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Rural District of Bridgwater




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1965



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1965

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B. B.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

F.A. MAILE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. ENN, M.A.P.H.I.

B. F. HITCHCOCK, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Jan - Aug.

R. G. MORGAN, M.R.S.H. Sept. - Dec.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	86,00
Population (Census 1961)	21,98
Population (Registrar General's estimate 1965)	24,20
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1965	7,87
Rateable value on 31st December, 1965	£590,00
Sum represented by ld. rate on 31st December, 1965	£2167.0.

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1965

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	201	201	402	
Illegitimate	13	12	25	
	<u>214</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>427</u>	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population				17.
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				5.
Stillbirths				3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births				6.
Total live and still births				43
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)				8
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total				18.
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate				19.
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate				Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)				16.
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)				11.
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)				18.
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)				Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births				Nil
<u>Deaths</u>				
Total number of deaths				22
Death rate per 1,000 population				9.2

Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 427 births (214 boys and 213 girls) in the Rural District during 1965, being 44 births fewer than in 1964. Of these births 25 were illegitimate. This is 5.85% of the total live births, as compared with 4.03% in 1964.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Rural District adjusted in this manner is increased from 17.64 to 18.54 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.00.

Birth rates for the Rural District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Crude Birth Rate	18.54	17.64	20.10	19.81	17.64
Standardised Birth Rate	20.02	18.16	21.10	20.80	18.54
England and Wales	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.0

Deaths

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during 1965 was 104. Of these 6 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 131 deaths of Rural District residents registered outside the District. (84 at Taunton hospitals and 47 elsewhere). The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 223 (130 males and 93 females). This was 49 less than the previous year and gave a crude death rate of 9.21 per 1,000 of the population.

The crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General therefore supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with that of the country as a whole, or of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 9.02 per 1,000 of the population, and this is compared with 11.5 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Crude Death Rate	11.66	10.62	12.80	11.44	9.21
Standardised Death Rate	10.72	10.41	12.67	11.32	9.02
England and Wales	12.0	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5

Of 223 deaths, 123 occurred in people over the age of 70 years. 63 occurred in people in the productive age groups 15 to 64 years, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group:-

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm stomach					1	1
Malignant neoplasm of lung bronchus				1	6	7
Malignant neoplasm of breast				1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm of uterus					1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				1	4	5
Leukaemia Aleukaemia			1			1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system		1		1	5	7
Coronary disease and angina		1	1	3	9	14
Other heart disease		1		2	6	9
Other circulatory disease					2	2
Pneumonia					1	1
Bronchitis		1			2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum					1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			1	2	2	5
Motor vehicle accidents	3					3
All other accidents						
Suicide						
Homicide and operations of war				1		1
Totals	3	4	3	12	41	63

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths from cancer of Rural District residents was 51, (males 29, females 22) They constitute 22.9% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 51 cases:-

	Number of Deaths			
	Male	Female	Total 1965	1964
Stomach	2	2	4	4
Lung, Bronchus	13	1	14	11
Breast	-	3	3	5
Uterus	-	2	2	1
Other and unspecified organs	14	14	28	30
Total	29	22	51	51

Cancer of the Uterus

In the report for last year reference was made to the need for a comprehensive scheme to provide for the examination of routine tests with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. It is understood that sufficient trained staff are now available to undertake the work of examining cervical smears and it is to be hoped that soon the examination of these smears will be available to all women who desire it.

Cancer of the Lungs.

The ages at which death occurred in the last four years combined is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
1962				1	3	4	1	9
1963					1	3	5	9
1964				1	-	4	6	11
1965					1	6	7	14
				2	5	17	19	43

Infantile Mortality

8 Infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 18.73 per 1000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 19.0

The following table shows the cause of the infant death detail:-

	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	total under 1 year
Coliform Meningitis	1				1
Congenital Heart Disease				1	1
Pulmonary Haemorrhage		1			1
Neonatal Pneumonia	1				1
Atelectasis	2				2
Streptococcal Septicaemia	1				1
Prematurity	1				1
Total	6	1	-	1	8

Deaths from Heart Disease

Of the 223 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 42 females 31). It represented 32.7% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.01 per 1,000 of the population.

Other Deaths.

Road accidents accounted for 4 deaths.

