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Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

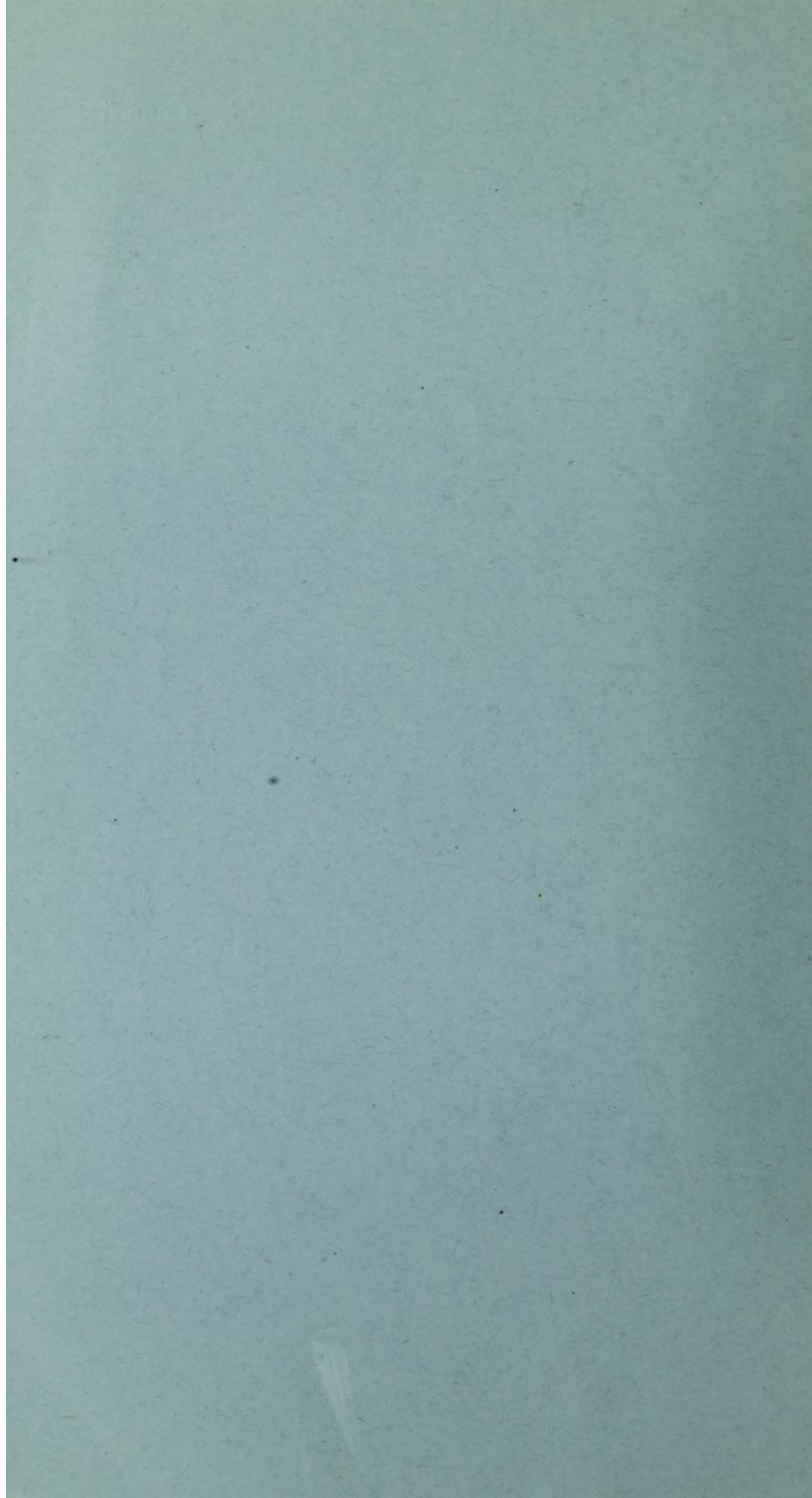
Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1966



Public Health Division of the Authority... 1

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH... 2

A. General Statistics... 3

B. Vital Statistics... 3

1. Births... ANNUAL REPORT... 3

2. Live Births... 3

3. Still Births... 3

4. Infant Mortality... 4

5. Analysis of Causes of Death... 4

C. Infectious and Notifiable of the... 5

1. Notifiable... 5

2. Tuberculosis... 6

3. Venereal and Gonorrhoea... 6

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D. and... 7

1. School Health Services... 7

2. County Health Clinics... 8

3. Laboratory Services... 8

E. and... 9

1. Water Supplies... 9

F. and... 9

1. CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR... 9

2. for the year... 10

G. for the year... 10

1. Public Health - General... 10

2. 1966... 13

H. for the year... 13

1. Summary of Public Health Inspection... 16

2. Public Health - General... 17

3. Public Conveniences... 18

4. Water Supplies... 19

5. Refuse Collection and Disposal... 21

6. Salvage of Waste Paper... 23

7. Carcass Sites... 23

8. Atmospheric Pollution... 25

9. Infectious Diseases... 26

10. Buildings and Unoccupied Buildings and Neglected Sites... 26

11. Offensive Trades... 26

12. Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions... 26

13. Problems associated with Intensive Farming... 26



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
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# I N D E X

	<u>Page:</u>
Public Health Officers of the Authority...	1
<u>REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:</u>	2
A. <u>General Statistics</u> ...	3
B. <u>Vital Statistics:</u>	
1.    Birth and Death Rates...	3
2.    Live Births...	3
3.    Still Births ...	3
4.    Infant Mortality...	4
5.    Analysis of Causes of Death ...	4
C. <u>Infectious and Notifiable Disease:</u>	
1.    Notifications ...	4
2.    Tuberculosis ...	6
3.    Vaccination and Immunisation ...	6
D. <u>Local Health Authority Services:</u>	7
1.    School Health Services ...	7
2.    County Health Clinics...	8
3.    Laboratory Services ...	8
E. <u>Water Supplies</u> ...	8
F. <u>Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:</u>	
1.    Schemes completed in 1966 ...	8
2.    Schemes under construction in 1966 ...	9
3.    Schemes to be commenced in 1967...	9
4.    Future schemes authorised by the Council ...	10
5.    Miscellaneous matters...	10
G. <u>Housing:</u>	
1.    Data ...	10
2.    Re-development of Bungalow Estates ...	11
<u>REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:</u>	13
Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits ...	16
A. <u>Public Health - General:</u>	
1.    Drainage ...	17
2.    Public Conveniences ...	18
3.    Water Supplies ...	19
4.    Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	21
5.    Salvage of Waste Paper ...	23
6.    Caravan Sites ...	23
7.    Atmospheric Pollution...	25
8.    Infectious Diseases ...	26
9.    Ruinous and Dilapidated Buildings and Neglected Sites ...	26
10.    Offensive Trades...	26
11.    Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions Act...	26
12.    Problems associated with Intensive Farming ...	26

/continued overleaf ...

# I N D E X

1	Public Health Officers of the Authority	1
2	REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	2
3	General Statistics	3
4	Vital Statistics	4
5	Birth and Death Rates	5
6	Live Births	6
7	Still Births	7
8	Infant Mortality	8
9	Analysis of Causes of Death	9
10	Infectious and Notifiable Diseases	10
11	Notifiable Diseases	11
12	Tuberculosis	12
13	Vaccination and Immunisation	13
14	Local Health Authority Services	14
15	School Health Services	15
16	County Health Clinics	16
17	Laboratory Services	17
18	Water Supplies	18
19	Sanitation and Sewage Disposal	19
20	Boilers operated in 1966	20
21	Boilers under construction in 1966	21
22	Boilers to be completed in 1967	22
23	Future schemes authorised by the Council	23
24	Miscellaneous matters	24
25	Housing	25
26	Rate	26
27	Re-development of Municipal Estates	27
28	REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	28
29	Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits	29
30	Public Health - General	30
31	Drainage	31
32	Public Conveniences	32
33	Water Supplies	33
34	Rat and Insect Control	34
35	Salvage of Waste Paper	35
36	Garbage Sites	36
37	Atmospheric Pollution	37
38	Infectious Diseases	38
39	Buildings and Disinfectants and Notifiable Diseases	39
40	Offensive Trades	40
41	Agitation (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions Act	41
42	Problems associated with intensive farming	42



B.	<u>Food and Drugs:</u>	
1.	Food Hygiene (General) Regulations... ..	28
2.	Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations ...	29
3.	Milk and Dairies ... ..	30
4.	Ice Cream... ..	31
5.	Sampling of other Foods ... ..	31
6.	Licensed Premises ... ..	32
7.	Bakehouses ... ..	32
8.	Fried Fish Shops ... ..	33
9.	The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations ... ..	33
10.	Poultry Inspection ... ..	33
11.	Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards ... ..	34
C.	<u>Housing:</u>	
1.	Improvement Areas ... ..	35
2.	Improvement Grants ... ..	35
3.	Housing Advances ... ..	35
4.	Housing Action... ..	35
5.	Housing Statistics ... ..	36
6.	Rent Act ... ..	37
7.	Houses in Multiple Occupation... ..	37
8.	Common Lodging Houses ... ..	37
D.	<u>Factories, Offices, Shops, etc.:</u>	
1.	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act... ..	38
2.	Factories Act ... ..	39
E.	<u>Rodent Control:</u> ... ..	40
F.	<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	
1.	Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order... ..	41
2.	Animal Boarding Establishments Act... ..	41
3.	Scrap Metal Dealers' Act... ..	41

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Public Health Committee

Housing Committee

Finance and General Purposes Committee

These Committees meet monthly throughout the year, except during August, and deal with all matters pertaining to Public Health and Housing.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

C.L.Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Offices: 5, High Street, Chippenham.  
Tel.No. Chippenham 2821, Ext.49.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:  
Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury, and  
Rural District of Malmesbury.  
Assistant County Medical Officer.  
School Medical Officer.

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health:

S.G.V.Williamson, Cert.R.I.P.H.H.

(b) CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

H.J.Taylor, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Offices: Bewley House, Marshfield Road, Chippenham.  
Tel.No. Chippenham 2854, Ext.59.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

S.H.Murray, M.A.P.H.I.  
E.J.Silvester, M.A.P.H.I.  
G.Jones, M.A.P.H.I.

(c) COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL which are concerned  
with Matters of Public Health:

Public Health Committee  
Housing Committee  
Finance and General Purposes Committee.

These Committees meet monthly throughout the year,  
except during August, and deal with all matters  
appertaining to Public Health and Housing.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

G.L. Broomehead, T.D., M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Office: 5, High Street, Chippenden.  
Tel. No. Chippenden 2821, Ext. 49.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:

Boroughs of Calne, Chippenden and Malmesbury, and  
Rural District of Malmesbury.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health:

S.G.V. Williams, Cert. R.I.P.H.E.

(b) CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

H.L. Taylor, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Office: Bewley House, Warfield Road, Chippenden.  
Tel. No. Chippenden 2824, Ext. 59.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.P. M. Howard, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

S.R. Murray, M.A.P.H.I.

E.L. Silver, M.A.P.H.I.

G. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.

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appertaining to Public Health and Housing.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1966, in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the Report are required by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and H.M. Inspector of Factories. A copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. J. Taylor, is incorporated, and provides detailed information on environmental health within the Rural District.

