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Contributors

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Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

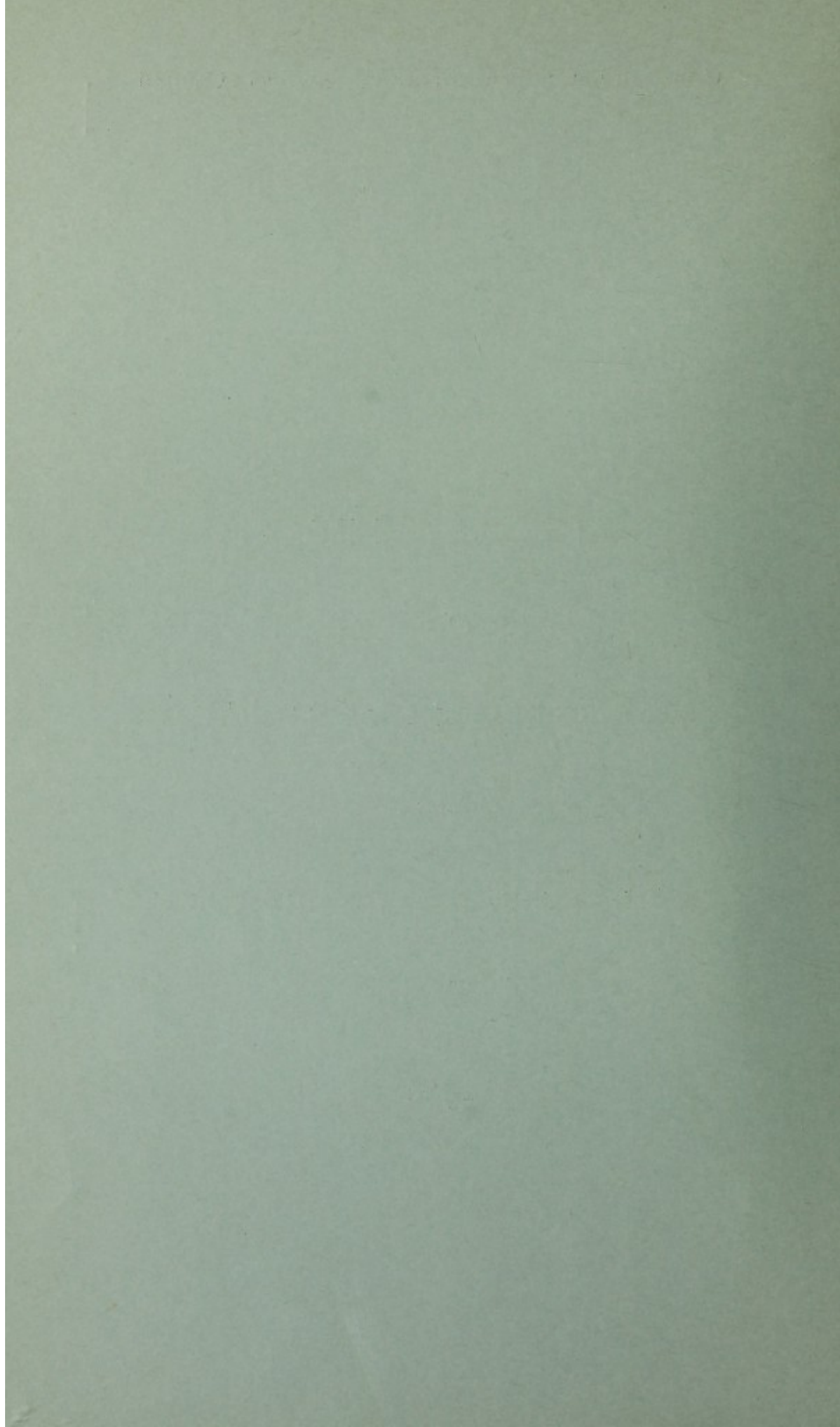
Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1968



CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1968



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I N D E X

Page:

Members of the Council...	1
Public Health Officers of the Authority	2
<u>REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:</u>	3
A. <u>General Statistics:</u>	4
B. <u>Vital Statistics:</u>	
1. Birth and Death Rates	4
2. Live Births	4
3. Still Births and Perinatal Mortality	5
4. Infant Mortality	5
5. Deaths - Analysis of Causes of Death	5
C. <u>Infectious and Notifiable Disease:</u>	6
D. <u>Housing:</u>	
1. Data	8
2. Re-development of the Bungalow Estates...	9
3. Welfare	9
E. <u>Water Supplies:</u>	9
F. <u>Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:</u>	10
G. <u>Other Matters:</u>	11
<u>REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:</u>	12
Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits	16
A. <u>Public Health - General:</u>	
1. Drainage...	17
2. Public Conveniences	18
3. Water Supplies	18
4. Refuse Collection and Disposal	22
5. Salvage of Waste Paper	23
6. Caravan Sites...	23
7. Nuisances from Intensive Farming	24
8. Schools	24
9. Infectious Disease...	25
10. Salmonella Infections and Broiler Chicken Production	25
11. Offensive Trades	26
12. Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions Act, 1956	26
B. <u>Food and Drugs:</u>	
1. Food Premises; Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960	26
2. Food Complaints	27
3. Condemned Foods	28
4. Milk and Dairies	28
5. Ice Cream	29
6. The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963	29
7. Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards	29

