

[Report 1970] / Medical Officer of Health, Calne Borough.

Contributors

Calne (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1970

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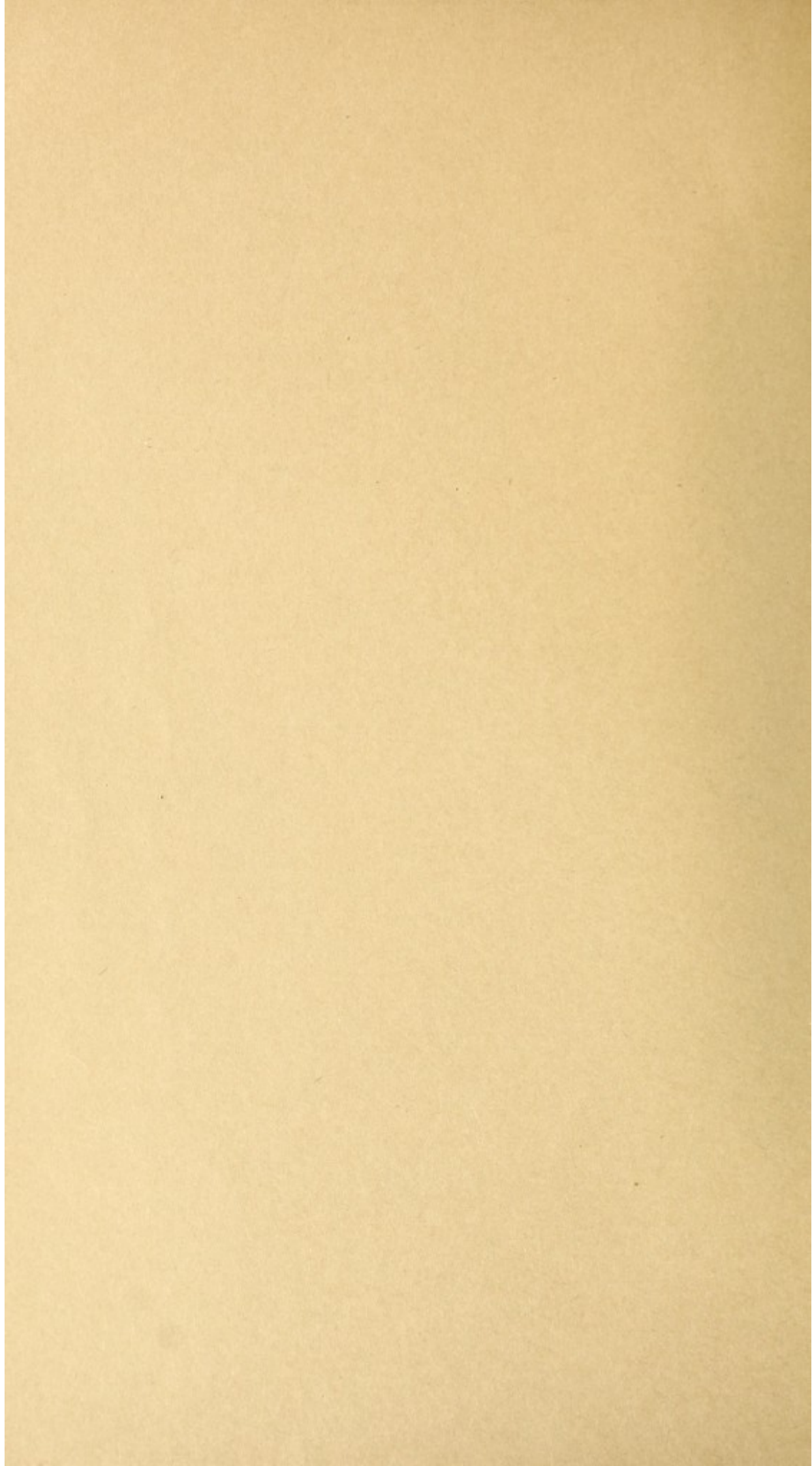
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**BOROUGH
OF
CALNE**

1970



Borough of Calne

THE

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1970



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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AUTHORISED MEAT OFFICERS

K. Butler
F. H. J. Cleverly
D. R. Shepherd
R. J. Slade
J. E. Turner

To - The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Calne Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1970.

The standardised death rate for 1970 fell to 9.9, well below the rate for England and Wales. The birth rate rose compared with 1969. The number of deaths in infants aged under one year rose from three in 1969 to six in 1970.

During the year a report appeared in the British Medical Journal of forty-four cases of liver fluke in persons who had eaten wild watercress in the Forest of Dean area. Another five cases were reported from Shropshire. After making enquiries I found that the incidence of this disease in cattle is rising, so assume that if nothing is done there are likely to be more human cases in future. As I could find nothing in the medical literature about prevention of this disease, I studied the subject, and made local surveys, and then contributed an article to the weekly journal "Medical Officer". I have included this as an appendix to this report. The nearest watercress to the Borough that I could find was at Calstone Waterworks, but as this area is now fenced in, I consider the watercress there reasonably safe.