Cause of Death		M	F	Total
All Causes		130	93	223
1.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-
2.	Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	13	1	14
12.	Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	14	28
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	17	15	32
18.	Coronary disease and angina	29	16	45
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	-	3
20.	Other heart disease	10	15	25
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	8	11
22.	Influenza	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	5	1	6
24.	Bronchitis	6	2	8
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	10	24
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
34.	Suicide	2	-	2
35.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
36.	All other accidents	-	-	-
Totals		130	93	223

Population

The estimated population of the Rural District as at June 1965 was 24,200, which shows an increase of 430 on the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is, the excess of births over deaths, was 204.

Year	Population	Increase	Natural Increase
1961	21,950	1,450	151
1962	22,500	550	158
1963	23,040	540	168
1964	23,770	730	199
1965	24,200	430	204

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable infectious diseases which were notified in the Rural District during 1965. The table is drawn up after making the necessary amendments to the original notifications by either the practitioners or the Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital, owing to corrections in diagnosis.

Disease	Cases Notified	
	1965	1964
Scarlet Fever	26	8
Whooping Cough	7	13
Measles	233	72
Dysentery	4	-
Pneumonia	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	1
Erysipelas	1	1
Total	273	97

Measles.

233 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease. Nevertheless despite its triviality measles consumes a considerable proportion of doctors' working time in epidemic years, and for this reason alone its prevention would greatly help the family doctor. Also, considerable quantities of antibiotics are prescribed in treating a great many cases and thus prevention would also effect a considerable economic saving. At the present investigations into the efficiency of a new anti-measles vaccine are being carried out in different parts of the country and it may well be that before very long a useful addition may be made to the existing triple vaccine which protects children against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

(a) Cases: No cases were notified.

(b) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of vaccination.

	Children born in the years.						
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61	Others under age of 16	Total
Primary	44	268	66	27	50	15	470
Reinforcing	-	-	1	-	320	74	395
Total	44	268	67	27	370	89	865

Tuberculosis

4 respiratory and one non-respiratory cases of tuberculosis were notified as compared with 3 respiratory cases in 1964.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.64.	46	6
Number of new cases during the year	4	1
Number of deaths during the year	-	-

The very low incidence of deaths due to tuberculosis was maintained and reflects the efficacy of modern treatment. All new cases are thoroughly investigated and all known close contact are invited to attend the Chest Clinic for investigation.

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year:-

Age	Under 5	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65 & over	Age unknown	Tot
Male	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Female	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to Tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 1,269 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had, in fact, already experienced some infection with Tuberculosis. 995 of these gave negative results and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. Vaccine.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. Children completed a course of immunisation and received booster injections against the disease as follows:-

	Children born in the years					Others	Total
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61		
Primary	129	224	22	10	26	5	416
Booster	6	62	115	34	342	188	747

Tetanus Immunisation.

Tetanus immunisation is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine, and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1964 was as follows:-

	Children born in the years					Others	Total
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61		
Primary	129	224	22	11	52	83	521
Booster	6	62	115	34	343	190	750

Vaccination against Smallpox

The number of recorded vaccinations was as follows:-

	0-3 mnths	4-6 mnths	7-9 mnths	10-12 mnths	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Totals
Primary	8	20	5	10	118	29	20	210
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	2	14	16

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year included:-

Water Samples	40
Ice Cream Samples	34
Food Samples	10

Hospitals

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South West Regional Hospital Board through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Hospital	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

The Rural District Council, in conjunction with the Bridgwater Borough Council, have continued their efforts to secure improved hospital facilities in Bridgwater and it is therefore satisfactory to record that at the time of writing this report the Regional Hospital Board have announced their decision to provide a new Casualty Department at Bridgwater General Hospital during the next financial year. The space occupied by existing Department can then be used to provide much needed improvements to the Out-patient and X-ray Departments.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area supervision being conducted by General Practitioners and Midwives. A number of expectant mothers attend at the Clinic at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater, when blood samples are taken for determination of blood groups, Rhesus Factor etc. During 1965 989 persons attended. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 897.

Infant Welfare

Infant Welfare Clinics, for which the County Council are responsible, are held at Ashcott, Cannington, Edington, Goathurst, East Huntspill, West Huntspill, Moorland, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Pawlett, Puriton, Spaxton, Westonzoyland and Woolavington.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Admission to Hospital

To assist the Geriatric Department at Trinity Hospital, Taunton, to determine the priority for admission of old people to hospital beds, and to provide the Geriatrician with information on the home background of hospital patients which would be useful in arranging the discharge of old people from hospital, arrangements have now been made for the Health Department to be informed of all applications for admission to hospital of old people, and a comprehensive report is sent without delay to the Geriatrician.

Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved a very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 207 cases received assistance.