/continued overleaf ...

1	Report of the Council...
2	World Health Organization of the Institute...
3	STATE OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF HEALTH...
4	General Statistics...
	Water Statistics...
5	1. Birth and Death Rates...
6	2. Live Births...
7	3. Still Births and Fetal Mortality...
8	4. Infant Mortality...
9	5. Deaths - Analysis of Causes of Death...
10	Infectious and Parasitic Diseases...
	Non-infectious...
11	1. Data...
12	2. Development of the Infectious Diseases...
13	3. Deaths...
14	Water Statistics...
15	Drinking and Sewage Disposal...
16	Public Health...
17	STATE OF THE CITY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE...
18	Summary of Public Health Department, 1935...
	Public Health - Summary...
19	1. Statistics...
20	2. Public Health Department...
21	3. Water Statistics...
22	4. Births, Deaths and Fetal Mortality...
23	5. Analysis of Deaths...
24	6. Causes of Death...
25	7. Infectious and Parasitic Diseases...
26	8. Non-infectious Diseases...
27	9. Statistics...
28	10. Statistics of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases...
29	11. Statistics of Non-infectious Diseases...
30	12. Statistics of Deaths...
	Food and Nutrition...
31	1. Food Statistics (General)...
32	2. Food Consumption...
33	3. Commercial Food...
34	4. Milk and Butter...
35	5. Ice Cream...
36	6. The Liquid Ice (Refrigeration) Department, 1935...
37	7. Refrigeration and Ice-making...

C. Housing:

1. Improvement Areas	30
2. Improvement Grants... ..	30
3. Housing Advances	30
4. Housing Statistics... ..	30
5. Rent Act, 1957	32
6. Houses in Multiple Occupation	32
7. Common Lodging Houses	32

D. Factories, Offices, Shops, etc.:

1. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	32
2. Factories Act, 1961	34

E. Rodent Control: 35F. Miscellaneous:

1. Petroleum Licensing	36
2. Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	36
3. Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	36
4. Scrap Metal Dealers' Act, 1964	36

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MEMBERS OF THE CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

- * Bailey, W.S.R.
- * Beale, Mrs.J.S.
- * Beard, A.S.M.
- Best, R.G.
- (2) Bright, J.
- * Brocklebank, Mrs.K.E.
- * Cheetham, Lt.Cdr.A.E.B.
- * Clarkson, Miss J.
- * Cook, J.C.
- Dove, R.R.
- Ellis, Sq.Ldr.P.W.
- Fetherston-Godley, Mrs.P.
- * Field, C.E.J.
- Fudge, R.
- Fuller, Mrs.C.H.
- Gale, E.W.
- Gibbs, Major M.A. (Retired, December 1968)
- Gordon-Farleigh, D.
- * Henly, R.T.
- Hibberd, R.G.
- Holman, W.T.
- * Iles, Mrs.E.D.
- * Isaac, W.E.
- Jackson, A.S.R.
- Jefferies, H.
- * King, K.G.
- * Light, W.J. (Chairman of the Council)
- Livingstone, Miss I.H.
- * Luard, Mrs.P.J.
- Merry, Mrs.K.J.
- Mills, Mrs.H.E.
- * Pearce, R.R.
- * Pinker, A.A.
- * Prior, W.P.
- Sapsford, L.
- Shanks, A.H.E.
- Shaw, H.E.
- (1) Shelburne, Earl of. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
- * Smith, F.Halliburton.
- * Spackman, E.S.
- * Thomas, G.W.

- (1) - Chairman of the Public Health Committee.
- (2) - Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee.
- * - Members of the Public Health Committee.

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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.

(From 1st January to 20th October, 1968)

John R. Wray, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(From 21st October to 31st December, 1968)

Offices: Municipal Offices,
Monkton Park,
Chippenham.
Tel.No. Chippenham 2821.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:
Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury,
and the
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, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

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

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, Staff 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.

Accident Prevention Committee - this meets quarterly.