I should like to record my thanks to the Council and its Officers for their assistance and interest during the year.

I have the honour to be,

your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. WRAY,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,276
Population (Registrar General's estimate)... ..	9,880
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1970 according to the Rate Book)	3,158
Number of Council dwellings (end of 1970)... ..	1,251
Number of applicants for Council dwellings (end of 1970)... ..	300
Rateable Value	£352,725
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (estimated)	£1,400

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates compared with other areas.

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population, standardised)*

	<u>Birth Rate:</u>		<u>Death Rate:</u>	
	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Calne Borough	17.7	18.1	13.2	9.9
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	18.9	18.7	10.2	10.4
Wiltshire	17.6	17.2	10.7	10.7
England and Wales	16.3	16.0	11.9	11.7

*Comparability factors are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

It is interesting that the comparability factor for 1969 was 1.32 and that I queried this with the Registrar General. This year he has given a much lower comparability factor of 1.17, which is one reason for the lower death rate compared with 1969.

STILL BIRTHS

1 still birth was notified during the year under review. The rate per 1,000 total births is 5. The comparative rate for England and Wales is 13.

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>MALES:</u>		<u>FEMALES:</u>		<u>TOTALS:</u>
	<u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>	<u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>	
Under 1 year ...	4	-	2	-	6
Under 4 weeks ...	4	-	2	-	6
Under 1 week ...	2	-	2	-	4

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births is 33.

Comparative rate for England and Wales is 18.

Because the figures involved are small, the infant mortality rate for the Borough can fluctuate widely from year to year. Last year the rate was only 17.

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

This consists of stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births. The rate for the Borough was 27, compared with a rate for England and Wales of 23.

DEATHS - ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms... ..	-	2	2
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	1	1
Gastric ulcer, avitaminosis	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	1
Hypertensive disease	1	2	3
Ischaemic heart disease	11	6	17
Other forms of heart disease	1	8	9
Cerebrovascular disease	5	4	9
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	5	5
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	-	2
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	2	-	2
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies... ..	-	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	2	-	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality...	-	1	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions...	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	-	3	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
TOTALS ...	37	47	84

DEATHS - BY AGE GROUPS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Under 4 weeks</u>			
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-	
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	
Congenital anomalies	-	1	
Other causes of perinatal mortality ..	-	1	
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	2	-	
	4	2	6
<u>15 - 24 years</u>			
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	
	-	2	2
<u>25 - 34 years</u>			
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
<u>35 - 44 years</u>			
Ischaemic heart disease	1	-	1
<u>45 - 54 years</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	
Other malignant neoplasms	-	2	
Cerebrovascular disease	1	-	
	2	4	6
<u>55 - 64 years</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	
Gastric ulcer, avitaminosis	-	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	4	1	
Influenza	1	-	
Pneumonia	1	-	
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	-	
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1	
	7	5	12

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>65 - 74 years</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	
Hypertensive disease	1	2	
Ischaemic heart disease	4	2	
Other forms of heart disease	-	1	
Cerebrovascular disease	3	2	
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	2	
Influenza	1	-	
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	-	
Peptic ulcer	1	-	
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	
All other accidents	-	1	
	14	14	28
<u>75 years and over</u>			
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	2	3	
Other forms of heart disease	1	7	
Cerebrovascular disease	1	2	
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	3	
Pneumonia	1	2	
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	2	-	
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	-	
All other accidents	-	2	
	8	20	28

The main cause of death was ischaemic (coronary) heart disease. Although it may be a merciful form of death for the very old, it is a tragedy when it hits the man in early middle age with a family to support. It is thought that it can be prevented from occurring in these younger age groups by regular exercise, the avoidance of smoking, and a sensible diet for those who tend to become steadily overweight.

There were two deaths from influenza early in the year, following the influenza outbreak which started at the end of 1969.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the cases of infectious diseases notified during 1970:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Infectious Hepatitis	-	-	2	1
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	1	-	-
Measles	185	2	69	100
Dysentery	12	-	1	4
Food Poisoning	12	-	-	3
Tuberculosis	4	1	2	2
Totals	217	4	74	110

No case of diphtheria has been reported since 1953, and no case of poliomyelitis since 1961. This shows the value of immunisation. In his 1950 Annual Report Dr. Broomhead wrote that it was estimated that only 28% of children throughout the country were immunised against diphtheria. I am very pleased, therefore, to report that the County Medical Officer of Health has informed me that in 1970 83.2% of infants in Wiltshire were immunised, and in Calne Borough 100%.

Infectious Hepatitis

Only one case occurred during the year. There was quite an outbreak in rural districts but this has now subsided as people have gained natural immunity.