These included the following types:-

Maternity	31
Old age and infirmity	110
Chronic sick	24
Post operation	7
Emergency illness	6
Other cases	19

The number of Home Helps at 31st December, 1965, was as follows:-

Full time	3
Part time	19

Welfare of Old People

The Rural District now assist the W.V.S. in providing Meals on Wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the recipients. The scheme is at present operating in certain parts of the District, but it is hoped to extend the service wherever there is need.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the District.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The East Huntspill and Woolavington Scheme is practically complete and the Council's proposals for the villages of North Pethererton, Nether Stowey and Sutton Mallett, await approval by the Ministry. The Scheme to provide a sewerage and sewage disposal system for Shapwick has been prepared in outline and negotiations with the farmers concerned over the disposal of trade effluents are proceeding.

The Council's scheme for providing a cesspool emptying service at reduced cost for homes situated outside areas connected by main drainage has worked smoothly and has been much appreciated.

Water Supplies.

Sampling of Water Supplies was continued and results generally were highly satisfactory. In those cases where results were not up to standard no special measures other than increasing chlorination were necessary. An exception was the Goathurst private supply where there was a risk of serious contamination occurring at any time and which has now been closed. An alternative supply from the Willoughby source has been provided for the village of Goathurst.

Results of bacteriological tests generally can be summarised as follows:-

Supply	Number of examinations	Report	
		Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Fiddington	15	9	6
Goathurst	10	8	2
Willoughby	14	9	5
Over Stowey	15	14	1

Chemical analysis of Fiddington, Willoughby, and Over Stowey supplies was continued as a matter of routine. Reports were as follows:-

Fiddington Water Supply

Physical Characters	Parts per million
	Clear and bright. Hazen Units less than 5.
Sediment	None
Reaction	Very Slightly Alkaline
pH	7.2
Total Solids	385.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	250.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	250.0
Non-Carbonate " "	55.0
Total Hardness " "	305.0
Chloride (as Cl)	21.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.002
Nitrate " "	2.8
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.05
Free Carbon Dioxide	8.0
Iron, Copper, Lead & Zinc	Nil

This is a hard water, of satisfactory chemical purity.

Willoughby Water Supply

Physical Character	Parts per million
	Clear and bright. Hazen Units less than 5.
Sediment	None
Reaction	Slightly Alkaline
pH	7.7
Total Solids	210.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	130.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	130.0
Non-Carbonate " "	30.0
Total Hardness " "	160.0
Chloride (as Cl)	21.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.002
Nitrate " "	1.4
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.05
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.0
Iron, Copper, Lead & Zinc	Nil

This is a moderately hard water of satisfactory chemical purity.

Over Stowey Water Supply.

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen Units less than 5.
Sediment	None
Reaction	Very Slightly Alkaline
pH	7.3
Total Solids	90.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	35.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	" "
Non-Carbonate " " "	" "
Total Hardness " "	40.0
Chloride (as Cl)	17.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.001
Albuminoid " "	0.002
Nitrate " "	Nil
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.40
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.0
Iron, Copper, Lead & Zinc	Nil
This is a soft water of satisfactory chemical purity.	

Housing

During 1965 the Local Authority erected 31 houses compared with 88 in 1964. Private Enterprise built 180 houses in 1965, compared with 222 in 1964. At the end of the year there were approximately 338 applications for Council houses, compared with 290 at the end of the previous year.

At the time of writing this report, work on the task of complete redevelopment of the Woolavington Housing Estate is proceeding satisfactorily. This is particularly welcomed as the condition of many of the existing houses is causing concern.

Wardens Schemes for old people are now operating most successfully in the following villages - West Huntspill 15 (units) North Petherton 9, Woolavington 9, Nether Stowey 11, Puriton 8, Ashcott 8.

The number of post-war houses built in the Rural District from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1965 was as follows:-

(a) Erected by the Local Authority	1060
(b) Erected by Private Enterprise	2054

Improvement Grants

Owners of many properties have been informed of the benefits of these grants and have been urged to bring their properties up to modern standards. The following table summarises the action taken.

Discretionary Grants

Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
26	26	26	26

Standard Grants

Received	Approved
18	18

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The records given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report show the number of insanitary conditions dealt with.

FOR 1965

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twenty-sixth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1965.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of Chief Public Health Inspector, two additional Public Health Inspectors and female clerk-typist. Mr. B. F. Hitchcock, one of the Additional Public Health Inspectors resigned on 6th August on appointment to a post with Long Ashton Rural District Council, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mr. R. G. Morgan who was previously a Student Public Health Inspector with Pontypool Urban District Council.