- - - o o o O o o o - - -

(a)

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

John H. Remy, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.H.
(From 1st January to 30th October, 1966)

John H. Remy, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.H.
(From 1st October to 31st December, 1966)

Offices:

Medical Officer,
Health Department,
Chicago, Illinois 60601.
Tel. No. Chicago 2821.

Also:

Medical Officer of Health for the
Boroughs of Cook, DuPage and Lake
and the
State of Illinois.
Assistant County Medical Officer.
School Medical Officer.

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health

G.O.V. Williams, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.H.

(b)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

M.L. Taylor, F.A.P.H.I., M.B.B.S.

Offices:

Health Department,
Health Department,
Chicago, Illinois 60601.
Tel. No. Chicago 2821.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors

S.H. Murray, M.A.P.H.I.
M.L. Alvarado, M.A.P.H.I.
G. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.

(c)

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD which are concerned

with matters of Public Health:

Public Health Committee.
Housing Committee.
Finance, Health 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.

Accident Prevention Committee - this meets quarterly.

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

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1968, in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959.

I have not attempted to summarise the report in this introduction, as I consider my comments are best understood with reference to the statistical tables.

I should like to thank Dr.Broomhead for the help he gave me in getting to know the district. I should also like to express my gratitude to the Council and its officers for their support and courteous help.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. WRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Civil and Congressional Budget Committee:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for
the year 1936, in accordance with the Public Health Officers
Regulations 1935.

I have not attempted to summarize the report in this
introduction, as I consider my comments are best understood with
reference to the statistical tables.

I should like to thank Dr. H. H. Henshaw for the help he gave
me in getting to know the district. I should also like to express
my gratitude to the Council and the officers for their support and
cooperation.

I have the honor to be

Yours obedient servant,

JOHN E. WAT,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	85,388
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	32,520
Number of inhabited dwellings, as at 1st April 1968	8,648
Number of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1968	2,117
Number of applicants for Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1968	319
Rateable value, as at 1st April 1968	£ 970,178
Estimated product of Penny Rate, as at 1st April 1968	£ 3,810

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>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	18.8	17.36	9.6	11.9
Wiltshire	17.8	17.6	10.2	10.9
England and Wales	17.2	16.9	11.2	11.9

* 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	234	240	474
Illegitimate	17	14	31
Totals:-	251	254	505

3. STILL BIRTHS AND PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Seven still births were notified during 1968, a decrease of four from the total notified during 1967. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is 14. The rate for England and Wales, as given by the Registrar-General, is 14.

Perinatal mortality means still births and deaths under one week of age. The rate for the district was 23 per 1000 total births, whereas for England and Wales it was 25.

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Under one year	4	4	8
Under four weeks	2	3	5
Under one week	2	3	5
Infant Mortality Rate for the District ...	16.0	per 1000 live births	
Comparative Rate for England and Wales ...	18.0	per 1000 live births	

There was a slight increase in the Infant Mortality Rate for the district during 1968, by comparison with the previous year. Because the numbers involved from year to year are small, no conclusion can be drawn from such fluctuations.

5. DEATHS - ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases ...	-	1	1
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	8	1	9
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	2	18
Malignant Neoplasm, breast... ..	-	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus... ..	-	2	2
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	24	13	37
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	2	3
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	-	1
Anaemias	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc. ...	4	2	6
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease... ..	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	4	1	5
Ischaemic Heart Disease	42	26	68
Other forms of Heart Disease	11	6	17
Cerebrovascular Disease	16	17	33
Other Diseases of Circulatory System... ..	7	13	20
Pneumonia	9	11	20
Bronchitis and Emphysema	6	1	7
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	-	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System ...	2	1	3
Other Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System...	-	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	2	3	5
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	3	5
All other Accidents	5	4	9
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-	1
All other external causes	1	-	1
Totals:	<u>174</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>300</u>

From the foregoing table it can be seen that one of the main causes of death was ischaemic heart disease, which includes "coronary" disease. There were 68 deaths from this cause, compared with 58 in 1967. Preventive methods to avoid this end are thought to be:

- (1) Taking regular exercise; the elderly should avoid unaccustomed strenuous exertion.
- (2) Avoidance of smoking and obesity: those who give up smoking may find their appetites improve and therefore have to watch their weight to stop "middle-aged spread". There is some evidence that it is desirable to cut down on animal fats and use vegetable oils for cooking.
- (3) Avoidance of stress: this is easier stated than done, but wives who are over-ambitious for their husbands' success in job or business might take note that it can only lead to widowhood if you push the old man too far.

However, over half the deaths of men from this cause were in those past retirement age so stress is not a major factor. Of the 25 women dying from this cause, 20 of them were over 75 years of age, whereas only 13 men reached this age. This suggests that the regular activity of housework stops women dying of coronary heart disease until they are over 75.