Measles

1970 was like an epidemic year despite the introduction of measles vaccine which can prevent this potentially serious disease. All mothers are now offered this protection for infants in their second year of life.

Dysentery

There were two isolated cases of sonne dysentery, and one family outbreak affecting two people.

Food Poisoning

There were three cases of salmonella food poisoning. One was an isolated case, and the other two were related.

Tuberculosis

There were two cases reported during the year. The Public Health Department investigates the housing conditions, and the Chest Physician follows up contacts. Immunisation against tuberculosis is offered to children at secondary school.

Immunisation

A new immunisation campaign was started during the year to protect all girls at secondary school against Rubella (sometimes called "German Measles"). This is a mild disease, but if contracted during the early months of pregnancy it can damage the foetus so that if the child is born alive it is found to have congenital defects such as deafness, blindness or a deformed heart. When it is known that the mother has been in contact with Rubella in pregnancy she can be given a protective

serum; however, it may not always be known that she has contracted the disease, so it is far safer to give long-lasting protection in adolescence.

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following immunisation statistics carried out in the Borough during 1970:-

		Children born in years							
		1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1961-65	1955-60	Others under 16
Primary imms. completed during 1970	Diph.	108	68	1	5	-	6	-	-
	Wh. cough	108	68	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Tetanus	108	69	1	6	-	6	8	1
	Measles	2	127	61	23	24	9	5	-
	Polio.	108	62	1	2	-	14	1	-
Reinforcing imms. given in 1970	Diph.	-	69	77	9	56	58	16	-
	Wh. cough	-	24	27	2	1	-	-	-
	Tetanus	-	70	77	9	57	86	79	12
	Polio.	-	68	70	6	54	95	17	-

SMALLPOX

Age group	Months				Years		
	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 12	1	2 - 4	5 - 15
Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	147	5	2
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

Health Centre, Calne

The new Health Centre was completed during the year. This is the culmination of a most progressive co-operation between the local family doctors and Wiltshire County Council. For many years the family doctors have been carrying out child health clinics on behalf of the County Council, and they are now going to take their part in the school health service.

WATER SUPPLIES

I am indebted to the Engineer to the North Wilts. Water Board for the following information:-

The water supplies of the area of this Board have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Regular supervision of the quality of the water supplied is exercised by submitting, generally on a weekly basis, samples for bacteriological examination. During the year under review 1,512 samples from consumers' points of supply were examined; 1,428 were satisfactory for coli. counts of less than 1; 43 were reported to have coli. counts of 1-2; and 41 counts of 3 or more.

7.

On the occasions when reports of coli. counts are received from the laboratory, investigations and repeated samplings are undertaken and continued until satisfactory reports are received.

Similar supervisory examinations are regularly carried out by sampling the untreated waters of the Board's sources, and the results obtained in the year under review are as follows:

595 samples from raw water supplies were submitted:-

Excellent: coli. count of less than 1	...	...	...	455
Satisfactory: coli. count of 1 - 3	...	...	...	76
Suspicious: coli. count of 4 - 10	...	...	...	34
Unsatisfactory: coli. count of more than 10	...	...	...	29
				594

Samples excellent and satisfactory - 89.4%.

Chlorination of all sources is practised with the aim of obtaining chlorine residuals at all consumers' points of supplies of between 0.1 and 0.3 p.p.m.

The Board continues to exercise supervision of the quality of raw water from all the sources by submitting samples to their Consultant Chemists, the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, and any changes in chemical or mineralogical qualities of the water are reported upon by Mr. Gordon Miles, the principal of those laboratories.

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.8 to 0.4 p.p.m. in the water obtained from the deep borehole sources in the limestone, but it is usually absent in the waters obtained from shallow wells and spring sources.

The Board is advised by its Consultant Chemists that all the water supplied are not plumbo-solvent.

The Board continues to make provision for increases in demand for water by seeking additional sources, and this work is being done in close co-operation with the River Authorities, whose statutory areas extend through the Board's area of supply.

SEWAGE WORKS

Approval was given during the year for the extension and improvement of the existing sewage disposal works.

APPENDIX

There follows my article which was published in the weekly medical journal "Medical Officer" (now named "Community Medicine" on 7th May, 1971.

PREVENTION OF HUMAN FASCIOLIASIS

This paper suggests some practical ways to prevent the occurrence of human fascioliasis from eating infested wild watercress.

Ashton et al. (1970) reported 5 cases of human fascioliasis in Shropshire, and Harman et al. (1970) 44 cases in Monmouthshire/Gloucestershire. In both outbreaks the infestation was traced to wild watercress. In previous years cases have been reported from Hampshire, Kent and Scotland.