Mr. Morgan commenced duty on 13th September.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints investigated during the year was 111, a decrease of 11 on the previous year. In most cases nuisances were abated as a result of informal action and it was only found necessary to serve 2 Statutory Notices. On inspection a number of complaints were found to be not justified and no further action was taken in regard to them.

Of the nuisances found, 86 were abated during the year. The number of visits made in connection with nuisances was 261.

Work has continued on the joint sewerage scheme for the villages of Woolavington, East Huntspill and Cossington, and was nearing completion at the end of the year. The completion of this scheme will make possible the elimination of serious drainage nuisances which now exist in each of these villages.

For some years the Council has been seriously concerned at the insanitary conditions which occur at trunk road lay-bys, particularly at weekends during the summer months. At one large lay-by on the main A.38 trunk road near the village of North Petherton, conditions had become progressively worse each summer and the Council decided that the provision of some form of wayside toilet accommodation was imperative. This lay-by is too far from the village to discharge sewage into the village sewers and consequently conveniences using mechanically agitated chemical means of disposal had to be provided. The unit is housed in a building constructed externally with waney-edge elm boarding and has a tiled floor, laminated plastic internal lining; and natural lighting is obtained by means of perspex sheets in the roof. Three pedestal pans are provided for women and two for men, together with a stainless steel urinal. The fittings are positioned over two steel tanks, each of 200 gallons capacity, with overflows to a third tank of 400 gallons capacity which is emptied as required by a cesspool emptying vehicle.

These conveniences have been extensively used and it is clear that they are meeting a real need, as it was estimated that the average usage during August was 10,000 per week. Since the unit came into operation the fouling of hedgerows etc. on adjoining agricultural land has ceased.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken at monthly intervals from the three sources of supply serving most of the District and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for examination.

WATER SUPPLY (continued)

The Goathurst private supply, which had become polluted, was closed during the year and house connections formerly served from this source were transferred to the public mains.

A total of 65 visits was made in connection with water supply during the year.

HOUSING.

The total number of visits under the Housing Acts was 630, the number of separate houses inspected being 227.

As in previous years a considerable number of informal repair notices were sent to owners, and these were followed up where necessary with re-inspections and negotiations with property owners and their agents or builders to consider details of the required repairs.

The shortage of building labour remained acute during the year and most of the larger firms are fully engaged on new building work, repair work is normally left in the hands of jobbing builders. It is unfortunate that these builders are not in a position to employ sufficient labour and have insufficient resources, both in capital and equipment, to carry out work expeditiously. This leads to delay in commencing work and in carrying it through to completion as it is quite common for men and plant to be taken off job intermittently and put to work elsewhere.

As in previous years, a large number of applications for Improvement Grants were dealt with and schedules of disrepair were supplied where appropriate to ensure that the property was brought up to a reasonable standard as a condition of grant. In a number of cases the granting of a loan towards the applicants share of the cost made possible the carrying out of work which otherwise would have been beyond the applicants means.

During the year 43 houses were repaired and improved as a result of the service of informal notices.

11 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost and 5 Demolition Orders and Closing Orders were made by the Council. In 3 cases, the Council agreed to accept undertakings to carry out works within a stipulated time. 10 houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished during the year.

5 families were transferred during the year from condemned houses to Council houses.

73 visits were made during the year to 19 properties in regard to the reconditioning and alteration of existing houses and the installation of new sanitary fittings.

18 visits were made to houses in respect to which grants had been made under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts.

74 visits were made in connection with applications for Improvements Grants.

OVERCROWDING.

No new cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year.

5 visits were made in connection with overcrowding.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1937:-

	Number on Register	Insp.	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	2	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	68	68	3	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	72	72	3	-

The 72 visits were made in respect to 72 factories.

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness		2			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage to floor (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL	5	3			

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

All but three of the 89 premises registered under the Act received a general inspection during the year and 101 visits were made. The number of employees was 224, comprising 78 males and 146 females.

In 63 of these premises only one or two persons are employed as they are mainly small village general stores, village public houses with only local trade, or small catering establishments having a mainly seasonal trade. Most of the requirements of the Act have already been met by action taken by the Council's inspectors under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and only minor deficiencies were found in some of the remaining premises.

Room measurements were only taken in a few cases where overcrowding was thought to be possible and in no case was overcrowding substantiated.