Deaths from lung cancer were up on last year's, from 13 to 18. It is now well-established that cigarette smoking is a major factor in causation.

Motor accidents caused five deaths, but other accidents accounted for nine deaths. Many of these accidents are in the home and are preventable. Posters in Child Welfare Clinics draw attention to dangers in the home for children. It is hoped to publicise the dangers to old people, the commonest being a fall which breaks a leg.

C. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

As from 1st October 1968, new Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations came into effect. These altered the list of notifiable disease by making yellow fever, tetanus and leptospirosis notifiable, and excluding from the list pneumonia and puerperal pyrexia. The Regulations also extended the powers of the Local Authority to enable them to require a person to stop work, in order to prevent the spread of infection, in cases of food poisoning.

The following table gives details of cases of notifiable disease notified during the past four years:

	<u>1965:</u>		<u>1966:</u>		<u>1967:</u>		<u>1968:</u>	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Tuberculosis			10	10	14	14	2	2
Scarlet fever	8	8	2	2	4	4	2	2
Whooping cough	3	3	4	4	10	10	5	5
Measles	498	498	190	190	350	350	45	45
Dysentery	9	9	100	77	42	36	31	31
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonella infections	4	4	2	2	8	8	2	2
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	0
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Totals:-	522	522	308	285	431	425	98	90
(a) = Numbers originally notified.								
(b) = Final numbers, after correction.								

No cases of poliomyelitis, typhoid fever, para-typhoid fever, or diphtheria have occurred during the four years covered by this table. The immunisation of children against poliomyelitis and diphtheria has ensured that no cases of these diseases occur.

(a) Measles.

During 1968 there were fewer cases of measles than ever before. It is hoped eventually to eradicate this disease by regular immunisation.

(b) Dysentery.

In February there was a small outbreak of dysentery in the Colerne area, mostly affecting Royal Air Force families. There were scattered cases later in the year in Corsham but routine measures prevented the spread of infection.

(c) Salmonella Infections.

There was one case of this food poisoning disease in an infant living on a farm. Farm animals are often a source of infection.

There was another case in a patient who had attended a party at a public house outside the Rural District, and was one of several who were taken ill.

(d) Infectious Hepatitis.

Two cases occurred at Corsham, and two at Christian Malford.

This is a virus disease endemic in this country and immunity for life usually follows an attack of the disease. An attack may be so mild that it is diagnosed as a "stomach upset"; however, in a severe attack the patient becomes jaundiced (yellow) and the disease is then fairly recognisable. Most people get their immunity in childhood, probably without jaundice, but an attack can be very severe in an adult. The disease is spread only by human carriers, by direct contact. Proper hand-washing after the toilet can limit the spread of severe infection.

(e) Tuberculosis.

Two cases were notified during the year. Follow-up of contacts is undertaken by the Chest Physician and environmental reports are made by the Public Health Department.

(f) Immunisation and Vaccination.

I am indebted to Dr.C.D.L.Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following statistics of immunisation and vaccination:

(i) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Measles.

Year of birth:--		1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1959 to 1963	1953 to 1958	Others under 16.
Primary immunisations completed during 1968:	Diph.	182	201	1	5	2	12	--	--
	Wh.c.	181	197	1	2	--	--	--	--
	Tet's.	182	201	1	5	2	23	20	18
	Meas.	2	46	62	56	65	286	126	--
Reinf. injections administered during 1968:	Diph.	--	70	136	16	33	405	18	1
	Wh.c.	--	31	74	6	6	18	3	--
	Tet's.	--	70	136	16	36	421	51	44

(ii) Smallpox.

Age Group:---	Months:				Years:		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	10	32
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	13	56

(iii) Poliomyelitis.

Age Group:	3 oral doses:	2 oral doses after 2 injections:	4th oral dose after 3 inject'ns. or 3 oral doses:
1968	145	--	-
1967	202	-	49
1966	5	-	86
1965	2	-	6
1964	6	-	30
1959-1963	50	-	286
1953-1958	2	-	9
Others under 16	1	-	7
Others over 16	2	-	19
Totals:-	415	-	492

D. HOUSING.

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

1. (1) Total number of applicants on list at 31st December 1968 ... 319
- (2) Total number of applications received during 1968... .. 151
- (3) Total number of applicants re-housed:
 - (a) In permanent houses, flats and retirement bungalows... 74
 - (b) In other accommodation --
- (4) Total number of applicants for retirement accommodation, included in (1) above 99
- (5) Evicted families:
 - (a) Number brought to notice 16
 - (b) Number re-housed... .. 11
- (6) Number of units of accommodation built and occupied during 1968:
 - (a) By the Council: Houses --
 - Flats 21
 - Retirement bungalows -- 21
 - (b) By private enterprise... .. 146
- (7) Number of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1968:

Permanent	...	...	1995
Temporary	...	...	<u>122</u> 2117

2. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUNGALOW ESTATES.