Cultivated watercress can be protected quite easily if the recommendations of the Working Party of the Public Health Laboratory Service on the Hygienic Production of Watercress (1966) are implemented. The main barriers to contamination of cultivated watercress beds are:- (a) properly constructed beds; (b) an adequate and uncontaminated water supply; and (c) prevention, by means of adequate fencing, of access of cattle and sheep to the beds.

However, I should like to warn medical officers of health to check that these measures are being carried out, because the latest edition (1968) of the Ministry of Agriculture booklet on "Watercress Growing" does not mention the danger of liver fluke anywhere in its 35 pages.

Wild watercress is in many areas impossible to protect from infestation, but even so there are measures that can be taken to protect the public. Before discussing these it is necessary to consider some facts about the parasite and the ecology of the intermediate host.

Fasciola hepatica was named by Linnaeus in 1758. It is a trematode which is a parasite of cattle, sheep and rabbits and has a world-wide distribution. The infected animal passes the egg in its faeces; this develops into a miracidium, which must find the intermediate host, the freshwater snail *Lymnaea truncatula*, for the life cycle to continue. The miracidium can travel up to two yards in moist conditions. In the snail it develops over a period of about two months and emerges in the form of free-living cercariae, which travel onto grass or waterside plants, where they encyst, surrounding themselves with a tough protective coat. If eaten by a mammalian host the immature fluke migrates through the intestinal wall to the liver. After growing in the liver tissue for some six weeks it settles in the biliary passages where four weeks later it becomes mature. The adult fluke can lay 20,000 eggs a day and a severely infected animal can contaminate the ground with up to six million eggs a day.

The snail *Lymnaea truncatula* is about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and only multiplies in moist conditions. Mozley (1957) lists areas in which it is common as hoof prints near drinking places, on the banks of streams, along paths, especially where they cross streams, near springs, and along the course of seepages, also road-side ditches and any shallow depression in a pasture that is badly drained.

The snail is not usually found in clear running water, and watercress in this area is likely to be safe. However, I have found from my surveys that wild watercress spreads from the centre of streams to cover marshy areas near the banks, and I have found the snail in cattle hoof prints with watercress growing right alongside. It is these areas where the habitat of the snail and the marginal habitat of the watercress overlap that are potentially dangerous if cattle and sheep are present.

I am grateful to Dr. C. B. Ollerenshaw, Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, (personal communication) for the following information.

The greatest danger of infection is in autumn and winter. Fluke eggs hatching in June develop in the snail during July and August, and the cercariae emerge onto the herbage in September and October. In occasional years there is a danger of infection of herbage in early summer from snails infected in late summer and autumn of the previous year. There is no development of fluke eggs or of the infection and emergence of the parasite from the snail in temperatures below 10°C (50°F). This means that the fluke is "active" from May to October. Moisture is important to all stages of the parasite as well as to the snail, and, since moisture conditions vary enormously in habitats and are largely dependent on rainfall, it follows that one tends to get a high incidence of disease in wet summers and vice versa.

Once herbage (or watercress) is infected with the metacercariae then the infection persists for several months in winter (80% of metacercariae encysting in September will still be alive at the end of December) and several weeks in summer. Viable metacercariae on herbage have been recorded over a period of 51 weeks. There is no truth in any country lore that there are certain periods when it is safe to eat watercress, although it would be much safer to eat it in May, June and July, rather than in the autumn and early winter. Some farmers believe that frost kills off the metacercariae on herbage, but there is no truth in this. Temperature governs the development and emergence of the parasite from the snail, but once the herbage is infected then temperature has little immediate effect on viability.

Whilst washing of watercress will undoubtedly wash a few cysts off the herbage, it will not wash them all off. A standard technique when estimating the degree of herbage infection is to detach the cysts by washing the herbage in a liquidizer. This is very vigorous agitation and does not leave watercress in an acceptable condition for eating. The cyst wall is very resistant. Metacercariae in cysts will survive immersion in formalin for some little time and Dr. Ollerenshaw doubts whether there is any prospect of eliminating cysts once the watercress is infected.

Blamire et al. (1970) report that fascioliasis is the most common disease of cattle found at meat inspection. They state that over 700,000 bovine livers a year, worth over £1m., are condemned in British slaughterhouses, and that the incidence is tending to rise. Figures from a local slaughterhouse for 1969 showed that 27% of cattle were infested with fascioliasis.

Since sheep die more readily of the disease than cattle, farmers tend to dose their sheep more frequently to try and control the disease. In cattle it is a milder disease, and may not be detected until slaughter - at which time it is the butcher who bears the loss and not the farmer.