The required minimum temperature was maintained except in a few cases when abnormally cold weather was experienced. It is however, clear that in some cases the means of heating provided are inadequate in exceptionally severe weather. It was sometimes found that shops were adequately heated whilst the associated stock-room was not provided with means of heating sufficient to maintain the statutory minimum temperature.

Some reluctance to comply with ventilation requirements was found and among the reasons were:-

1. Possible infringement of security regulations in sub-post offices.
2. Possible contamination of food by dust, etc.

Adequate ventilation is not easy to obtain where the whole front of a shop consists of a plate glass display window and a door, and the proprietor's living accommodation is at the back.

With regard to lighting, it is considered that standards are reasonably good, but as in the case of heating, better lighting is provided in shops than in stock-rooms. In one office occupied by a firm of building contractors, one room had no external window and another room had only a very small window. No specific standards of lighting, in terms of lumens have been recommended to occupiers, and no instances of excessive glare have been noticed.

Several informal notices have been served in regard to provision of hand rails, balustrades and inadequate guarding of refrigerator fans and belts and slicing machines.

In many cases, the required abstract of the Act was not displayed, and first aid kits did not comply with the Regulations.

No exemption certificates have been issued.

BAKEHOUSES.

16 visits were made to the 9 bakehouses in the District and where defects or unsatisfactory conditions were found informal notices were served.

In one case where serious contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 had persisted for some time and warning letters had been ignored, proceedings for offences under the Regulations were instituted. The defendant was convicted of failing to keep the sanitary convenience in efficient order, failing to fix the prescribed notice about washing hands, failing to provide clean and suitable drying facilities, failing to provide suitable and sufficient means of lighting, failing to keep walls and floors in a clean condition, and permitting avoidable refuse to accumulate. He was fined a total of £23.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The following sanitary fittings were renewed or provided generally as a result of informal action:-

W.C's	11
Baths	2
Sinks	1
Drainage systems	1
Lavatory basins	4

A number of other minor improvements were also carried out.

FOOD HYGIENE.

A great deal of time has again been spent on implementing the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, 381 inspections having been made of the 311 premises and mobile shops in the District to which the Regulations apply. In all but a few premises the standard of hygiene maintained is very good, but in these few cases frequent and regular visits are necessary in order to impress on persons responsible and their employees the need for constant care and vigilance in the hygienic preparation and handling of food.

Where contraventions of the Regulations were found, informal action was taken which resulted in 25 deficiencies being remedied. In addition, the following improvements in facilities and equipment were installed:-

Refrigerators	5
Floors and walls tiled	4
Premises modernised	1
W.C's	2
Dish Washers	2

The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:-

	Fitted to comply with Regulation 16.	Regulation 19 applies.	Fitted to comply with Regulation 19.
98 Food Shops	98	95	95
70 Licenced houses & clubs	70	70	70
58 Food preparing premises	57	58	58
40 Schools	11	40	40
16 Butchers	15	16	16
16 Cafes	16	16	16
9 Bakehouses	9	9	9
2 Poultry & Rabbit Packers	2	2	2
1 Ice Cream Factory	-	1	1
1 Fish & Chip Shop	1	1	1

N.B. Regulation 16 requires the provision of a wash-hand basin and Regulation 19 requires the provision of sink and other facilities for washing food and equipment.

LICENSED PREMISES.

69 inspections of licensed premises were carried out, and a number of improvements were brought about by informal action, including the complete renewal on modern lines of the sanitary accommodation at two premises, and in addition the internal lay-out of two public houses was completely modernised.

Two licensed houses were closed during the year.

MEAT AND FOODS.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the District, three of which are used exclusively for the wholesale trade, and the other two are used for both wholesale and retail purposes. The slaughterhouse at Puriton ceased operations temporarily in September, and the premises at Shapwick which had been out of use for some time were again brought into operation in October.

Most of the meat produced at the wholesale slaughterhouses is sent to the London wholesale markets, but a considerable quantity is also sent to Bristol and Bath, whilst a comparatively small amount goes to local retail butchers.

The number of animals slaughtered increased by over 25% of the previous years total.

1,146 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat, and 26,052 carcasses were inspected, an increase of 5,296 on the previous year, and giving an average of 23 animals per visit. The numbers of the different kinds of animals inspected were as follows:-

Beasts	1,977
Cows	81
Calves	4,518
Sheep	12,268
Pigs	7,208

Approximately $8\frac{1}{4}$ tons of meat was condemned during the year, details of which are as follows:-

Beasts.

Carcasses and organs	.1
Heads and tongues	6
Livers	180
Lungs	21
Hearts	7
Diaphragms	11
Beef	445 lbs.

