concerned.

The Council feel satisfied that the stringent requirements and licence conditions are fulfilled.

#### **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 13 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 ANIMAL (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957**

Only one premises now remains licensed. 1 inspection has been made and conditions appear reasonable.

## **OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES, ACT 1963**

The first difficulty experienced here was that business proprietors seemed unaware that they should apply for registration. Consequently we sent out over 100 circulars and, by this means, could assess the extent of the work involved.

By the end of 1964, a fair proportion of initial inspections had been made. It is hoped to have the matter more fully under control during 1965.

Details of our preparatory work are shown in Appendix "E".

## **NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1961**

A complaint was received about noise from dogs barking at all hours. We managed to avoid the bitterness that is quite usual in these matters. A solution to the problem was found with the ready co-operation of the dog owner. I am glad to say that the Council received a letter of appreciation for our efforts.

## **LAND DRAINAGE ACT, 1961**

A joint meeting was arranged between officers of the County Council, the River Board and this Council in connection with some flooding of land in Melksham Without. It was not considered that the flooding was serious enough to warrant a special scheme. Various minor alterations to an estate drainage system were suggested and no further trouble has been reported.

## **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	...	...	...	...	...	...	555
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Housing Visits and Small Dwellings							
Acquisition Act enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	395
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	365
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	29

APPENDIX "A"

CARCASE 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 ...	583	1,649	427	48	28	—
Number inspected ...	583	1,649	427	48	28	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	20	14	7	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	88	629	24	7	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	15.4	39.35	8.8	29.2	—	—
<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 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "B" BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1964

Name of Supply	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks
Bath City (Combe Down) Supply	S (2)	—	—	S (2)	—	—	S (2)	—	—	S (2)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply
North Wilts Water Board (Holt Supply)	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply
North Wilts Water Board (Chippenham Supply)	S (3)	—	—	S (3)	—	—	S (3)	—	—	S (3)	—	—	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 (1) S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	Chlorinated Supply
Estate Supply	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	S (1)	—	—	Main Water fed to Estate Reservoir.

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

Inspections	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power) ... ..	2	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power) ... ..	23	23	2	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises) ...	—	—	—	—

Defects	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	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 ... ..	5	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "D"

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for twelve months ended 31st December, 1964

		Type of Property				
		Non-Agricultural			Agri-cultural	
		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 Authority's District ... ..	10	3700	464	4174	220
II.	Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification ... ..	—	134	11	145	3
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—						
Common Rat		Major ... ..	—	2	2	—
		Minor ... ..	120	7	127	3
Ship rat		Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
		Minor ... ..	—	—	—	—
House mouse		Major ... ..	1	—	1	—
		Minor ... ..	12	1	13	—
III.	Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act ... ..	7	121	4	132	24
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—						
Common Rat		Major ... ..	—	—	1	—
		Minor ... ..	99	3	107	14
Ship rat		Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
		Minor ... ..	—	—	—	—
House mouse		Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
		Minor ... ..	5	—	5	1

**APPENDIX "D" (continued)**  
**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**  
**Report for twelve months ended 31st December, 1964**

	Type of Property				Agri-cultural
	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) ... ..	—	11	161	172	—
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—					
Common Rat	Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
	Minor ... ..	—	4	4	—
Ship rat	Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
	Minor ... ..	—	—	—	—
House mouse	Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
	Minor ... ..	2	2	4	—
V. Total inspections carried out :— including reinspections ... ..	Not	readily	availab	le	
VI. Number of infested properties (in Sections II, III & IV treated by the L.A.)	6	230	11	247	11
VII. Total treatments carried out :— including re-treatments ... ..	Not	readily	availab	le	
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	—	16	—	16	—



APPENDIX "E"  
OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

		TOTALS			
TABLE A Registrations and General Inspections	Offices	2	2	1	
	Retail Shops	9	9	9	
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	1	—	
	Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	7	7	4	
	Fuel Storage depots	—	—	—	
	(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of pre- mises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered pre- mises at the end of year	(4) Number of reg- istered premises receiving a gen- eral inspection during the year	

TABLE B—Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises 35

	Class of workplace		Number of persons employed	
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
TABLE C Analysis of persons employed in Registered premises by work- place	Offices	8	23	42
	Retail shops	—	—	—
	Wholesale departments, warehouses	—	—	—
	Catering establishments open to the public	—	—	—
	Canteens	—	—	—
	Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
	TOTAL	78	26	52
	Total Males	—	—	—
	Total Females	—	—	—