Because the farmer may not know that his cattle have fascioliasis, any area of wild watercress to which cattle have access, and where the snail *Lymnaea truncatula* is present, should be regarded as potentially dangerous. For this reason I consider that the first step in prevention is for the District Medical Officer of Health to survey all areas of wild watercress in his district. In my area I was surprised to find that it was present in so many places. The information can be obtained from health inspectors and councillors. In these days of specialization I suppose it would be possible to call in an expert to look for the snail, but in my case the prospect of some pleasant country walks was inviting, so, armed with a pair of gum boots and a plastic bag in which to put the snails, I set off to investigate. I had no difficulty in finding snails in muddy hoof prints and on banks near watercress. They are very small, so good eyesight and some patience is required. An excellent book with good illustrations of the snail is "Liver Fluke Snails in Britain" by Alan Mozley, published by H. K. Lewis & Co., London. The snails were sent to the Zoology Department of Bristol University for identification, but this can also be arranged by the local Public Health Laboratory. Snails are most plentiful in summer and autumn, so this is possibly the best time of year for a survey. In winter they go into hibernation until March or early April.

The first beneficial effect of a survey is that on reporting to the local council areas of wild watercress considered to be potentially dangerous, the local press will take up the story and give it publicity. At the same time they should be informed that cultivated watercress sold in the shops is perfectly safe to eat. In this area the subject was also reported on the local television and radio news services. It is worth repeating (Communicable Disease Report 69/25) that in 1969 a resident of Wiltshire, who had eaten some infested watercress on a visit to Gloucestershire in 1968, saw a television programme on which the outbreak in Gloucestershire was being discussed, and was able to diagnose his illness.

In two areas in which I found the snail *Lymnaea truncatula* in cattle hoof prints next to wild watercress, I learned later from councillors that, in previous years, not only was this watercress eaten by some people locally, but that it was gathered and sold in small grocers' shops. Health inspectors should, therefore, visit shops and check that they only buy cultivated watercress from approved sources. It is a mistake to think that wild watercress must be poor in quality; I have found it wild in two places where it was a lush and large-leaved as the cultivated variety.

Apart from publicity and warning local shop-keepers, it is possible to consider further measures to protect the uninformed members of the public.

The survey will have revealed the following categories of watercress:-

- (1) Watercress unable to be infested, either because the habitat is unsuitable for the snail, or because the area is protected from livestock.
- (2) Watercress where the snail is present, but arrangements can be made for fencing off live-stock.
- (3) Watercress where both the snail and live-stock are present together.

With regard to the last two categories, no action can be taken without the full agreement of the landowner. In most cases this will be a farmer, and he will be most concerned with the health of his live-stock. It is useful to obtain two free leaflets to give him, which give a complete account of liver fluke and how it can be controlled. They are Shellstar Agricultural leaflet F. 2 and Frescon is No Fluke obtainable from Shellstar Ltd., Ince Marshes, Ince, Chester CH2 4LB. This company sell a new molluscicide, "Frescon", which is harmless to live-stock. The Ministry of Agriculture have an Advisory Leaflet No. 310 which can be purchased from HMSO, which gives full information about the disease, but the leaflet was published in 1966 and the chemicals recommended are toxic to live-stock.

As I did not wish to appear to be advocating the product of only one company, I enquired from the Pesticides Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture whether any other firm markets a product similar to "Frescon" and was informed that none does. There are other molluscicides available, such as Metaldehyde (Murphy Chemical Co., Boots, May & Baker Ltd.) and Methiocarb (Baywood Co., Boots, Pan Britannica Co.), but both of these are of higher toxicity.

If the farmer is concerned about liver fluke in his stock he might either use a molluscicide, or in suitable cases fence off the stream if he is persuaded that this could be a danger spot for his live-stock.

District councils are used to buying chemicals to kill rats and mice, and disinfectants and insecticides for use in homes and on rubbish tips. These chemicals are all used to control vectors of disease, so they might be persuaded to buy a molluscicide or herbicide in suitable circumstances. However, the views of the Pollution Officer of the local River Authority must be taken into account. In this area the Pollution Officer has no objection to spraying "Frescon" on land, but is not keen

on its being sprayed near the water's edge as it is toxic to fish. He would, however, approve the use of "Aquacide", an officially approved Chipman Chemical Company formulation of diquat, for killing off the wild watercress. This would be preferable to removing the watercress by hand, for which labour is unlikely to be available. If either "Frescon" or "Aquacide" is considered for use, the consent of the owner of the land must first be obtained.

Probably the simplest answer in areas which the public frequent is to get the Council to agree to the erection of a notice-board - "Warning: Wild watercress may become infected with liver fluke". In all cases the permission of the interested farmers must be obtained. Another suggested wording for a notice-board is - "Warning: Wild watercress should not be collected from this area". My objection to this is that, like the notice "Keep off the grass", it may not only be ignored, but may draw attention to the watercress and actually provoke some people to gather it.

Although it may be impracticable to get prior permission from the dozens of landowners who may be involved when doing the initial surveys of areas of wild watercress, if a place is discovered that seems potentially dangerous to the public, and action is considered, such as informing the council (and thereby the press), it is courteous and politic to find out who the landowner is, and telephone to ask his permission to enter on his land. He is then more likely to be co-operative if further action such as the erection of a warning notice-board, is considered necessary.