Community Centre Estate.

The number of occupied bungalows remaining on this estate has been reduced to sixty-five.

During the year, progress was made with the building of twenty-eight houses in the Beechfield Road area, and plans were being prepared to provide sixteen units of retirement accommodation as the second phase of this development.

3. WELFARE.

One of the most encouraging aspects was the very close co-operation which existed under the "umbrella" of the Medical Officer of Health, between the Housing Department and local G.P.s, Health Visitors, District Nurses and officers of various welfare agencies, both statutory and voluntary, so that a concerted effort could be made in taking early steps to prevent potential problems from developing and becoming established.

This "preventive" aspect of Housing Welfare does not produce spectacular individual results, but the cumulative effect must surely be of paramount importance when one considers the time and energy consuming efforts made in containing and improving standards of established "hard core" problem families in the district, many of whom are, or for obvious reasons are likely to become, Council tenants.

This co-operation however, was by no means confined to a concern for problem families, but covered the welfare of others who, by virtue of physical or mental handicaps, or unsatisfactory housing, were considered to be in need of additional help or supervision.

E. WATER SUPPLIES.

I am indebted to Mr.C.R.Phillips, Engineer to the North Wilts Water Board, for the following information:-

1. Water supplies of the North Wilts Water Board are obtained from underground sources in limestone aquifers, having relatively abundant storage facilities and providing water of a high standard of purity suitable for public supplies. The water is hard in character (between 150 and 360 parts per million total hardness).

The water supplies in the area of the North Wilts Water Board have been satisfactory in quality and quantity and regular supervision of the quality of water supplies is exercised by submitting samples every week for bacteriological examination.

The latest Annual Report of the Board stated that of reports on 1403 samples submitted from consumers' points of supply, 1332 were satisfactory, having coliform counts of less than 1, 54 had coliform counts of 1-2, and 17 had counts of 3 or more. On occasions when reports of coliform counts are received, investigations and repeat sampling are immediately undertaken and continued until satisfactory reports are received.

Similar supervisory work is regularly carried out on the untreated waters of the Board's sources and the abovementioned Annual Report summarised the results as follows:-

739 samples of raw water were submitted.

553 reported to be excellent with coliform counts of less than 1.

93 were satisfactory with coliform counts of 1-3.

52 were suspicious with coliform counts of 4-10.

41 were reported to have coliform counts of over 10.

Chlorination of all sources is practised with the aim of obtaining chlorine residuals at all consumers' points of supply of between 0.1 and 0.3 parts per million. The only other treatment of water carried out is aeration at the Chippenham sources.

Chemical and mineralogical examination of the water at all sources is obtained at intervals of about 9-10 months and these samples examined to observe any changes which may indicate differing conditions of the sources or the catchment area percolation.

In most of the deep borehole sources in the limestone aquifer, fluoride occurs naturally in quantities of from 0.4 to 0.7 parts per million, but it is usually absent in the waters of shallow wells and spring sources.

All the water supplied by the Board is reported to be not plumbo-solvent. At the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in November 1967, an exercise was carried out to examine the quantity of lead in the water after passing through lead pipes. The Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, who carried out the exercise, reported "...in conformity with the chemical characteristics of these samples, the finding in respect to lead confirms expectation that the water would not exert undue action on lead..."

The Public Health Department take regular samples of water, and information regarding these is given in the attached report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

F. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I am indebted to Mr. Langley-Jones, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information:-

(a) Hardenhuish Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme, which provides drainage for houses in Hardenhuish Lane and Malmesbury Road from Yewstock to the Golf Links, was virtually complete at the end of the year.

(b) Linleys and Gastard Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme has now been completed. With the completion of this scheme, main drainage has been provided for the whole of the Parish of Corsham. These proposals covered the houses at Linleys and Monks Lane, also Gastard Lane.

(c) South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme, designed to cover Heddington, Sandy Lane, Stockley, Cherhill, Compton Bassett and Yatesbury, has been submitted to the Ministry for loan sanction. It is very essential in view of the low-lying ground, clay soil, and polluted ditches in the area.

(d) Corsham Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme consists of relief sewers and improvements to the Thingley Sewage Works. Application for loan sanction has been submitted to the Ministry.

G. OTHER MATTERS.

Details of Services under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 will be found in the attached Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, as will the information required under the Factories Act 1961.