Cows.

Carcasses and organs	10
Livers	13
Lungs	5
Kidneys	3
Hearts	1
Beef	1,144 lbs.

Calves.

Carcasses and organs	34
Livers	3
Kidneys	23
Plucks	2
Lungs	4
Hearts	1
Veal	5 lbs.

MEAT AND FOODS (continued)

Sheep.

Carcases and organs	24
Livers	358
Lungs	18
Flucks	19
Kidneys	1
Mutton	49 lbs.

Figs.

Carcasses and organs	4
Heads and tongues	55
Livers	128
Kidneys	32
Lungs	120
Plucks	97
Hearts	82
Diaphragms	32
Pork	170 lbs.

Other Foods.

62 tins - Various foods.
50 tons - Potatoes.

MEAT AND FOODS (Continued)

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:-

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number inspected	1,977	81	4,518	12,268	7,108	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis - whole carcases condemned	1	10	34	24	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	223	24	23	402	493	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	11.33	42.00	1.26	3.47	6.9	-
Tuberculosis only - Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	49	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.68	-
Cysticercosis. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned meat is normally disposed of to manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers where it is processed and sterilised by steam under pressure.

Eight licences have been issued to the proprietors of animal boarding establishments and there is one licence for shops, the licence being restricted to the sale of cage birds, poultry and tropical fish.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two disinfections were carried out during the year, and a total of 47 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases.

PRESERVED FOODS.

There are 14 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled and preserved foods.

The bacteriological examination of samples of prepared foods continued during the year and 10 samples were obtained, all of which were reported as containing no pathological organisms. The variety of foods sampled, included sausages, brawn, faggots, pies, pasties, tongue, ham and pressed beef.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of retail purveyors of milk on the register is 8 and 9 visits were made for the inspection of dairies during the year. There are also 3 dairies manufacturing milk products on a large scale.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 106, and three premises were also registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

34 samples were taken during the year, 30 of which were placed in Provisional Grade 1 and 4 in Provisional Grade 2.

A total of 111 visits were made in connection with the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

KNACKERS YARD.

The knackers yard at Dunball is being maintained in very good condition and was visited on 2 occasions during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

238 visits were made during the year in connection with moveable dwellings.

There are 23 caravans and camping sites in the district, all of which are small. In addition, there are 34 caravans on individual sites.

Many complaints were again received in regard to gypsy camps occupied by persons employed by produce merchants during the pea picking season.

These camps are very difficult to control by reason of the objectionable habits of the persons who use them, but the two licensed sites were fairly well maintained although not supervised by the owners to the extent necessary for this type of camp. The licensed site at Bradney in the Parish of Bawdrip is no longer in use.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS AND PET SHOPS.

Eight licenses have been issued to the proprietors of Animal Boarding Establishments and there is one licensed Pet Shop, the licence being restricted to the sale of cage birds, goldfish and tropical fish.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two disinfections were carried out during the year, and a total of 47 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water Supply	93
Drainage	33
New Work	73
Nuisances	261
Refuse Disposal	22
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises	101
Factories	72
Schools	40
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	3
Housing (Slum Clearance)	208
Housing Repairs	310
Improvement Grants	74
Housing (Financial Provision) Act	18
Overcrowding	5
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	15
Moveable Dwellings	238
Infectious Diseases	47
Rodent Infestation	37
Other Pest Control	25
Meat Inspection	1,146
Food Shops	143
Mobile Shops	15
Bakehouses	16
School Kitchens	40
Other Food Preparing Premises	87
Licensed Premises and Clubs	69
Dairies	9
Ice Cream	111
Miscellaneous Food Visits	6
Ice Cream Sample Visits	33
Preserved Food Sample Visits	2
Slaughterhouses & Poultry Packers	26
Knacker Yard	2
Animal Boarding Establishments	14
Miscellaneous	163
Hairdressers	12
Public Sanitary Accommodation	98
Fire Escapes	20
Waste Food Boiling Plant	2
Diseases of Animals	12

3,701

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. A. MAILE

Chief Public Health Inspector

SUMMARY OF VISITS

22	Water Supply
21	Drainage
20	Electricity
19	Gas
18	Sanitation
17	Public Health
16	Police
15	Fire
14	Education
13	Religion
12	Art and Science
11	Industry
10	Commerce
9	Transportation
8	Communication
7	Recreation
6	Government
5	Law
4	Medicine
3	Agriculture
2	Livestock
1	Forestry

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