In the case of a notice-board the farmer should be asked to advise on the wording, as it is not the intention to advertise that the farm is "flukey" and his animals diseased. This might affect the prices of animals sold off the farm, and also the price or rent of the farm should it change hands. The farmer should be told about this possibility so that he can give this matter due thought. However, I have so far found farmers agreeable to the wording warning about liver fluke.

Finally, the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland have members throughout the country who, I am sure, would be willing to help on anything to do with snails; in order to obtain the address of members living locally I suggest contacting the Secretary, Miss J. Sawyer 58, Teignmouth Road, London, NW2.

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To - The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Calne Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to make my contribution to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and the outline in statistical and narrative form the activities of the Public Health Department during 1970.

During the year there has been an awareness on the part of the general public as to the availability of the new higher Grants for the improvement of houses, £5234 having been paid out in contrast to £1750 in 1969. Most of the Grants, however, are for owner/occupiers. The Borough Council has continued its policy of Improvements to existing Council Houses.

In the sphere of refuse disposal it is disappointing to record the collapse of the Consortium set up to establish a central incinerator plant.

The plans for the extension of the Sewage Disposal Works are well advanced and it is hoped to commence the project in 1971.

I am indebted to Dr. Wray for his guidance and to the members of the Public Health Committee and Staff of the Department for their continued support during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CLIFFORD C. DOWDING,

Borough Surveyor and Senior
Public Health Inspector

RAINFALL 1970

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9 a.m. each day. From this information the following table is compiled.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL RAINFALL</u> <u>(in inches)</u>	<u>GREATEST FALL</u> <u>IN 24 HOURS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF DAYS</u> <u>WITH .01 OR MORE</u>
January	2.980	.32	23
February	1.920	.28	14
March	1.715	.40	16
April	1.810	.38	17
May	1.420	.58	9
June	0.865	.30	8
July	2.470	.78	14
August	2.430	.76	12
September	2.400	.75	10
October	0.775	.20	11
November	5.930	.85	20
December	0.977	.33	12

The total rainfall for the year was 25.692 inches.

The wettest day was 1st November being .85.

The driest month was October and the wettest month November.

WATER

The water undertaking is operated by the North Wilts. Water Board and the Borough receives water from Chippenham and Yatesbury as well as the springs at Calstone.

Samples of 'consumer water' i.e. treated water from household taps, are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath each week, to establish a routine control. Further samples are taken on complaint.

During the year under review 144 samples of chlorinated water were submitted and 139 of these proved to be satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples showed insufficient chlorination of the water following repairs to the main. A series of check samples quickly showed that the required dosage had been restored to the water supply. Information on unsatisfactory samples is referred immediately to the North Wilts. Water Board.

From time to time tests are also taken to establish the degree of residual chlorine present in the water.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme to enlarge the existing Sewage Disposal Works to cope with development which has taken place within the Borough and future expansion. Work is now proceeding.

The figures on Page 3 indicate the cost of the service.

EXPENDITURE.INCOME

	Actual 1969/70 £	Estimate 1970/71 £	Probable 1970/71 £		Actual 1969/70 £	Estimate 1970/71 £	Probable 1970/71 £
Materials & Repairs	1358	1050	721	Messrs. C. & T. Harris	900	900	900
Elect.	1173	900	2120				
Admin.	1734	1924	1885	Calne & Chipp. R.D.C.	793	724	814
Plant	603	445	471	Other	89	-	-
Loan Charges	12469	12495	12947				
Wages	4136	4600	5040				
Special	700	545	537				
Emergency Works - Part Cost	-	-	8561				

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council operates a weekly collection of household refuse using direct labour. Salvage is collected each Monday. The service continues to operate satisfactorily despite the increased demands consequent upon a growing population.

The refuse from the Borough is disposed of by the Sanitary Land-fill method, the refuse being dumped in the sand workings of a Local Company and covered with top soil to reclaim the land which has been exposed.

The cost of collecting within the Borough is reflected in the following table.

EXPENDITUREINCOME

	Actual 1969/70	Estimate 1970/71	Probable 1970/71		Actual 1969/70	Estimate 1970/71	Probable 1970/71
Fuel & Repairs	746	855	1150	Sale of Waste & Paper	1567	1660	1623
Road Tax, Insurance & Cap. Instals.	722	995	998	Scrap Iron	72	70	30
Materials	517	310	336	Sundries	3	-	3
Admin.	181	167	571	Use of Lorry	52	-	-
Tip Maint.	1788	300	1342				
Wages - Labour Hire	8659	11600	10150				
Swimming Pool Cont.	881	974	937				

NEW HOUSING

85 units were completed during the year and the following tables indicate the rate of progress by the Local Authority and Private Enterprise.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCAL AUTHORITY</u>		<u>PRIVATE ENTERPRISE</u>	
	<u>UNDER CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>COMPLETED</u>	<u>UNDER CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>COMPLETED</u>
January	49	10	24	1
February	50	11	13	-
March	59	-	32	2
April	78	7	41	1
May	114	-	41	-
June	125	-	46	-
July	106	22	49	-
August	105	1	53	4
September	94	11	53	2
October	94	-	52	1
November	94	-	49	3
December	85	9	49	-
		<u>71</u>		<u>14</u>

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

HOUSE PURCHASE ACT, 1959 as amended by

THE HOUSING ACTS 1961, 1964 and 1969

Standard Grants for Improvement of Dwellings.