I am grateful to Mr. Hales, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Witham, Mr. Baugh, and other members of the Council's staff for their co-operation and assistance during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD.



REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Galna and Chippenden Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1966, in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the Report are required by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and H.M. Inspector of Factories. A copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. J. Taylor is incorporated, and provides detailed information on environmental health within the Rural District.

I am grateful to Mr. Hales, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Witham, Mr. Bough, and other members of the Council's staff for their co-operation and assistance during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. L. BROOKFIELD.

A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ... ..	85,388
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ... ..	32,350
Number of inhabitable dwellings, as at 1st April 1966..	8,470
Number of Council dwellings, as at 1st April 1966 ...	2,173
Number of applicants for Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1966 ...	330
Rateable value, as at 1st April 1966 ... ..	£904,425
Estimated product of Penny Rate, as at 1st April 1966..	£3,700

B. VITAL STATISTICS.1. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.Birth and Death Rates compared with other Areas.

(Births and deaths per 1000 population, standardised\*).

	<u>Birth Rate:</u>		<u>Death Rate:</u>	
	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	21.3	20.0	10.4	9.3
Chippenham Borough ... ..	16.9	16.9	10.7	10.7
Wiltshire ... ..	19.6	18.7	10.2	10.4
England and Wales ... ..	18.0	17.7	11.5	11.7

\* Comparability figures 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.

2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Legitimate ... ..	267	273	540
Illegitimate ... ..	25	15	40
Totals:-	292	288	580

There were 630 live births registered in the Rural District during 1965.

3. STILL BIRTHS.

Twelve still births were notified during 1966, an increase of three over the total notified during 1965. The rate per total live and still births is 20.2. The rate for England and Wales is given by the Registrar-General as 15.4.



4. INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Under one year ... ..	5	1	6
Under four weeks... ..	2	1	3
Under one week ... ..	2	1	3
Infant Mortality Rate for the District ... ..			10.3
			per 1000 live births
Comparative Rate for England and Wales ... ..			19.0
			per 1000 live births

There was a dramatic fall in the Infant Mortality Rate during 1966, by comparison with the previous year when the rate was 20.6. However, the numbers involved from year to year are small, thus no conclusion can be drawn from such sharp rises and falls in the Infant Mortality Rate consequent upon one or two additional deaths.

5. DEATHS - ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	-	2	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	10	13	23
Diabetes ... ..	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system... ..	14	20	34
Coronary disease, angina... ..	30	20	50
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	3	-	3
Other heart disease... ..	9	15	24
Other circulatory disease ... ..	12	3	15
Influenza... ..	3	1	4
Pneumonia... ..	4	5	9
Bronchitis ... ..	8	2	10
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum... ..	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea ... ..	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	-	1
Congenital malformations... ..	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	10	9	19
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	3	3	6
All other accidents... ..	5	2	7
Suicide ... ..	2	-	2
Totals:-	127	106	233

Deaths due to cancer, coronary disease and heart disease collectively accounted for almost 50% of the total deaths in the Rural District during 1966.

C. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.1. NOTIFICATIONS.

Notifiable diseases are those conditions defined in the appropriate Sections of Public Health legislation, and the number is limited.

At present, some notifiable diseases are largely of historic value, and much non-notifiable disease is of greater public health importance. Notification serves two main purposes: it is of epidemiological and statistical value to the Ministry of Health, the Registrar-General, and major authorities, and it is of immediate importance in the control of infectious disease among the local communities.



The following tables give details of cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, notified during the past four years:

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>1963</u>		<u>1964</u>		<u>1965</u>		<u>1966</u>	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Scarlet fever -	2	2	7	7	8	8	2	2
Whooping cough	-	-	44	44	3	3	4	4
Measles	539	539	128	128	498	498	190	190
Dysentery	83	83	40	40	9	9	100	77
Puerperal pyrexia	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Salmonella infections	15	15	1	1	4	4	2	2
Pneumonia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	647	646	223	222	522	522	298	275
(a) = Numbers originally notified.								
(b) = Final numbers, after correction.								

It will be seen from the above tables that no mention is made of serious diseases such as Poliomyelitis, Typhoid Fever, Para-Typhoid Fever, Smallpox, or Diphtheria. This is because no such cases have occurred during the four years covered by these tables.

(a) Measles.

The number of cases notified totalled 190. The majority occurred during the first quarter of the year and involved children of either under school age or the junior age groups.

(b) Dysentery.

Two separate outbreaks occurred during the year under review.

First Outbreak:

During the first week of July, a number of children attending Sutton Benger school were affected; secondary cases were found amongst adults and children of pre-school age in the infected households. All known cases were visited and advised to seek medical attention. Measures to prevent the spread of infection included a hand-washing regime at the school and the restriction on employment of two food-handlers, also the exclusion from school of four children attending one of the Chippenham schools.

Second Outbreak:

This occurred during the last week of November and involved principally Service families living at the Royal Air Force Married Quarters, Compton Bassett. Full bacteriological surveillance of infected families was carried out, and in addition, routine measures of prevention were instituted at schools attended by children from infected households.

(c) Gastro-Enteritis.

An outbreak of gastro-enteritis occurred at the Corsham Primary School during mid-May, and a similar outbreak was reported amongst children attending Kington Langley School at the end of September.

Routine investigations, including bacteriological examination of faeces specimens, did not establish any specific pathological organisms or other facts of epidemiological value. It could only be assumed that both outbreaks were due to a virus infection of unknown aetiology. The illness was mild, and of short duration, in the majority of cases no longer than twenty-four hours.



(d) Salmonella Infection.

The two cases shown in the tables were in respect of a mother and her eleven-year-old son. Bacteriological examination of faeces specimens confirmed Salmonella Panama present in both cases.

Enquiries indicated that the patients may have been affected whilst attending a party in Somerset. Both patients were kept under surveillance until faeces specimens were reported by the Laboratory to be free from the organisms. No secondary cases were reported.

2. TUBERCULOSIS.

Ten cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. All these cases were confirmed by the Chest Physician. Seven were adult males and three adult females. Investigation and completion of environmental reports are undertaken by the Public Health Department, whilst follow-up of contacts in each case is undertaken by the Chest Physician.

In addition to the new cases notified during the year, a small number of tuberculous persons either move into the district or move out. On the advice of the Chest Physician some cases are removed from the register as "recovered". According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the undermentioned notified and confirmed cases of tuberculosis were living in the Rural District at the end of 1966:

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Pulmonary	59	41	100
Non-Pulmonary	19	21	40
Totals:-	78	62	140

There were 150 cases on the Register at the end of 1965.

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act 1948, provision for vaccination against Smallpox, Diphtheria, and such other diseases as the Minister may approve, is the responsibility of the County Council Health Committee.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus is available from one's family doctor and from County Council Child Welfare Clinics. Triple antigen is now universally used and a course of injections with vaccine protects infants against all these diseases. With older children, vaccine immunising against Diphtheria and Tetanus, or Tetanus alone, is available. Polio vaccination, using Sabin oral vaccine, is offered at Clinics and by General Practitioners. Smallpox vaccination is carried out by General Practitioners at their patient's request.

I am indebted to Dr.C.D.L.Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following figures concerning immunisation and vaccination procedures carried out in the Rural District during the year:

(a) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus:

Year of birth:-		1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1957 to 1961	1951 to 1956	Others under 16.
Primary immunisations completed during 1966:	Diph.	210	235	13	8	7	27	-	-
	Wh/c.	210	233	8	5	3	7	-	-
	Tet.	210	235	13	8	7	52	24	3
Reinf. injections administered during 1966:	Diph.	-	73	162	43	17	294	7	1
	Wh/c.	-	56	123	31	7	67	-	-
	Tet.	-	73	162	44	17	322	46	8



(b) Smallpox.

Age Group:-	Months:				Years:		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	6	7	13	19	224	80	29
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	23	115

(c) Polio myelitis.

Age Group:	3rd quad.	2nd injn.	3rd injn. or 4th quad.	4th injn.	3 oral doses	2 oral after 2 inj.	4th oral after 3 inj. or 3 oral.
1966	-	-	-	-	150	-	-
1965	-	-	-	-	314	1	14
1964	-	-	-	-	41	10	35
1963	-	-	-	-	20	1	9
1962	-	-	-	-	23	2	6
1957-1961	-	-	-	-	112	13	224
1951-1956	-	-	-	-	4	-	14
Others under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others over 16	-	-	-	-	23	1	8
	-	-	-	-	687	28	310

D. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

The County Council Health Committee provides the following health services:-

1. The care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.
2. Provision of midwives and maternity nurses.
3. Provision of Health Visitors. A new development is the arrangement whereby Health Visitors will work in closer liaison with General Practitioners.
4. Home Nurses.
5. Arrangements for vaccination and immunisation.
6. Ambulances.
7. Mental Health Services.
8. Home Helps. Such help is available if members of a household are ill, lying-in, suffering from mental illness, or aged. A charge may be made for such services.
9. Arrangements for the prevention of illness, care and after-care.
10. Health Education.

1. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES.

School Health Services are provided by the County Education Committee. In addition to the routine medical examination of children of certain age groups in schools, a variety of facilities are provided with the aim of finding, assessing and treating physical and mental handicaps, and so helping the children to make the best use of education.



2. COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC.

The County Health Clinic at Fuller Avenue, Corsham, has functioned most satisfactorily for many years. In addition to Infant Welfare Clinics, held twice-weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, various specialists in medicine, surgeons, psychiatrists, health visitors, etc., hold sessions at this Clinic. The following are examples:-

Chiropody.	Child Guidance.	Heart.
Speech Therapy.	Orthopaedic.	Ear, Nose and Throat.
Remedials.	Ophthalmic.	Dental.
Ante-Natal.	Relaxation and Motherhood.	

3. LABORATORY SERVICES.

Sampling and other bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out for the Rural District Council by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Manor Hospital, Bath. Numerous routine samples are taken of water, milk, foodstuffs, etc. and I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Paul Mann, Director of the Laboratory, for his ready assistance and advice.

E. WATER SUPPLIES.

Although the extraction of water from the various underground sources, and its supply to the public, is the responsibility of the North Wilts Water Board; the Council, nevertheless, is required by law to see that such water supplies are fit to drink.

To this end, officers of the Public Health Department take regular samples of the treated water from a variety of points throughout the district for bacteriological examination; estimations of free chlorine are taken at the same time. Officers of the Water Board arrange to take samples of the water before treatment, for similar examinations.

There is a free interchange of information on this important work between officers of the Council and officers of the Water Board, to ensure speedy and effective action in the event of unsatisfactory reports being received from the Laboratory.

The Ministry of Health ask that there should be medical surveillance of workmen employed at waterworks, to ensure that none are suffering from disease likely to contaminate the water supplies. To meet this, medical reports, questionnaires, laboratory reports, etc., in respect of workmen employed at the Waterworks are sent to the Medical Officer of Health for scrutiny and comment. This is purely an informal arrangement, made at the time the Water Board was formed.

Apart from the medical surveillance of workmen, there are other matters connected with the supply and distribution of water on a large scale, which come within the province of the Medical Officer of Health, and it is to be regretted that the North Wilts Water Board has not seen fit to appoint a medical adviser.

F. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I am grateful to Mr. Witham, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, for the following information:-

1. SCHEMES COMPLETED IN 1966.(a) North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme, Stage I.

Cost: £211,892.