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(a) Health and Safety Scheme.

This scheme has now been completed. With the completion of this scheme, all services have been provided for the whole of the town of Corsham. The proposals covered the houses of Lillings and Lillings Lane, also Lillings Lane.

The scheme, which provides drainage for houses in Lillings Lane and Lillings Lane from Lillings Lane to the Giff Lane, was originally completed at the end of the year.

(b) Lillings and Lillings Lane Scheme.

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REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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 1968.

Public Cleansing Service.

I am most concerned about the future tipping facilities for the large quantities of domestic and trade refuse now being collected from properties within the Rural District. Tipping space is being used up very rapidly and I estimate that the tipping area at Clapcote, Grittleton, will be filled by the end of 1969, thus leaving the Council with one refuse tip, at Sutton Benger, and a shared tip at Sands Farm, Calne Without.

The negotiations with neighbouring local authorities concerning joint refuse disposal facilities have continued throughout 1968, and by September five local authorities had mutually agreed that a case for a joint incineration scheme should be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval in principle. The authorities now interested in this scheme are:-

Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council
Calne Borough Council
Chippenham Borough Council
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council
Trowbridge Urban District Council.

It was a matter of some regret that other neighbouring local authorities who had been invited to participate in the scheme, could not give it their support.

It was further agreed that a consultants' report be prepared on the design, capital cost and running costs of such a plant, and that at an appropriate time a formal outline planning application be submitted for the siting of the proposed incinerator at Thingley, in the Parish of Corsham.

On the basis of information supplied to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, confirmation was received that the Ministry would consider a proposal for an incineration plant to serve the consortium of local authorities on receipt of further technical information and financial details, and there the matter rested at the end of the year.

Housing Improvement Grants.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government, in April 1968, published Command 3602 - "Old Houses into New Homes" - incorporating proposals for increasing the maximum amounts of discretionary and standard grants, and for making more flexible the conditions subject to which they are obtained. The normal maximum level of discretionary grant would be raised from £400 to £1000, and the ceiling for standard grants would be raised from £155 to £200.

New powers are proposed in connection with area improvements and I welcome the idea of improving the amenities of older properties, and am pleased that the Government will encourage local authorities to improve the environment, as opposed to the interiors, of the houses. The creation of children's play spaces, parking spaces, or tree planting, will add to the attraction of the older residential areas in towns and large cities. The proposal of the Government to make an exchequer grant of 50% of approved expenditure, up to the limit of £100 per house, on works and the purchase of land for improving the environment of an area, should give local authorities the necessary encouragement to proceed with these desirable projects.

I regret the undue delay in implementing these proposals, and I am very disappointed that the Government does not propose to replace the present improvement provisions contained in Part II of the Housing Act 1964 with simplified compulsory legislative changes. In future, local authorities will have the power to declare General Improvement Areas, but will only be able to persuade owners to improve their houses; where persuasion fails, the only alternative is for a Council to acquire the property with a view to improvement.

Infectious Diseases.

Probably the most stressed instruction in our routine investigations is the need for frequent and thorough washing of hands, especially after using the closet. This is the most fundamental of the rules of hygiene and to any civilised person it is imperative. Yet in so many houses with all modern amenities we find the obstacle to hygiene presented by the water closet on its own, without a wash-basin in the same room or in the compartment on the way out. The "separate closet" is often extolled, as if it were a virtue!

Since hand-washing is essential, it is absurd to do it the hard way by having to go to another room, recontaminating freshly-washed hands on previously soiled door handles. It is much worse, of course, if someone else is using the wash-basin. Then, there is the disgusting alternative of not washing at all or using the kitchen sink where the family food is prepared, thus turning the sink into a means of cross-infection for the rest of the household.

All this bad hygiene is so easily avoidable. It would give me great comfort to see the combination of water closet and wash-basin made obligatory, and since both water supply and drainage are already available for the closet there would be no practical difficulty, but I feel that those who are responsible for designing these separate closet schemes have little appreciation of the mechanics of hygiene.

The mention of the kitchen sink reminds me, rather sadly, of the stupid trend to use it to describe modern drama of a squalid nature. This is a pity, because the kitchen sink should be one of the cleanest things in the cleanest room in the house. Those who coin this phrase must have a very unwholesome background, and I would not relish the food they prepare.

The Gypsy Problem.

For the second year running, I regret I am unable to report any regional progress in respect of the provision of suitable camping facilities officially requested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. I still have no direct knowledge of the County Council's proposals in connection with this vexed problem.