19 grants were approved and 12 grants totalling £2,011 were paid during the year. The following table indicates the amenities provided.

	<u>Grants approved</u>			<u>Amenities</u>				
	<u>Appli'ns Received & Approved</u>	<u>Grants Paid</u>	<u>Amount £</u>	<u>Bath or Shower</u>	<u>Wash Basin</u>	<u>Sink</u>	<u>Hot Water Supply</u>	<u>w.o.</u>
January	2	2	405	2	2	1	2	2
February	-	2	220	-	-	-	2	1
March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
June	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	2	369	2	2	2	2	2
August	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	1	6	1019	4	4	4	5	5
Total	19	12	2011	8	8	7	11	9

5.

The following Discretionary Grants were paid.

	Applications Received and Approved	Grants Paid	Amount £
January	-	2	462
February	-	-	-
March	3	-	-
April	3	-	-
May	-	-	-
June	1	-	-
July	2	1	1000
August	1	-	-
September	-	-	-
October	1	-	-
November	2	2	1143
December	-	1	618
Total	13	6	3223

CERTIFICATE OF DISREPAIR. (RENT ACT 1957)

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair or for any other Certificates prescribed by the Act.

SALE OF COUNCIL HOUSES

Council houses are no longer being sold to the tenants.

COUNCIL'S WAITING LIST

The number of people on the Council's waiting list at the 31st December 1970 was 300 (approximately).

IMPROVED COUNCIL HOUSES

Improvements to 10 Council houses were completed during the year. These houses are now equipped with the five standard amenities.

RODENT CONTROL. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ a part-time rodent operator to treat all premises in the Borough where rats or mice are reported. Extensive use is made of Warfarin, one of the better anti-coagulants, to destroy rats and mice, but acute poisons such as zinc-phosphide and arsenious oxide are also used in conjunction with various baits, in an effort to avoid immunity being built up against Warfarin. No case of Warfarin Resistance has been encountered.

Hydrogen cyanide has also been used effectively, under proper weather conditions, in the treatment of the refuse tip and river banks.

The sewer network within the Borough was treated twice during the year and no serious infestation is apparent.

It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings against any owner or occupier under the Act.

The following table provides a summary of the years work.

Measure of Control by Local Authority					
	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling House	Agricultural	All other including business and industrial premises	Total
1. Total number of properties in the L.A.'s district.	6	3158	10	583	3757
2. Number of properties inspected by the L.A. as a result of:					
(a) Notification	(a) 3	61	4	-	68
(b) Otherwise	b) 22	20	-	-	42
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats.	(major) -	-	-	-	-
	(minor) 23	56	4	-	83
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice.	1	19	-	-	20
5. Number of properties infested (under 3 and 4) treated by the L.A.	23	78	2	-	103
6. Revisits	35	160	5	-	200

THE SLAUGHTER OF PIGS (ANAESTHESIA) REGULATIONS, 1958

Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., continue to slaughter pigs using the CO₂ chamber method. This is licensed by the Borough Council and a certificate of approval under Regulation 9 is in force. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are informed that the apparatus is in use.

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER 1957

The Borough Council exercise powers of delegation under the above Order and no boiling plants are licensed.

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963. STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS 1963/1229INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Borough Council continues to provide a 100% meat inspection service at the two slaughterhouses within the Borough. At the slaughterhouse of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Limited the full time inspectorate consists of a veterinary officer and five authorised meat inspectors.

During the year 143,477 pigs were slaughtered and examined at this factory.

At the other slaughterhouse, that of Messrs. L. Hawkins, the inspection is carried out by the Council's two Public Health Inspectors, this duty being largely carried out after normal working hours. This slaughterhouse caters mainly for the slaughter of animals destined for sale at the Central Markets, Smithfield, London, but also serves the requirements of butchers in the Borough and the surrounding areas.

The amount of money recovered from Messrs. L. Hawkins for inspection services provided throughout the year 1970 was £253. 9s. 3d.

The following table reflects the years work at Messrs. Hawkins slaughterhouse:-

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Goats</u>
Number killed:	495	2	2418	3578	295	8
Number inspected:	495	2	2418	3578	295	8

The following carcasses or parts of carcasses were condemned:

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci

Whole carcasses:	-	-	16	12	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned:	47	1	36	377	44	-

Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cystercerci.