Contractors: Hadsphaltic Construction Co. Ltd.

This scheme, which includes a sewage disposal works for Sutton Benger, Kington Langley, Kington St. Michael and Christian Malford,



first came into use in the summer and houses have been progressively connected to the new sewers since then. Some minor reinstatement work is still outstanding but this will be completed early in 1967. Final figures of cost are not yet available but it is anticipated that there will be a significant saving over the contract sum.

(b) Hilmarton and Goatacre Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £47,570.

Contractors: The Avonmouth Plant and Construction Co.Ltd.

This contract ran into many troubles due to difficult ground conditions and the final cost is likely to exceed the contract sum by a substantial amount. The Council have already been informed of these circumstances and a supplementary loan sanction obtained. The contract was substantially completed in the autumn, but teething troubles with the small pumping station at Goatacre delayed the completion of this part of the scheme.

(c) Rudloe Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £12,176.

Contractors: The Cradmin Co.Ltd.

This scheme was necessary to provide drainage for the new estate now being developed at Rudloe. No special difficulties were encountered and it is anticipated the cost will be within the contract sum.

2. SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1966.

(a) North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme, Stage II.

Cost: £102,800.

Contractors: The Midland Excavators Ltd.

This scheme commenced last spring and has run into difficulties due to the ground conditions encountered, and the wet weather. Nevertheless, the work is well ahead of schedule and given better weather, the whole contract should be completed early in 1967. There is no reason to expect the original contract sum to be exceeded.

(b) Pewshan Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £9,656.

Contractors: Messrs.Reg.Neal (Construction) Ltd.

Progress on this scheme has been slow and has been influenced by the decision to extend the scheme after the contract was signed and before work was commenced. Work is now, however, substantially completed, and houses will be connected as soon as the pumping plant has been installed. The sewage will be pumped to the Calne Borough Works. The cost of this scheme may exceed the contract sum, but when the additional work referred to has been allowed, the excess cost, if any, should not be significant.

(c) Grittleton Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £29,044.

Contractors: The Cradmin Co.Ltd.

Work commenced on this contract in November and is proceeding satisfactorily.

3. SCHEMES TO BE COMMENCED IN 1967.

(a) Linleys and Gastard Sewerage Scheme.

Estimated cost: £24,300.

Although the Ministry have suggested this scheme be deferred due to the economic situation, it is hoped that work will start before the end of the year.



(b) Hardenhuish Sewerage Scheme.

Estimated cost: £15,100.

This scheme will be submitted to the Ministry early in 1967 and it is anticipated that approval will be given for work to commence during the coming year.

(c) Corshan Sewerage Scheme.

Although progress has been made in the preparation of this scheme, it has not been possible to complete it yet. The scheme includes relief sewers and additions to the Thingley Sewage Disposal Works to cope with the present and future growth of Corshan.

4. FUTURE SCHEMES AUTHORISED BY THE COUNCIL.(a) South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.

It is hoped to re-commence work on the design of this scheme during the coming year. This is the last regional scheme in the district. It will cover the drainage of Heddington, Sandy Lane, Stockley, Cherhill, and possibly Compton Bassett and Yatesbury. The cost will be in the order of £150,000.

(b) Colerne Sewage Disposal Works Extension.

Design work on this scheme is well advanced and it is hoped to present details to the Council and subsequently to the Ministry, for approval. Work should be commenced in 1968.

5. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.(a) Sewage Disposal.

Investigations are proceeding into the question of the mechanical treatment of sewage sludge as an alternative to the present traditional treatment on sludge drying beds. The present method is extravagant in labour and is a distasteful job, for which it will be increasingly difficult to recruit labour in the future. Some small-scale experiments and investigations have already taken place at Thingley Works, with encouraging results.

(b) Trade Effluents.

No new trade effluents have been accepted during the year.

(c) Cesspool Emptying.

The Council's single vehicle continues to operate satisfactorily and to offer an economical partial service to the public.

G. HOUSING.

I am grateful to Mr. Baugh, the Council's Housing Manager, for the following information:-

1.	1.	Total number of applicants on list at 31st December 1966	...	330
	2.	Total number of applications received during 1966	...	147
	3.	Total number of applicants re-housed:		
		(a) In permanent houses, flats and retirement bungalows	...	69
		(b) In other accommodation...	...	6
	4.	Total number of applicants for retirement accommodation, included in 1, above	...	74



5.	Evicted families:								
	(a) Number brought to notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
	(b) Number re-housed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
6.	Number of units of accommodation built and occupied during 1966:								
	(a) By the Council:	Houses	...	...	...	...	48		
		Flats	...	...	...	...	67		
		Retirement bungalows	...	...	...	...	<u>7</u>	...	122
	(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
7.	Number of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1966:								
		Permanent	...	...	...	...	1932		
		Temporary	...	...	...	...	<u>241</u>	...	2173

## 2. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUNGALOW ESTATES.

### (a) Rudloe Estate.

The re-development of this estate was completed during the year. The 146 war-time bungalows have now been replaced by 203 new units of accommodation; 111 garages also have been provided on the estate.

### (b) Boxfields Estate.(run-down).

During the year the decision was taken to re-house the remaining 38 families at Corsham, and clear the estate completely as soon as possible.

At the end of the year 11 families were still in occupation, and arrangements were being made to re-house them at Potley Lane and on the Community Centre Estate at Corsham.

### (c) Cross Keys Estate, Corsham.

During the year, 53 new dwellings were completed and occupied, making a total of 156.

At the end of the year, work on Phases III and IV of the re-development programme was proceeding concurrently, and it was anticipated that the estate would be completed by mid-summer.

### (d) Community Centre Estate, Corsham.

Further progress was made with the re-housing of families from this estate. Priority of clearance was given to the area to the north-west of Meadland Avenue, and the Brunel Avenue area, where the Council plan to build 50 houses during the next two years.

At the end of the year, 190 bungalows remained occupied.

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## 2. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBSIDIARY ESTATE.

- (a) Subsidiary Estate. The subsidiary estate was developed as follows:
- (i) Number of units of accommodation built and occupied during 1966:
- (a) By the Council: Houses ... 48  
Flats ... 122  
Total ... 170
- (b) By private enterprise: ... 116
- (c) Number of Council dwellings, as at 1st December 1966: ... 116
- (d) Permanent ... 1932
- (e) Temporary ... 2173

## 3. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBSIDIARY ESTATE.

- (a) Subsidiary Estate. The subsidiary estate was developed as follows:
- (i) Number of units of accommodation built and occupied during the year:
- (a) By the Council: Houses ... 48  
Flats ... 122  
Total ... 170
- (b) By private enterprise: ... 116
- (c) Number of Council dwellings, as at 1st December 1966: ... 116
- (d) Permanent ... 1932
- (e) Temporary ... 2173

## 4. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBSIDIARY ESTATE.

- (a) Subsidiary Estate. The subsidiary estate was developed as follows:
- (i) Number of units of accommodation built and occupied during the year:
- (a) By the Council: Houses ... 48  
Flats ... 122  
Total ... 170
- (b) By private enterprise: ... 116
- (c) Number of Council dwellings, as at 1st December 1966: ... 116
- (d) Permanent ... 1932
- (e) Temporary ... 2173

## 5. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBSIDIARY ESTATE.

- (a) Subsidiary Estate. The subsidiary estate was developed as follows:
- (i) Number of units of accommodation built and occupied during the year:
- (a) By the Council: Houses ... 48  
Flats ... 122  
Total ... 170
- (b) By private enterprise: ... 116
- (c) Number of Council dwellings, as at 1st December 1966: ... 116
- (d) Permanent ... 1932
- (e) Temporary ... 2173



# REPORT of the CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ottawa and Chippewa Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour and pleasure to send by contribution to the Annual Report of the Ottawa and Chippewa Rural District Council, and to describe in some detail the activities of the Public Health Department during 1955.

## REPORT

In presenting this report it is particularly to be noted on the subject of the year's work. There is no doubt that it can be put to good use by the Council, the Department, and the general public of the Ottawa and Chippewa Rural District Council during the year.

## of the

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The purpose of this report is to bring your attention to the various activities of the year of the Department, and to describe you with the activities regarding special problems which the Public Health Department has been dealing with during the year.

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### Public Health Services

The effect of public health is the provision of Christian Aid, Hospital, District Council, District Council, and District Council, and should only serve to provide the properties with public health and the facilities which result from the availability of this service.

Good progress has been made in the provision of domestic services to these areas and it is anticipated that by the end of 1957, most properties in these areas will be equipped.

One of the greatest advantages for a healthy life and acceptable environment are the use of the highest of a high percentage of the population of this district. It is not that in this area will lead to a growing population and a growing population, and with the regular practice of good hygiene, will lead to a lowering of the incidence of most communicable diseases and other illnesses.

### Public Health Services

The public health services have been providing the extensive attention of the Council, and for a long period on the long-term disposal of household refuse, and the difficulties associated with the collection of refuse of the district and the services.

The District Council which has been providing public health services in the district has been providing its services to the various areas of public health for the satisfactory treatment, before final disposal, of household refuse.

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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## REPORT of the CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to make my contribution to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, and to describe in some detail the activities of the Public Health Department during 1966.

In presenting this report I think it pertinent to comment on the object of the Annual Report itself. There is no doubt that it can be put to good use to inform the Ministries, the Council, and the general public of the progress in public health administration during the year.

The purpose of this introduction is to focus your attention on particular aspects of the work of the department, and to acquaint you with the position regarding special problems which the Public Health and other Committees have had under active consideration.

At this stage I would like to acknowledge the help given to me by my colleagues in the department, in the compilation of all the statistics included in the report and for specific contributions on matters with which individual Inspectors have been particularly associated.

### Sewer Connections.

The advent of public sewers in the Parishes of Christian Malford, Hilmarton, Kington Langley, Kington St. Michael, and Sutton Benger, has enabled many owners to provide their properties with main drainage and the facilities which result from the availability of this service.

Good progress has been made in the connection of domestic premises to these sewers and it is confidently anticipated that by the end of 1967, most properties in these areas will be connected.

Some of the absolute necessities for a healthy life and acceptable environment are now at the disposal of a high percentage of the population of this district. I hope that in time this will lead to a growing realisation that personal cleanliness, coupled with the regular practice of good hygiene, will lead to a lowering of the incidence of such complaints as dysentery and similar illnesses.

### Public Cleansing Service.

Two problems concerning this service have been receiving the serious attention of the Council: the need for a firm policy on the long-term disposal of household refuse, and the difficulties associated with the retention of men of the right calibre in this service.

The Sub-Committee which has been giving active consideration to the first problem has been extending its researches into the various forms of plant available for the satisfactory treatment, before final disposal, of household refuse.



On certain of its investigations, the Council's representatives have been accompanied by Councillors and officials of the Boroughs of Chippenham and Calne. These authorities are faced with similar problems, which may not be so immediately pressing to them but all the same, will give them cause for concern in future years.

Visits to and inspections of different types of pulverisation plant have been made at Warmley, Witney, and at Wheatley in the area of the Bullington Rural District Council.

Other visits have been made to a separation and incineration plant at Castle Bromwich and to a proto-type direct incineration plant at Tysley, Birmingham.