I look forward to the time when we can request gypsies to vacate their roadside verge sites and direct them to places where they may lawfully stay, where they may begin to enjoy the freedom of being on the right side of the law, and from where the children can go to school and begin to learn to read and write. From these small beginnings there will emerge a new type of gypsy, much more readily accepted than he is at present, but it will take more than one generation and it will have to start with the children. Until the sites are provided, not even this humble start can be made.

Civic Amenities Act 1967.

On the 28th July 1968, Part III of this Act, which deals with the removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles, came fully into force, and local authorities are now required to remove all vehicles which seem to have been abandoned. If the car appears to be in working order it is towed into storage and the owner notified so that he may reclaim it on payment of the prescribed charges. If it is a "wreck", it has to be left where it is for seven days, bearing a notice requiring the owner to remove it; at the end of this period it is removed and destroyed.

In practice, a number of difficulties have arisen. Putting a notice on a "wreck" acts as an invitation to the public to remove any components they want; even engines and wheels have been taken, and unwanted parts are littered around the site. We therefore tow away everything which can possibly be regarded as a "runner".

Owners of vehicles which break down and are abandoned by the roadside occasionally prove difficult to trace and, because such cars change hands quickly, we have found that the registered owner has recently sold the car. The new owner may be anonymous or "gone away" when we try to contact him.

There is no market for even the best vehicles we have removed, except as scrap after they have been broken down, and it seems that these provisions can only be operated at a loss to the Council.

Conclusion.

I am pleased to be able to report a continuation in the improvement of the environmental conditions in the Rural District, through rising standards of housing, public health services, food hygiene, and the general well-being of the district.

I would like to pay a special tribute to two former colleagues who retired during 1968, namely, Dr.C.L.Broomhead, Medical Officer of Health, and Mr.R.A.Witham, Engineer and Surveyor. I have had the privilege of working with these officers for many years and I would like to express my deep appreciation of the help and encouragement they have given to me during our very close association.

The public can be satisfactorily served only by a happy and respected partnership between elected representatives and the officers of the Council, and I am sure this spirit is exemplified in the conduct and work of this Council.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

I look forward to the time when we can repeat episodes so
wrote their models were able and direct them to places where they
may lastly stay, where they may be able to enjoy the freedom of being on
the right side of the law, and from where the children can go to school
and begin to learn to read and write. From these small beginnings there
will emerge a new type of citizen, more aware of his rights and duties
and more responsible to his community and to his country. It will have to
start with the children. Until the ideas are spread, not even this
humble start can be made.

Civilian Control Act 1961

On the 20th July 1961, Part III of this Act, which deals with
the removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles, came into force, and
local authorities are now required to remove all vehicles which seem to
have been abandoned. In the case of a vehicle which is in
need of repair and the owner notified so that no more vehicles are
placed on the roads, it is a "special" case. It has to be left
where it is for seven days, during which time the owner is notified
that at the end of this period it is removed and destroyed.

In practice, a number of difficulties have arisen. During a
notice on a "special" case an invitation to the public to remove any
components they want, even engines and wheels have been taken, and
unwanted parts are littered about the site. We therefore now say
everything which can possibly be reported as a "special".

Owners of vehicles which break down and are abandoned in the
streets occasionally prove difficult to trace and, because such cars
change hands quickly, we have found that the registered owner has recently
sold the car. The new owner may be contacted on "phone book" and we try
to contact him.

There is no notice for even the best vehicles as have removed,
except as noted above they have been broken down, and it means that these
vehicles can only be reported as a loss to the Council.

Conclusion

I am pleased to be able to report a continuation in the
improvement of the environmental conditions in the Rural District, through
rising standards of housing, public health services, food hygiene, and the
general well-being of the district.

I would like to pay a special tribute to two former colleagues
who retired during 1960, namely, Mr. C. J. Robinson, Medical Officer of Health,
and Mr. R. A. Wilson, Engineer and Surveyor. I have had the privilege of
working with these officers for many years and I would like to express my
deep appreciation of the help and encouragement they have given to me during
our very close association.

The public can be satisfactorily served only by a happy and
responsive partnership between elected representatives and the officers of
the Council, and I am sure this spirit is exemplified in the conduct and
work of this Council.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
R. J. TAYLOR,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1968.

General.

Water supply	69
Drainage	712
Waste Foods Order	6
Animal Boarding Establishments Act... ..	42
Caravans, tents, etc.	481
Factories... ..	15
Outworkers	--
Public conveniences... ..	114
Theatres, village halls, etc	6
Refuse and salvage collection... ..	640
Refuse disposal	132
Litter and abandoned vehicles... ..	383
Rodent control... ..	202
Infestations - flies, wasps, etc.	35
Atmospheric pollution	17
Schools	25
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act - General inspections	8
" " " " " " - Other inspections... ..	34
Nuisances... ..	144
Noise abatement	6
Knackers' yards	5
Petroleum and carbide of calcium	42
Miscellaneous visits	296

Housing.