9.5%	50.0%	2.2%	10.9%	15.6%	-
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Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned:	-	-	-	-	2	-

Cystercercus Bovis

No case of cystercercosis was detected during the year under review.

CONDEMNATION OF FOODSTUFFS OTHER THAN AT THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. The several owners voluntarily surrendered the food to be destroyed and certificates were issued accordingly.

8.

738 tins meat	203 lbs. hindquarter
374 tins vegetables	101 tins baked beans
102 tins soup	2531 tins tomatoes
1535 tins fruit	253 tins fish
1076 tins peas	143 tins milk.
18 tins carrots	205 tins potatoes
161 tins fruit juice	23 lbs. frozen tongue
18 tins milk puddings	55 lbs. bacon
50 tins broad beans	28 lbs. herrings
391½ lbs. cheese	20 pkts. biscuits
28 lbs. smoked cod	

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS 1960 and 1963

Licences were issued for various designated milks to three dealers by the Borough Council under the Delegation Agreement with the Wiltshire County Council.

Since the 31st December, 1965 dealer's licences granted will continue in force for a period of five years.

Regular sampling was carried out by Officers of the Authority and the following table indicates the range and frequency of the sampling.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SAMPLING & SOURCE</u>	<u>EXAMINATION REQUIRED</u>	<u>SAMPLING FREQUENCY</u>
Untreated (T.T.)	Producer/Retailers & Distributors.	Methylene Blue Biological.	Monthly Quarterly.
T.T. Pasteurised	Distributors.	Phosphates and Methylene Blue	Quarterly.
Pasteurised.	Distributors.	Phosphates and Methylene Blue.	Monthly.

During the year the following samples were purchased and analysed at the Public Health Laboratory at Bath.

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Void</u>
Untreated	1	-	-
Untreated Channel Islands	-	-	-
Pasteurised	31	-	1
Pasteurised Channel Islands	15	-	1
Sterilised	13	-	1
U.H.T.	10	-	1
TOTAL	70	-	6

ICE CREAM

21 premises within the Borough are registered for the storage and sales of ice cream. In addition three mobile shops tour the area regularly. No samples of ice cream were purchased.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

All food premises within the Borough continue to be visited under the provisions of the above Regulations and no cases of structural defect have been observed. Minor infringements are found from time to time and these have been dealt with very satisfactorily through a policy of informal action and instruction so that it has not been necessary to take legal proceedings against any food trader during the year. The staffs of Wiltshire County Council School Kitchens were visited before each term and given a 'pep talk' on food handling.

The food premises in the Borough may be classified as follows:-

Bakehouses	2	School Kitchens	8
Confectioners	19	Cafes and Snack Bars	3
Fried Fish Shop	1	Butchers	11
Bakers Shops	9	Grocers	11
Greengrocers	12	Meat Manufacturing premises	1
Boarding houses and Hotels	4	Halls, Canteens.	6
Central School Kitchen	1	Public Houses, Off Licences and Clubs	17

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Broadly speaking all premises as defined in the Act have been registered with the Local Authority and subsequent inspections made to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations.

The following report is taken from the Annual Return sent to the Department of Employment and Productivity, the Ministry of Labour and shows the progress made to date.

NUMBER OF PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTED

	<u>PREMISES REGISTERED</u>	<u>PREMISES INSPECTED</u>
Offices	24	20
Retail Shops	33	26
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	2
Catering Establishments	6	3
Fuel Storage Depots	6	4

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Offices	76	86
Retail Shops	54	85
Catering Establishments (open to the Public)	11	22
Canteens	12	25
Fuel Storage Depots	10	2
Wholesale Dept., Warehouses	12	-
	<u>175</u>	<u>220</u>

Total employed: 395.

THE CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

One site is at present licensed and is visited periodically to ensure compliance with the licensing conditions.

No new sites have been licensed during the year under review.

FACTORIES ACT 1937-1959

The following is a summary of the working of the Act as it effects the Local Authority. No certificates are now issued in respect of means of escape in case of fire.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	7	19	NIL	NIL
Factories NOT included in the above (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	46	70	NIL	NIL
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Outworkers).	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

OUTWORKERS

There is one outworker employed within the Borough but no company operating within the Borough sends out work.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	1	1	-
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	-
Ineffective drainage and floors	1	1	-

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Insufficient	-	-	-
Unsuitable and defective	1	1	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-

SUMMARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICTVISITS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	152
Under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	25
Under the Public Health Act, 1936	770
Under the Foods and Drugs Act.	1671
Under the Housing Act, 1957	310
Under the Factories Act, 1937-1948	607
Under the Building Regulations 1965 excluding drains	65
drains	41
Miscellaneous Visits	1703