Having previously inspected a refuse composting plant at Leatherhead, and another form of pulverisation plant at Worthing, the Sub-Committee should now be in a position to make a recommendation as to the type of plant most suitable and economic to deal with household refuse.

I was seriously concerned at the loss of manpower from the refuse collection service in March 1966, when three men from a labour force of eighteen left, and there was great uneasiness among the remainder concerning the smallness of their "take-home" money and the poor prospects of any immediate pay rise.

This position was reported to the Council, and it was decided to investigate the possibility of introducing work study techniques to this and other outside services of the Council with the co-operation of the employees.

These investigations have continued during the year and I hope that in due time a course of action will be decided upon which will enable a work or method study of these departments to proceed.

#### The Gypsy Problem.

During the year we have had the usual troubles from the gypsy type of people. The horse-drawn families tend to be less trouble than the motorised scrap-dealers who leave behind everything of no salvageable value. In addition of course, there is the usual residue of broken glass, tins, bones and food scraps, paper, old clothes, and numerous deposits of uncovered excreta. I feel that these people have only themselves to blame for the general public's unfavourable opinion of them. Those who cry aloud about local authority persecution should witness for themselves this continuous wanton desecration of the countryside, or, better still, offer to keep the sites cleaned up.

Asking the police to move families on is a very negative attitude and to my department it is a matter for regret that we cannot show some humanity by directing them to a suitable place where they can lawfully stay for as long or short a period as they wish. There are no doubt, all sorts of difficulties and objections to the provision of a gypsy encampment in any area that is chosen, but this is a vital first step in getting these nomads settled, and getting their illiterate children to school. Many wish to settle. Settlement for others is obviously a long-term project, probably involving several generations and starting with children going to school. Therefore, the sooner the problem is tackled, the better.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government sent Circular No.26/66 to all authorities on this matter. It asks local authorities to take action where it is required, and this Council has been pressing the Wilts County Council to convene a conference of all authorities in the County, to determine the best way of tackling this problem, which cannot be contained within individual district boundaries.



### Housing.

Most of our efforts in the housing field have been concentrated on the improvement of existing properties, with particular emphasis on improvement with the aid of Discretionary or Standard Grants. This work is very time-consuming but I am sure that our time is being well spent and is materially helping towards the build-up of a substantial number of dwellings in this district which have been repaired and provided with essential amenities. The lives of these properties will thus have been extended for several generations.

Since the introduction, in 1949, of the Discretionary Grant scheme for the improvement of dwellings, some 774 properties in this district have been improved. During 1966, 106 applications for grants were received, and 74 properties were improved during this period.

### Improvement Areas.

The 1964 Housing Act gave local authorities power to define and declare certain areas to be Improvement Areas, and the Council in 1965 took advantage of this legislation by declaring part of Friory Street, Corsham, to be such an area.

Preliminary notices have been served in respect of sixteen properties within this area and meetings have been held with owners and tenants. The result of this action is reported in detail in Section C of this report.

It is significant that in the whole of the South-West of England, up to September 1966, only Poole County Borough and this Council had passed resolutions declaring Improvement Areas.

### Slum Clearance.

Slum clearance, fortunately, is not a serious problem for this Council, the numbers of unfit houses being relatively small. Most of the really unfit houses have been weeded out and dealt with during the past thirty years.

Inevitably, certain houses in the district will deteriorate and become unfit, and as such properties become known to me reports on them will be submitted to the Housing Committee for necessary action.

Surveys of unfit properties, this year, have been made in the Parishes of Box, Cherhill and Christian Malford.

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

This Act, which was introduced to improve the working conditions within offices, shops and railway premises, is a somewhat elaborate piece of legislation, complicated by an unprecedented number of circulars and memoranda issued by the Ministry of Labour. However, it has enabled a complete survey to be made of the 131 registered premises in this district and the department has secured the improvement of those premises which fell short of the standards prescribed in the Act. Routine visits will be required in future, to ensure that this higher standard is maintained.

I conclude by extending my grateful thanks to the Councillors and Officials of the Council for their continued support and guidance, without which the progress referred to in this report would not be possible.

I have the honour to be,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

## Housing.

Most of our efforts in the housing field have been concentrated on the improvement of existing properties, with particular emphasis on improvement with the aid of Discretionary or Standard Grants. This work is very time-consuming but I am sure that our time is being well spent and is materially helping towards the build-up of a substantial number of dwellings in this district which have been repaired and provided with essential amenities. The lives of these properties will thus have been extended for several generations.

Since the introduction, in 1949, of the Discretionary Grant scheme for the improvement of dwellings, some 714 properties in this district have been improved. During 1966, 106 applications for grants were received, and 74 properties were improved during this period.

### Improvement Areas.

The 1964 Housing Act gave local authorities power to declare and designate certain areas to be Improvement Areas, and the Council in 1965 took advantage of this legislation by declaring part of Trinity Street, Corsham, to be such an area.

Preliminary notices have been served in respect of sixteen properties within this area and meetings have been held with owners and tenants. The result of this action is reported in detail in Section C of this report.

It is significant that in the whole of the South-West of England, up to September 1966, only Poole County Borough and the Council had passed resolutions designating Improvement Areas.

### Slum Clearance.

Slum clearance, fortunately, is not a serious problem for this Council, the numbers of unfit houses being relatively small. Most of the newly unfit houses have been weeded out and dealt with during the past thirty years.

Inevitably, certain houses in the district will deteriorate and become unfit, and as such properties become known to us reports on them will be submitted to the Housing Committee for necessary action.

Surveys of unfit properties, this year, have been made in the Parishes of Box, Chiswick and Christian Malford.

### Offices, Homes and Railway Premises Act 1967.

This Act, which was introduced to improve the working conditions within offices, shops and railway premises, is a somewhat elaborate piece of legislation, complicated by an unprecedented number of circulars and memoranda issued by the Ministry of Labour. However, it has enabled a complete survey to be made of the 111 registered premises in this district and the department has secured the improvement of those premises which fell short of the standards prescribed in the Act. Housing visits will be required in future, to ensure that this higher standard is maintained.

I conclude by extending my grateful thanks to the Council Officers and Officials of the Council for their continued support and guidance, without which the progress referred to in this report would not be possible.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
R. J. TAYLOR.



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1966.General.

Water supply	131
Drainage	546
Waste Foods Order	12
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	33
Caravans, tents, etc.	490
Factories - power	22
"    - non-power	6
Outworkers	2
Public conveniences	111
Theatres, village halls, etc.	2
Refuse and salvage collection	183
Refuse disposal	157
Litter and abandoned vehicles	293
Rodent control	156
Infestations - flies, wasps, etc.	39
Atmospheric pollution	118
Schools	26
Shops - non-food	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act - General inspections	13
"    "    "    "    "    "    - Other inspections	105
Nuisances	89
Noise abatement	1
Knackers' yards	1
Petroleum and carbide of calcium	29
Miscellaneous visits	436

Housing.

No. of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	14	17
Re-visits to above houses		
No. of houses inspected under Housing Acts	77	276
Re-visits to above houses		
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding	2	-
Re-visits to above houses		
No. of houses inspected re improvements	180	231
Re-visits to above houses		
No. of filthy or verminous premises inspected	2	3
Re-visits to above premises		
No. of visits re housing advances		101

Sampling.

Water samples	317
Sewage effluent samples	5
Milk samples, bottle rinses, etc.	200
Ice cream samples	82
Food samples	35

Food.

No. of visits to: Butchers	38
Bakehouses	13
Fried Fish shops	3
Licensed premises	71
Canteens, cafes, restaurants, etc.	49
Dairies and milk distributors	26
Poultry packing station	73
Grocers and general stores	118
Other food premises	14
Stalls, vehicles, etc.	15
Miscellaneous visits.	20

Infectious Diseases.

No. of enquiries in cases of infectious diseases	93
No. of miscellaneous visits re infectious diseases	210

<u>General.</u>	
Water supply	131
Drainage	246
Waste Food Order	12
Animal Housing Establishments Act	33
Carcasses, tanks, etc.	490
Factories - power	22
" - non-power	6
Outworkers	2
Public conveniences	111
Theatres, village halls, etc.	2
Rat and mouse collection	183
Rat traps	127
Litter and abandoned vehicles	293
Robert control	156
Infestations - flies, wasps, etc.	39
Atmospheric pollution	118
Schools	26
Shops - non-food	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act - General inspections	13
" " " " " " " " - Other inspections	102
Miscellaneous	89
Noise abatement	1
Knacker's yards	1
Petroleum and carbide of calcium	29
Miscellaneous visits	436

<u>Housing.</u>	
No. of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	14
Re-visits to above houses	17
No. of houses inspected under Housing Acts	276
Re-visits to above houses	2
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding	-
Re-visits to above houses	180
No. of houses inspected re improvements	231
Re-visits to above houses	2
No. of filthy or verminous premises inspected	3
Re-visits to above premises	101
No. of visits re housing advances	

<u>Sanitation.</u>	
Water supplies	317
Septic effluent samples	2
Milk samples, bottle returns, etc.	200
Ice cream samples	82
Food samples	32

<u>Food.</u>	
No. of visits for:	
Bakery	38
Bakery	13
Fried fish shops	3
Licensed premises	71
Canteens, cafes, restaurants, etc.	49
Dairies and milk distributors	26
Poultry packing station	73
Grocers and general stores	118
Other food premises	14
Stalls, vehicles, etc.	12
Miscellaneous visits	20

<u>Infectious Diseases.</u>	
No. of enquiries in cases of infectious diseases	93
No. of miscellaneous visits re infectious diseases	210



A. PUBLIC HEALTH - GENERAL.

1. DRAINAGE.

(a) Sewer Connections.

(i) Derry Hill and Studley.

Of the eighteen properties with unsatisfactory drainage which had not been connected to the sewer at the end of last year, fourteen have now been connected and work is in hand on the remainder.

(ii) Box: Ashley, Boxfields, Box Hill,  
Henley, Kingsdown, Middlehill.

At the end of 1965, twenty-two properties adjacent to the sewer were still without satisfactory drainage. Of these, five were connected during the year and a further fourteen are being dealt with under the Housing Act 1957 and will be made fit and connected to the sewer or no longer used for habitation.

Only nine remain to be dealt with out of the 320 premises served by these sewer extensions, and of these, eight are unfit houses and the ninth is unoccupied.

(iii) North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme, Stage I.

Sutton Benger. Many of the 105 properties in the village formerly drained to the old drock system, and have now been connected to the new sewer by the Council. A considerable number of properties which drained to septic tanks have been connected to the sewer by their owners, and at the end of the year only twenty-two properties with unsatisfactory drainage remain. Work is in hand on thirteen of these, and by the end of 1967 connection of properties in the village should be completed.

Christian Malford. About two-thirds of the properties adjacent to the sewer have been connected to it.

Kington Langley and Kington St. Michael. Work is in hand or about to start on the connection of nineteen properties in Kington Langley, leaving twenty to be dealt with. The sewers at Kington St. Michael, and Plough Lane, Kington Langley, came into use towards the end of the year. Most of the properties in Kington St. Michael village drained to the existing highway drain/sewer, and these have been connected to the new sewer at the Council's expense. Of the other properties in the village, eight remain to be connected.

(iv) North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme, Stage II.

The laying of new sewers in Christian Malford, East Tytherton and Foxham, is well in hand. A determined effort will be made to ensure that connections are made to these sewers, which will prove a great boon in these areas, where the water table is very high, the sub-soil is generally of heavy clay, and the levels of land are not conducive to natural drainage.

(v) Hilmarton.

Thirty-two of the seventy-two dwellings which can be connected to the sewer have been connected, and work on a further seventeen is in hand.

(vi) Goatacre.

Only twenty properties have been connected, and work is in hand on three more. There are seventy-two properties within the sewerable area.



(b) Public Health Act 1936, Section 39:Provision of Satisfactory Drainage.

Statutory notices were served on the owner of two properties at Kingsdown, requiring him to connect them to the sewer, and the work was done by the Council in default.

The drainage of one bungalow at Box was found to be defective by the Council's Rodent Operator when carrying out a rodent control treatment. The drainage was repaired by the owner, following service of an informal notice to do so.

(e) Public Health Act 1936, Section 260:Kington Langley Pond.

The cleansing of this pond near Middle Common was suspended until the Engineer and Surveyor, acting upon the instructions of the Council, had replaced the existing blocked stone dreck with a new outlet drain.

This work reduced the level of the water in the pond and enabled employees of the Public Health Department to remove a 50-years accumulation of filth and rubbish with the aid of the earth-moving machines used for the tipping of refuse. By these means, what might have been a relatively costly operation was completed for the modest expenditure of £35.0.0.

(d) Sampling of Sewage Effluents.

All sampling of effluents from the Council's sewage disposal works is arranged by the Engineer and Surveyor, and carried out by Mr. Hill, Chemist at the Thingley sewage disposal works.

(e) Land Drainage Act 1961.

Complaints have been received from time to time of flooding at the "Plume of Feathers" public house at Burton. At a meeting with representatives of the Bristol Avon River Authority, the Wilts County Council, and this Council, it was considered that the flooding was due to the silting-up of the watercourse from the "Plume of Feathers" to the junction of the Nettleton and Pucklechurch roads.

This section was not accepted as "main river" by the River Authority, but they might accept responsibility if remedial works, which this Council has power to do under the Land Drainage Act 1961, are carried out. The legal and practical implications of this proposal have to be worked out before a decision can be taken.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Lacock. Due to the economic squeeze, the Council did not proceed with the proposed erection of new public conveniences in the public car-park. The provision of modern public conveniences in this village, which receives many hundreds of visitors, is long overdue.

Castle Combe. The influx of the 20th Century Fox Company to film "Dr. Dolittle" in the village not only strained relations amongst the inhabitants, but also attracted an invasion of sightseers, who taxed the capacity of the public conveniences. Ultimately, additional temporary conveniences had to be provided in various parts of the village, including Upper Castle Combe. These additional conveniences were provided and maintained by the Film Company.



Box and Colerne. The public conveniences at Box and Colerne have been satisfactorily maintained, with little wanton damage to be reported.

Corsham. The standard of the public conveniences in Post Office Lane and Station Road, Corsham, has given me some cause for concern. Not only are these conveniences inadequate, they are below accepted hygienic standards, and I have had the greatest difficulty in obtaining satisfactory labour to carry out daily cleaning. I hope that in the redevelopment of the Central Area of Corsham, space will be provided for public conveniences which will meet the existing needs and be a credit to the Council.

### 3. WATER SUPPLIES.

Almost all of the water supplied to the district is provided by the North Wilts Water Board, with the Bristol Waterworks serving a small area at Burton. A few houses are supplied from the Langley Burrell borehole, belonging to Messrs.C. & T.Harris (Calne) Ltd. All of these supplies are chlorinated.

The Buxted Chicken Co.Ltd. obtains water from its own boreholes for use in the poultry packing station at Sutton Benger. This is sampled periodically, but it is so heavily chlorinated for processing purposes that the bacteriological quality of the water supplied to the factory is always good.

#### Water supply to Clewancy and Corton, Hilmarton.

A mains supply will be provided to this area when the loop main is laid from Compton Bassett to Hilmarton. The pipes are already stacked on the verges and it is hoped that work will start early in 1967.

#### Adequacy of Water Supplies.

Apart from New Zealand and Goatacre, the supply to which will be improved by the Compton Bassett-Hilmarton main, the quantity of water available to the areas served by the Water Board has generally been satisfactory. Temporary shortages have however, been experienced in Neston at weekends. The cause of this is not clear, but appears to be at least partly due to working housewives in the Prospect area of Corsham doing their washing at this time.

The development by the North Wilts Water Board of new sources of water at Rodbourne in the Malmesbury area should ensure an adequate supply of water to this district for many years to come.

No reliable information is available of the number of houses supplied by standpipe or direct into houses, as the Water Board has been unable to attempt this survey up to the present time.

#### Contamination.

No significant contamination of sources in the area occurred during the year. The Water Board exercise constant surveillance by regularly taking samples for bacteriological examination from each source.

Generally, check samples from those supplies where samples of treated water had coliform counts proved negative. In one case only, at Nettleton, mains were washed out and chlorinated, to produce subsequent negative reports.



### Sampling.

Bacteriological samples from treated water as supplied to the consumers, are taken by the Council's Public Health Department.

The North Wilts Water Board also take samples, for bacteriological examination of treated and raw water, and for chemical analysis of raw water.

I am grateful to Mr.C.R.Phillips, Engineer to the North Wilts Water Board, for supplying details of the samples taken and work done by his department.

#### (a) Bacteriological Examination.

##### (i) Analysis of Reports on Samples taken

by the Public Health Department:

	<u>Satisfactory:</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory:</u>
	(less than 1 B.Coli./100 ml.)	(1 or more B.Coli./100 ml.)
Biddestone	4	-
Box - Washwells	12	-
" - Widdenham	60	3
Castle Combe	12	-
Cherhill - Yatesbury	12	1
East Tytherton	4	-
Goodshill, Corsham	12	-
Grittleton	3	1
Nettleton	11	6
Stanton St.Quintin	4	-
Sutton Benger	3	-
Theobalds Green, Calne	12	-
Burton (Bristol Waterworks)	11	1
Langley Burrell (Harris's)	4	-

##### Eastern Area Water Scheme:

Bowden Hill	41	3
Bremhill	4	-
Cherhill	4	-
Compton Bassett	4	2
Fiveways, Hawthorn	17	1
Foxham	4	-
Heddington	4	-
Hilmarton	12	-
Yewstock, Chippenham	46	1
Private supplies	11	5
	<u>311</u>	<u>24</u>

##### (ii) Samples taken by the North Wilts

Water Board of Treated Water:

516 samples were taken.

484 samples were satisfactory (less than 1 B.Coli./100 ml.)

16 samples had 1-2 B.Coli./100 ml.

16 samples had 3 or more B.Coli./100 ml.



(iii) Summary of Reports on Samples of Raw Water:

Source:	No. of Samples:	Coliform Counts per 100 ml.:			
		Less than 1	1 - 3	4 - 10	More than 10
Widdenham	25	17	3	3	2
Nettleton	Not used				
Chippenham	62	33	22	4	3
Goodshill	2	1	1		
Washwells	44	29	9	2	4

(b) Chemical Analysis.

Samples for chemical analysis of raw water from the sources are taken by the North Wilts Water Board in rota, and during the year the following reports have been received:-

	Chippenham:	Washwells:	Goodshill:	Widdenham:
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Nil	2	2	2
Colour (Hazen scale)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.1	7.8	7.2	7.5
E. Conductivity	870	330	560	650
Total solids (p.p.m.)	560	220	400	425
Hardness total	355	170	330	305
Non-carbonates	90	55	50	75
Carbonates	265	115	270	230
CO <sub>2</sub>	48	4	34	17
Chlorides	114	14	21	27
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.50
Oxygen absorbed	0.20	Nil	Nil	0.20
Iron	Absent	Absent	Absent	0.05
Lead	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	0.60	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.01	Nil	Nil	Nil

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

- (a) No material changes in the frequency of collection or the areas of collection were introduced during 1966, and the service has operated to the reasonable satisfaction of local residents, although one or two parishes at present receiving a fortnightly refuse collection service have agitated for weekly collections.

I have had some difficulty in maintaining the labour force and during the first quarter of 1966 several employees left the service, but I was fortunate to obtain replacements, some from the Council's Buildings Department. The imposition of the credit squeeze halted the loss of labour, as more congenial work was not so easily available.

To cope with the work of this department it is now necessary to employ a staff of eighteen men, consisting of one working foreman, two tip attendants, four loader-drivers, one relief loader-driver, nine loaders, and one man engaged full-time on baling waste paper.

I would particularly like to thank the employees who for a number of years have formed the backbone of this labour force for a further year of conscientious work, carried out with reasonable cheerfulness and the minimum of "moaning".

The Council's fleet of vehicles now includes:-

One - Bedford	12 cu.yd.	(converted to salvage vehicle)	purchased	1956
One - "	12 cu.yd.	(side-loader)	"	1959
One - Shelvoke & Drewry	18 cu.yd.	(with power-press)	"	1961
One - "	"	35 cu.yd. (compression-type)	"	1963
One - "	"	35 cu.yd. ( " )	"	1964
One - "	"	35 cu.yd. ( " )	"	1965



The cost of running and maintaining this fleet of vehicles is rising alarmingly and in preparing annual estimates it is becoming increasingly difficult to assess this cost. These large collection vehicles, with complex hydraulic systems and many moving parts, are subject to great stress and wear, and after three or four years of service one must allow a fairly generous sum for the major overhaul of each vehicle.

The volume of household refuse collected is phenomenal and is growing each year, due principally to the high increase in packaging of all household goods. The standard 2½-cu.ft. dustbin can hardly contain a week's accumulation of refuse and I am encouraging householders to purchase 3½-cu.ft. plastic dustbins which are lighter to handle and, if of good quality, more durable and hygienic.

During the year the disposal areas at Lacock and Yatesbury, which were used for many years, have been completely filled and preliminary work on final covering has been undertaken. This will be completed as and when suitable top-soil becomes available.

The area at the Lower Seagry gravel excavations which, in my opinion, is suitable for the disposal of household refuse by controlled tipping, will be completely filled within the first three months of 1967. Conditions in other parts of the excavated areas are so difficult for controlled tipping, there being an extremely high water table and little space between excavated overburden, that future tipping here will have to be abandoned.

This will leave the Council with four tipping areas, at Calne Without, Colerne, Grittleton and Sutton Benger. I anticipate that by the end of 1967 the present tip near Colerne, a disused stone quarry, will be completely filled and household refuse from that area will have to be taken to Grittleton.

The three remaining tips should have a life of four or five years, during which time I hope the proposals which I have outlined in the preface to this report will have come to fruition, otherwise the Council will have a most serious problem on its hands, with little time to reach a satisfactory solution.

#### (b) Supply of Dustbins.

The Council has continued its policy of purchasing standard galvanised dustbins for sale to the general public at cost price plus a small additional charge for delivery, and during the year 113 standard and 17 small dustbins have been sold.

Pressure of other work has prevented wide-scale surveys of household dustbins being undertaken in every parish, but "black spots" have been surveyed and informal notices served on occupiers to provide satisfactory dustbins.

I have also supplied the drivers of the refuse collection vehicles with stick-on notices which draw the attention of householders to unsatisfactory refuse receptacles, and the need for replacement dustbins being provided. The men report that these notices are having the desired effect.

#### (c) The Litter Problem.

This is a perennial problem, which will not be solved until there is a complete change of heart in the British people and a desire to see the unrivalled British countryside free from litter. The alternative is higher penalties for offences under the Litter Act 1958, with fines of from £25 to £50 for convicted offenders.



Members of the Public Health staff have produced evidence to the Council and to the Police of litter offences, but such evidence has not been considered sufficient or material enough to secure convictions and the offenders have gone scot-free.

(d) Removal of Vehicles (England and Wales) Regulations 1961.

The purchase by the Council of a portable oxy-acetylene cutting outfit has enabled the public cleansing department to remove, for sale to a local scrap-merchant, the remains of a number of abandoned vehicles from various parts of the Rural District, without recourse to legislative action under the above Regulations. Several vehicles abandoned on Council housing estates have been cut up and removed by this means.

5. SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

During 1966, over 290 tons of waste paper have been collected, and this has been sold to the mills for £2228. During 1965, 275 tons were collected and sold to the value of £1839.

The time has come when serious consideration must be given to the question of re-organising this essential service. Matters to be resolved include the provision of a new temporary salvage depot to replace the two dilapidated Nissen huts, which have reached such a state of disrepair as to be unfit for further use, the supply and delivery of a larger purpose-made salvage collection vehicle, and the purchase of a more efficient baling machine which will increase the output of bales of waste paper and reduce the cost of this operation.

6. CARAVAN SITES.

(a) Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

The operation of this Act has greatly simplified the problem of controlling residential caravans entering the Rural District. Since landowners have realised that they are liable to heavy fines for permitting unauthorised caravans to be occupied on their land, they are unwilling to allow caravans to be brought on to their property until permission has been obtained.

There is much less demand for caravan sites in this district than there was a few years ago. Two private sites for a total of 51 caravans, and the Council's sites, which accommodate 92, have been able to cope with the demand for permanent residential sites.

Two temporary licences were issued during the year, when accommodation in Chippenham Without and Corsham was required for short periods. Eight licences, issued for five years in 1961, were renewed for varying periods of up to five years.

Total Number of Current Licences.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of Licences.</u>	<u>No. of Caravans.</u>
Box	4	34
Bremhill	3	3
Calne Without	2	2
Chippenham Without	1	1
Christian Malford	1	2
Colerne	3	24
Corsham	4	5
Hilmarton	2	2
Kington Langley	2	2
Lacock	2	2
North Wraxall	1	1
Pewsham	1	1
Sutton Benger	2	2
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>81</b>



(b) Sites provided by the Council.(i) Northleaze, Corsham.

The demand for standings at this site continued steady throughout the year but this is reducing, and I can foresee in a few years difficulty in keeping the site fully occupied.

Unfortunately during the year, there were two fires, resulting in the total loss of the caravans concerned. The question of the adequacy of fire-fighting equipment provided at the site has been considered but these fires showed that emphasis must be placed on fire prevention. Once a caravan is ablaze, the only course of action is to prevent the spread of the fire to adjoining caravans.

It is of interest to note that a quarter of the standings at Northleaze are let to single persons, the majority of these elderly. This shows that there is probably a need for permanent accommodation of a type to meet the demands of single persons, particularly pensioners, who wish to preserve their independence.

(ii) Yatton Keynell.

This site, which will accommodate eleven caravans, has been kept fully-let, but the demand for standings is small.

(iii) Sutton Benger.

This site of twelve standings has also been kept fully-let and there is a small but definite demand for vacancies when they occur. This is a good site, we have no trouble with rents, and the gardens in the main are very well kept.

(iv) Goatacre, Hilmarton.

This is our smallest site, with only five standings. It has an unhappy history and I should be only too pleased to see it closed down or handed over to anyone who would take it on. I feel it was conceived in haste and has been increasingly regretted ever since. It was provided mainly to supply the needs of service men then based at the Royal Air Force Station, Lyneham. Why the Royal Air Force, with their hundreds of acres of Crown land, all exempt from planning control, would not provide space for the needs of their own men, I shall never understand.

Because of the temporary nature of the postings of the applicants, the site was occupied by them on a "here today and gone tomorrow" basis right from the beginning. Camp environment was an obvious casualty to this attitude. With few exceptions, the gardens at the site have been neglected: instead of being trim and productive they have been a mess of uncut grass and weeds, with deep ruts from constant car-parking.

In the past two years the demand for standings has ceased. Had I not waived the rules and allowed a caravan owner to rent two plots and let his caravans on a temporary basis, we should have lost 40% of the income from the site. The site has also been notorious for bad debts, both in amount and frequency.

The Welfare Department of the Wilts County Council has made considerable use of the site recently, and they have been suggesting the provision of additional amenities. These are hardly warranted in the present circumstances, and it has been suggested to the Welfare Department that they might take over the main tenancy of the site, when they would be able to provide all the amenities they considered necessary.



7. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.(a) Clean Air Act 1956.

Complaints have been received of nuisance from oil-fired domestic water heaters fitted in bungalows on a small estate at Stanton St. Quintin. The cause of the complaint appears to be due to incomplete combustion of fuel when the appliance starts up after being off for some time. As the buildings are bungalows, the fumes are discharged at a relatively low level.

We have consulted the Oil Company concerned, also the Ministry of Technology's Warren Springs Laboratory, but there is no solution to the problem at the moment. Some installations appear to be more troublesome than others, and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to overcome this by providing new models with means of pre-heating the combustion chamber.

With the increasing use of oil-fired heating, particularly on housing estates, this nuisance will become more widespread if a solution is not soon found. Apart from the practical difficulties, neither the Clean Air Act nor the Public Health Act make satisfactory provision for dealing with this type of nuisance.

(b) Westwells Crushing Plant.

From the time when this plant was first established, during the war years of 1939-45, as an adjunct to the existing stone quarrying and stone cutting operations, it has been a constant source of complaint and irritation to the occupiers of the surrounding residential area.

Modifications and improvements to the plant have been carried out and expensive high-frequency cyclones have been installed, in an effort to reduce the quantities of dust being discharged from the plant. It must be conceded that from the very nature of the operation taking place at the plant - the production of agricultural lime - some dust must be created which will inevitably be discharged to the atmosphere. What is so perplexing and annoying is the fluctuating quantity of dust discharged, which varies from an acceptable amount to one which borders on the creation of a nuisance within the provisions of Section 92 of the Public Health Act 1936.

Following the receipt of advice from the Alkali Inspector, a system for measuring the quantity of dust discharged from the cyclones has been evolved and this additional information reinforces the evidence obtained by regular visual observations of the plant throughout the year.

As a further means of obtaining evidence of the degree of fall-out from the plant, three temporary dust gauges have been installed on land adjacent to the works, and analysis of the deposit in these gauges gives a reasonable estimate of the average fall-out per acre over a given period.

Average discharge from cyclones: 12.95 lbs. per hour.

Details of first analysis of contents of temporary dust gauges:

	<u>Gauge 1.</u>	<u>Gauge 2.</u>	<u>Gauge 3.</u>
Fall-out rate per acre of carbonate and silicious dust	33.4 lbs.	130.5 lbs.	3.4 lbs.
Annual fall-out rate per acre of carbonate and silicious dust	210.0 lbs.	821.0 lbs.	22.0 lbs.

The results so far obtained indicate that with a prevailing south-westerly wind, properties south-east of the plant receive the highest dust deposit, and properties to the south-west of the plant receive the lowest deposit.



## 8. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1966, enquiries were made into the following cases of infectious disease:

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	68
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	4
Salmonella	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5
Smallpox (contacts)	...	...	...	...	2

Of the dysentery cases, 64 occurred in two outbreaks at Compton Bassett and Sutton Benger.

## 9. RUINOUS AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS AND NEGLECTED SITES.

A dangerous wall and a chimney-stack have been demolished as a result of informal notices to the owners, and the demolition of a farm building in the Parish of Bremhill is in hand.

## 10. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in this district which come within the provisions of Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936.

## 11. AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) PROVISIONS ACT 1956.

No complaints have been received from employees with reference to unsatisfactory sanitary facilities at farms or market garden premises.

## 12. PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH INTENSIVE FARMING.

### (a) Pig Production.

During the year we have had to deal with a number of serious complaints due to the disposal of pig dung at the Fatstock Marketing Corporation's Marden Farm at Stockley. This farm is just on the edge of Calne, and it is unfortunate that planning permission was given for both the pig production unit and a large residential housing estate in its immediate vicinity, in spite of clear warning of a nuisance likely to arise.

When a public health department is presented with a built-in nuisance like this, I feel that there should be more regard for public health aspects before planning approval is given.

About 700 pigs are being reared in the pig houses at Marden Farm, under closely controlled conditions. Their dung and urine are washed down into tanks outside the buildings and as often as is necessary (usually about three afternoons a week) this is emptied by trailer pump.

The procedure is first to mix the liquid and solids to an even consistency by means of a reverse-action air-blast, then a trailer load is sucked up, towed away, and sprayed on the piece of land chosen for the day. This process is repeated several times during the afternoon. Sometimes the site is on the far side away from the housing estate, and sometimes the spraying is done quite near to the houses; sometimes the wind is helpful, and sometimes it is not.



During the year there have been widespread and bitter complaints from the estate residents (the estate is within Calne Borough). There have been joint meetings between members of the Fatstock Marketing Corporation, representatives from Calne Borough Council and from this Council, and it has been agreed to allow the Company to experiment with a chemical deodorant.

After a very considerable period of trial, and after having investigated subsequent complaints, I am of the opinion that the deodorant experiment is a failure. In fact, the opinion of this department is that when the deodorant is used, you get two smells instead of one!

Exploratory talks have already been held about the discharge of the drainage into the Calne Borough public sewer, and unless someone can devise a totally new and satisfactory system, drainage to the sewer seems to be the only way to remedy this very serious nuisance.

It is a great pity that the nuisance is caused by returning valuable natural fertilisers to the soil, but we no longer live in a natural age, and in any case, this is sewage farming.

(b) Egg Production.

This district has its fair share of intensive egg production houses. The units vary from small huts to a large egg-producing farm with nearly a dozen very big houses. These houses hold thousands of chickens for a period of thirteen months, after which they are replaced. The chickens are on wire mesh, some eighteen inches or more above the floor, upon which the droppings collect.

A nuisance associated with chicken dung is the Lesser House Fly. Its eggs are laid in the dung and the young offspring lead a life of bliss under idyllic conditions, safe from the cruel beaks of would-be marauders above, and with their choicest food dropping like manna around them. Unchecked, their numbers can run into millions, and cause considerable nuisance in nearby houses. Some consolation is that, although they are a distinct nuisance, they are not considered to be a menace to health.

This is recognised as a national problem, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issued a leaflet on fly control about two years ago. We obtained a supply and distributed them to farmers whom we knew to be producing eggs by this method. Research has found that the adult flies like to perch on dangling strings. Out of this discovery came the method of stringing poultry houses with strings soaked in a concentrated insecticide containing fenchlorphos; the strings should be soaked every March.

From experience, this would appear to provide a reasonable degree of control, but even with the most conscientious efforts, a fair proportion must get away, and a fair proportion represents quite a lot of flies. In any case, chicken dung eventually has to be removed from the poultry houses and battery houses, and taken out to the field, where there are no control strings. I think we shall hear more of the Lesser House Fly in the future.

(c) Broiler Chicken Production.

We now have several broiler production farms in this district. A further one has been given planning permission but is not yet finished.

Typical farms are made up of four poultry houses, each house containing up to 30,000 broiler chickens. These birds are the logical answer to the public demand for more meat at low prices and form the vast majority of poultry now sold in Great Britain.



This poultry industry is a highly complex organisation of finance, computers, geneticists, and research workers - far removed from traditional methods, and hardly likely to rival the old methods as a favourite subject for children's books. However, with the high and increasing population of this country, these intensive forms of farming are here to stay.

Every new venture usually brings its own problems, and without proper management and intelligent anticipation a number of nuisances could arise.

One acute problem, disposal of the daily casualties, is readily solved in the case of the two larger farms. These are less than three miles from the poultry packing station at Sutton Benger and the dead birds are taken to the offal trailer there, which is removed daily. We are fortunate in that no nuisances have yet occurred, and that if they did, we should obtain the ready co-operation of the company.

## B. FOOD AND DRUGS.

### 1. FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960.

- (a) More attention has been paid, this year, to grocers and general stores. Although the increased use of pre-packaging makes it easier to handle some foods, the handling and storage of others require as much supervision as ever.

Our particular problem, as in most rural districts, is the small village shop, which is run by someone who has little or no knowledge of the food trade and who finds that the returns are often not great enough to provide a living for him. Unless he starts with sufficient capital to put the place in order he has difficulties from the beginning - and so do we!

In one particular case we have at last got the storerooms into a passable state, but we have had to deal with four different owners over the past ten years to do so.

The village shops are now mostly well run and it is in only a few cases that ignorance, inertia, and lack of capital combine to make it difficult to obtain a good standard of hygiene.

One disturbing development is the fact that cooked meats are being sold in small village shops where the demand is insufficient to ensure a quick sale of the relatively large quantity which has to be bought at one time from the wholesaler. The laboratory investigations referred to elsewhere in this report are not sufficiently advanced to assist us, and we can only hope that there will be no outbreak of food poisoning before more positive control over the sale of this food is available.

#### (b) Food Complaints.

Various complaints regarding food supplied to the public were received during the year, including oily dough in bread, an unpleasant flavour in tinned steak, and rust in ice cream. These were taken up with the manufacturers, who were able to give acceptable explanations.

#### (c) Prosecutions.

Legal proceedings were instituted in two instances. In one case a milk retailer was fined £20 for selling a bottle of milk containing a slug, and in the other a grocer who sold a mouldy pack of sausages was fined £5.



(d) Premises.

The food premises within the Rural District consist of:-

Premises.	No.	No. complying with Regn.16 (wash-basins provided):	No. of premises to which Regn.19 (facilities for washing food and equipment):-	
			(a) applies:	(b) is complied with:
Grocers and General Stores	72	72	31	31
Butchers	10	9	10	9
Bakers	7	7	7	7
Restaurants and Cafes	9	9	9	9
Fish and Fruit Shops	6	6	3	3
Fish and Chip Shops	2	2	2	2
Sweets and Ices Shops	13	13	-	-
Licensed Premises	61	61	61	61
Factories and Distributors	2	2	1	1
	182	181	124	123

(e) Condemned Foods.

During the year the following foodstuffs were examined by the Public Health Inspectors, condemned, and subsequently surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:

7 x 6d.	blocks ice cream	...	rust contamination.
300 assorted	ice creams	...	refrigerator breakdown.
20 lbs.	sweetbreads	...	decomposed.
1 stone	cod fillets	...	unsound.
1 x 4lbs.	luncheon meat	...	punctured tin.

2. FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1966.

These Regulations, which come into force on 1st January 1967, supersede those provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 which applied to market stalls and delivery vehicles.

The principal changes likely to affect vendors in this district are:-

Persons engaged in the handling of any open food (i.e. food not totally protected by a wrapper or container) must wear clean and washable overclothing;

If delivery vans carry open food, other than bread, they must be provided with wash-basins, hot water supplies, towels, etc.;

If open food is sold from vans or stalls, then sinks must be provided in addition to wash-basins; sinks are not required if the only food sold is fruit, greengrocery, or covered food, provided that the person engaged in the business gives written notice to the local authority that he is so engaged.

All traders known to be affected by these Regulations have been visited and their requirements discussed.



3. MILK AND DAIRIES.(a) Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.

		1966	1965
No. of Registered Dairies	...	11	12
No. of Registered Distributors	...	21	17

During the year, 83 routine inspections of dairies have been made. One registered dairy at Corsham has closed down. The increase in the number of distributors of milk is due to various shops in Corsham undertaking the sale of milk. As the milk is pre-packed and the shops have suitable storage facilities, no dairy is required.

(b) Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963 and 1965.

The number of licences to sell designated milk which are in operation in this district are:

<u>Designation.</u>	<u>No. of Licences.</u>
Untreated	1
Pasteurised	20
Sterilised	8
Ultra-Heat-Treated	Nil

Four producer-retailers retail untreated milk in this district, but they are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(c) Milk Sampling for Statutory Examination.

Routine samples are taken each month from distributors licensed by this Council, a total of 213 being tested during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Bath. Reports on these samples are as follows:-

Satisfactory	...	210	(236 in 1965)
Unsatisfactory	...	3	( 2 in 1965)

(d) Bottle Rinses.

Sets of washed milk bottles are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath each quarter, to check the efficiency of bottle cleansing at the various dairies. Twenty sets of bottles were sent for test, and of these, nineteen were satisfactory and one failed. Following notification of the failure, the Ministry's Milk Officer effected an improvement in methods at the premises of the producer-retailer concerned.

(e) Milk Sampling for Biological Examination.

In addition to routine sampling, biological samples of raw milk have been taken throughout the year. Thirty-two visits were made to dairies of producers supplying milk to retailers in the Rural District, and 126 churn samples were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Bath. All the results were negative as to tuberculosis.

(f) Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus.

Besides the test for tuberculosis, all biological samples are tested for Brucella Abortus by the Public Health Laboratory, in connection with the Ministry of Agriculture's efforts to eradicate this disease.



Positive Brucella cultures were obtained from the milk of two cows in a herd from which there is a small retail sale, and the farmer eliminated these cows from his herd.

All raw milk samples sent to the Laboratory for routine methylene blue tests are now subjected to the ring test for the presence of Brucella Abortus, and in the event of a positive result further sampling of the herd concerned would be instituted.

#### 4. ICE CREAM.

##### (a) Registration of Premises.

There are now 85 premises in the Rural District registered for the sale of ice cream. This year, two premises were registered, one at Colerne, the other at Corsham. Five premises were removed from the register owing to the sale of ice cream being discontinued.

An enquiry regarding the installation of a frozen food container at a local garage was dealt with and the owner was dissuaded from installing this as the premises were considered to be unsuitable for food handling.

##### (b) Sampling of Ice Cream.

A comprehensive programme of ice cream sampling during 1966 has produced the following results:-

<u>Grade.</u>	<u>1966.</u>	<u>1965.</u>
I	94	81
II	10	4
III	Nil	Nil
IV	Nil	Nil

These excellent results show that a high standard in manufacture, distribution, and storage is maintained. Three large firms now produce practically all the ice cream sold in this area, and maintain strict controls on the product up to its delivery to the retailer.

Some vans selling "soft ices" visit the district and it is found that the standard of hygiene maintained on these vans is satisfactory. No samples taken from the vans have failed the standard test.

#### 5. SAMPLING OF OTHER FOODS.

During the year this department took part in the pilot scheme operated through the Western Centre of the Public Health Inspectors' Association. The other authorities taking part were the Councils of Bath City, Calne Borough, Chippenham Borough, Bradford and Melksham Rural District and Gloucester Rural District. The scheme had been discussed with the Public Health Laboratories at Bath and Gloucester and we wish to record our appreciation of their interest and co-operation.

The total number of samples taken in the nine-months period was 275, of which my department took 31 (on a basis of four per month, excepting July when the Laboratory was short-staffed).

Concentration of effort was essential and so it was decided to keep to meat products. However, like much research, this first attempt at a programme was in the nature of a reconnaissance, very much a case of trial and error. An inquest by the interested parties was held on the programme's results, when we learned among other things, that "meat products" is far too wide a subject to be properly investigated unless there are really large sampling and examination resources available.



The pilot scheme was set up to demonstrate the need for a properly-organised system of bacteriological sampling. There is no doubt at all that the need is there. It was therefore decided to continue the scheme for a further similar period, to concentrate investigations on two specific products, and to make sure (by using the one common form) that we all obtained the same data.

It was found that the numbers of bacteria varied greatly, an example being from 'Nil' to 'more than 100,000,000 per gramme' for different samples of baked faggots. Sliced cooked ham had some surprisingly large counts in spite of the salt content, which one would have thought to have been an inhibitor.

A point of importance is that all the food items sampled were unquestionably fresh and fit in appearance. It would be of value to have comparative results for the same food when on the threshold of going stale, also comparisons from good and bad commercial practices, and, perhaps most important of all, samples from normal clean households to see what standards a good housewife can achieve.

All this requires sampling far beyond our means, yet it can be done very easily by a nationally co-ordinated scheme, whereby each authority has a small but definite part to play.

Only after extensive research will we have a true understanding of what the bacteria counts really mean. As a result of this research it may in time be possible to formulate standards for certain foods like the standards we already have for milk, ice cream and water. Without standards, control of these three items would have been almost impossible.

The more enlightened food firms already have bacteriological standards as an aid to quality control, and these standards are frequently included in the Conditions of Sale. If random samples fail, the whole consignment is rejected.

The cleanliness of our food is worthy of research. A co-ordinated national system seems to be the obvious method of doing it. It is hoped that these comments will be read by the Ministries of Health, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and that they will investigate the subject. Should we know what we are eating, or is it quite unimportant?

## 6. LICENSED PREMISES.

During the year, two major and several minor improvements have been made to public houses in this district, and improvements to three more have been agreed with the owners. These will be carried out as soon as financial circumstances permit.

Where sanitary accommodation is in need of major improvement, it is the policy of this department to meet the owners' representatives and, wherever possible, to have these amenities brought right up-to-date. I think it is a far better policy to wait a while for a completely modern scheme, than to insist on immediate attention to facilities which are fundamentally unsatisfactory.

The number of licensed premises in this district is 61, the same as last year.

## 7. BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouse at Bremhill is being modernised, and the work will be completed in the first half of 1967. This is the result of a long-term understanding by which the owner was given a two-year period in which to consider every aspect of the matter, with the result that he decided to rebuild part of his premises instead of trying to make do with the existing buildings.



The other six bakehouses have been reasonably well maintained. These bakehouses are situated at:

Bremhill	...	1
Castle Combe	...	1
Cherhill	...	1
Colerne	...	1
Corsham	...	3

8. FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are now two fish-and-chip shops in the district, at Corsham and Colerne, the one at Boxfields having closed down.

9. THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in this district.

10. POULTRY INSPECTION.

A circular dated 30th August 1966 was sent by the Ministry of Health to all authorities, asking for more attention to be given to poultry processing establishments.

It was apparent from this that the methods of some processors were not as hygienic as they should be, and that in some instances unfit poultry was being sent to the wholesale markets.

Our own poultry packing station at Sutton Benger (with the biggest daily throughput in Great Britain) has always enjoyed a good reputation, and Quality Control has been in operation since the present factory opened. We have never had any trouble in respect of unsound poultry being despatched for sale, nor have we had any worries about hygiene. Visits have been frequent and regular (though not at pre-arranged times) and any valid points raised by the Public Health Inspector have had the immediate attention of the management.

Quality Control is an ally to be valued. It concerns itself with every aspect of the article, including bacteriological standards. When a consignment is delivered to a well-known chain store, two broilers are taken at random and they are subjected to bacteriological examination. It is commercially vital that all consignments are accepted and this necessity ensures that there are no failures.

Also, since hygiene in the factory cannot be maintained at two levels, it follows that all poultry leaving the factory is of the same high bacteriological standard, regardless of whether or not it is intended for this chain store: a very beneficial side effect.

Nevertheless, in compliance with the Ministry's request, the number of inspections has been increased since 24th October 1966, and we are now endeavouring to maintain three visits every week. No fixed days or times are arranged; the factory is visited as and when possible but each visit is made to occupy the latter half of the morning or afternoon session. This means that the Inspector is on the premises for about an hour-and-a-half, during which time he is able to tour the premises and inspect the rejected carcasses, the rejected hearts and livers, and the birds which were dead on arrival.

We have the facilities of the Department of Veterinary Medicine at Langford for bacteriological examination of carcasses and viscera whenever we need this service.



The principal benefit from this programme of inspections is the hour-and-a-half stay at the factory. During this time the Public Health Inspector has time to look around, and it is inevitable that matters for discussion come to light. Also, with this time at his disposal, it is possible to pay due attention to the carcasses and offal which are intended for human consumption. In my opinion, this inspection is many times more important than the inspection of that which has been put out for rejection anyway. I think the following highly satisfactory figures confirm my views:

Out of an annual throughput of 6,045,851 birds, there were 6,202 rejects, representing a loss of only 0.1025%. When one bears in mind that the figures include the dead-on-arrival, the true figure and percentage of unfit birds are about a half of these.

An interesting freak was a broiler with three legs. We sent this to Langford and in return were provided with photographs and slides. It is understood that such freaks are not especially uncommon, and that sometimes a four-legged chicken is seen. Since their breeding is closely controlled by geneticists, and since wings are comparatively useless anyway, it would seem feasible to expect, sometime in the future, a four-legged wingless bird, perhaps even without those useless feathers!

No. of poultry processing premises in the district ...	1
No. of visits to these premises ... ..	73
Total no. of birds processed during the year ... ..	6,045,851
Type of birds processed: Broilers, with a very few cocks and hens.	
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption ...	0.1025%
Weight of poultry condemned:	Not available for full year.

# 11. SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

## (a) Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 63.

The licence for the knacker's yard at Heddington has again been renewed, following a satisfactory report on conditions there.

## (b) Slaughter of Animals Act 1933. Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954. Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958.

Six slaughtermen's licences were issued under these Acts and Regulations, all the men being experienced slaughtermen employed at the Heddington knacker's yard.

The return of horses slaughtered by the knacker's yard shows that twelve horses were slaughtered during the year, all on farms and none at the knacker's yard. In all, 32 carcasses were received at the yard.

## (c) Slaughterhouses Act 1958. Slaughterhouses (Reports) Direction 1959.

There are no slaughterhouses in this Rural District, but we sent one Public Health Inspector to carry out meat inspection at the Chippenham Bacon Factory, at the request of Chippenham Borough Council, to replace one of their Inspectors who was ill. This work occupied one day in September, and two days in November.



## C. HOUSING.

### 1. IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

No further surveys have been made, but "preliminary notices" have been served and meetings held to consider the need to improve sixteen houses in the Priory Street, Corsham, Improvement Area.

As a result, Suspended Improvement Notices have been served on the owners of three houses, requiring them to carry out improvements if there is a change of tenancy, or if the tenant agrees to have the improvements made within the next five years.

The owners of seven other houses have undertaken to improve their houses with the aid of Standard Grants.

On detailed investigation, it was found impracticable to provide improved amenities in six houses, at reasonable expense.

The occupier of one house in Corsham, outside the Improvement Area, has asked the Council to use its powers under the Housing Act 1964 to secure the improvement of his house and a "preliminary notice" has been served on the owner.

### 2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Although the number of houses improved dropped to the lowest since 1962, the number of applications rose to the highest since that year.

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
<u>Applications (no. of houses):</u>					
Discretionary Grants	54	41	48	36	55
Standard Grants	66	47	41	47	51
Totals:	<u>120</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>106</u>
<u>Houses Improved or Converted:</u>					
Discretionary Grants	32	48	48	42	30
Standard Grants	31	40	31	40	44
Totals:	<u>63</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>74</u>

### 3. HOUSING ADVANCES.

The amount of work involved in dealing with applications for housing advances has been about the same as for 1965.

Twenty-four houses have been repaired or improved in compliance with undertakings given by mortgagors.

### 4. HOUSING ACTION.

Most of the properties reported to be unfit during the year are in the following parishes:

Box	...	...	...	16
Cherhill	...	...	...	10
Christian Malford	...	...	...	4







(d) Improvement Grants - Discretionary:

	1965	1966
Applications received for conversions ... ..(houses)	1	2
" " " improvements ... ..( " )	35	53
Approvals for conversion of owner/occupied property ( " )	--	1
" " " " other " ( " )	--	2
" " improvement " owner/occupied " ( " )	18	32
" " " " other " ( " )	9	23
Amount of Grants approved for conversions ... ..	--	£ 1,200
" " " " improvements ... ..	£ 9,408	£20,641
No. of applications made during the year which were refused or withdrawn ...	7	--
No. of Grants completed ... ..	42	30
Amount of Grants paid ... ..	£13,910	£10,466
No. of premises inspected re Improvement Grants and Improvement Areas ...	472	180

(e) Improvement Grants - Standard.

	1965	1966
Applications received ... ..(houses)	47	51
" approved - owner/occupied property ... ( " )	34	31
" " - other property ... ..( " )	11	10
No. of applications made during the year which were refused or withdrawn ... ( " )	2	4
No. of houses improved ... ..	40	44
Amount of Grants paid ... ..	£ 5,848	£ 7,836
No. of baths or showers provided... ..	36	37
" " wash-hand basins " ... ..	38	38
" " water-closets " ... ..	40	41
" " hot water supplies " ... ..	37	38
" " food stores " ... ..	33	36

6. RENT ACT 1957, Section 1 and First Schedule.

No applications have been received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair and action by the Council.

7. HOUSING ACT 1961: HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

I am only aware of one property, at Pickwick Road, Corsham, which comes within the purview of Part II of the Housing Act 1961.

This property is divided into several self-contained flats, and with the exception of two basement rooms upon which Closing Orders have been placed, the accommodation is satisfactory. No overcrowding was noted.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, Section 237: COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No common lodging houses are registered in this Rural District.



D. FACTORIES, OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Class of premises.	No. of premises registered during the year.	Total no. of registered premises at the end of the year.	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year.
Offices	3	34	2
Retail shops	2	74	5
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	18	5
Fuel storage depots	-	3	1
Totals:	6	131	13

The total number of visits of all kinds by Public Health Inspectors to registered premises was 118.

(b) Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of workplace.	No. of persons employed.
Offices	236
Retail shops	234
Wholesale departments, warehouses	27
Catering establishments open to the public	67
Canteens	7
Fuel storage depots	11
Total:	582
Total males:	276
Total females:	306

(c) Exemptions.

Part I:	Space (Section 5(2))	Nil
Part II:	Temperature (Section 6)	Nil
Part III:	Sanitary conveniences (Section 9)	Nil
Part IV:	Washing facilities (Section 10)	Nil



(d) Contraventions.

Contraventions in respect of:		Found:	Remedied:
Sec. 4:	Cleanliness	-	-
" 5:	Overcrowding	-	-
" 6:	Temperature	1	6
" 7:	Ventilation	-	-
" 8:	Lighting	-	1
" 9:	Sanitary conveniences	-	4
" 10:	Washing facilities	-	3
" 11:	Supply of drinking water	-	-
" 12:	Accommodation for clothing	-	-
" 13:	Sitting facilities	-	-
" 14:	Seats for sedentary workers	1	1
" 15:	Eating facilities	-	1
" 16:	Floors, passages, stairs	2	4
" 17:	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-	-
" 18:	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-	-
" 19:	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-	-
" 23:	Prohibition of heavy work	-	-
" 24:	First aid - general provisions	3	7
Information for Employees Regulations 1965		3	4
Totals:		10	31
No. of prosecutions ... Nil.			

(e) Staff.

No. of Inspectors appointed under Sec.52(1) or (5) of the Act ... 4  
 No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act ... Nil

2. FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Of the 82 factories registered in this Rural District, seven are on Crown property and are the responsibility of the Factories Inspector.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Premises.	No. on Register	No. of:		
		Inspect'ns.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs.1, 2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	*22	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	6	-	-
Totals:	82	28	-	-

\* Inspections of factories which are also food premises (e.g. bakehouses and poultry packing stations) are not recorded here, as the maintenance of sanitary accommodation is checked during inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations.



(b) Number of Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars:	No. of cases where defects:				Prosecu- -tions:
	Found:	Remedied:	Referred:-		
			to H.M. Insptr.	by H.M. Insptr.	
Sanitary conveniences (Sec.7):					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	4	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-

(c) Outworkers.

There are nine outworkers in this district, all engaged in glove-making.

E. RODENT CONTROL.PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

- (a) The need for constant vigilance concerning the control of rodents has again been amply demonstrated, for many major sources of infestation have been discovered and successfully treated over a wide area of the Rural District during this year.

These major infestations could be avoided if the owners or occupiers of property or land would advise this department as soon as an infestation, however small, was discovered.

Notification is, in fact, a requirement of the above Act, and any person who fails to give notice that rats or mice are living on, or resorting to, land in substantial numbers may be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Five Pounds. I would appreciate this notification by residents within the Rural District.

(b) Inspection of Properties other than Sewers.

	Type of property:	
	Non-Agricultural:	Agricultural:
No. of properties in the district	7386	1094
Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification:	500	13
No. infested by: (i) Rats	129	9
(ii) Mice	19	1
Total no. of properties inspected on routine surveys:	330	79
No. infested by: (i) Rats	30	18
(ii) Mice	1	-



(c) Sewer Test-Baiting and Treatments.

Except in Castle Combe, where the work was delayed for several months by the activities of a film company, all the Council's sewers were test-baited in May and June.

The only "takes" were in Rudloe, and the test-baiting was immediately followed by a treatment of the infested area.

F. MISCELLANEOUS.1. DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957.

One of the eight licences in force at the beginning of the year has been given up. The remaining seven licensees have all been visited to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Order, and they are reminded of their obligations when outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease occur in the area.

2. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

Seven establishments have been re-licensed, and one new licence was issued for premises in Corshan. Another establishment changed hands and is no longer used for the boarding of animals.

Complaints concerning one establishment were investigated, but were found to concern matters outside the scope of the Act.

3. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964.

Three more dealers have been registered, bringing the total number of registered dealers at the end of the year to sixteen.

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