No. of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	13
Re-visits to above houses	28
No. of houses inspected under Housing Acts	31
Re-visits to above houses	222
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding	3
Re-visits to above houses	--
No. of houses inspected re improvements... ..	160
Re-visits to above houses	253
No. of filthy or verminous premises inspected	4
Re-visits to above houses	4
No. of visits re housing advances	75

Sampling.

Water samples	852
Sewage effluent samples	--
Milk samples, bottle rinses, etc.	188
Ice cream samples	53
Food samples	5

Food.

No. of visits to: Butchers	37
Bakehouses... ..	9
Fried fish shops	7
Licensed premises	81
Canteens, cafes, restaurants, etc.	49
Dairies and milk distributors	11
Poultry packing station	120
Grocers and general stores	125
Other food premises	23
Stalls, vehicles, etc.	13
Complaints... ..	16
Miscellaneous visits... ..	17

Infectious Diseases.

No. of enquiries in cases of infectious disease	63
No. of miscellaneous visits re infectious disease	97

211 5,762

A. PUBLIC HEALTH - GENERAL.

1. DRAINAGE.

(a) Sewer Connections.

The sewerage scheme for Grittleton has been completed and houses which formerly drained to old ditches have been connected to the sewers.

Work of connecting properties to the sewers of Stage I of the North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme has been completed except for one or two cases which are still in hand.

Most of the drainage nuisances in the area served by Stage II of the North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme have been eliminated by connections to the sewer but some remain, and these will be pursued during the coming year. This area includes Foxham, East Tytherton, and the road A.420 up to Dauntsey Lock.

One delaying factor has been the long wait for the increased contribution in Housing Improvement Grants. When this becomes operative I can expect to receive a number of applications for improvement grants in this area, now that proper drainage facilities are available.

The Hardenhuish and Linleys and Gastard schemes are almost completed and will be ready for use early in 1969.

Statutory notices were served on the owners of four properties requiring the provision of satisfactory drainage, and three houses were connected to sewers by the Council in default and the cost charged to the owners.

(b) Sampling of Effluents from Sewage Disposal Works.

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 Thingley Sewage Disposal Works.

(c) Land Drainage Act 1961.

An increasing amount of the Department's time is being taken up by complaints of flooding from badly-flowing watercourses and ditches. In probably every case this is due to neglect on the part of the riparian owners, and as a community nuisance one could term it unnecessarily self-inflicted. There seems to be a modern tendency not to give regular attention to cleaning out vegetation and maintaining the gradient.

Using the Land Drainage Act to require the persons responsible to maintain their lengths is a cumbersome, slow process and involves the Rural District Council, the owners, the River Authority, the Divisional Surveyor and the County Land Agent's Department, but it can be made to work.

This year we all met to deal with the watercourse from Swalletts Farm, through Upper Town and Ridgeway to The Bourne, at Christian Malford. It was arranged to make a survey early in 1969 so that the actual work could be done in favourable weather, as soon as possible afterwards. This watercourse has long been a nuisance, made more complicated by the unavoidable discharge of drainage into it. However, the laying of the public sewer removed all domestic pollution, and it is now possible to deal with the matter under better conditions.

The watercourse from The Comedy to the Avon at Christian Malford has also given trouble but this is being dealt with by informal requests to the various owners, with a reasonable degree of success.

I must however, report with pleasure the refreshing experience of arranging a meeting with a group of farmers at Foxham and an officer of the Bristol Avon River Authority. The farmers were all extremely keen to work together to re-grade their ditches if the River Authority did some work on the main stream to give them the necessary fall. The result of this positive outlook was the early execution of the River Authority's part of the work.

I think there is a moral here: that is, that if all affected parties were equally positive and co-operative there would be many more happy endings.

(d) Flooding.

The very heavy rains of mid-July gave rise to flooding in various low-lying parts of the Rural District, but the flooding in Lacock was the most serious. There, the volume of surface water was such as to engulf the Thingley and Corsham sewage disposal works, thus adding very diluted sewage to the flood hazard in this village.

Due to these unusual and unpleasant circumstances, the Council gave special but limited aid to the flood victims by providing labour and transport for the removal of debris and damaged furniture. A supply of disinfectant was made available to each affected household.

The flood victims in the villages of Castle Combe, Christian Malford, East Tytherton, Foxham, Kington St. Michael, Nettleton and Yatton Keynell, had to deal with their own problems with help from local volunteers not affected by the floods.

2. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are maintained in the parishes of Box, Castle Combe, Colerne, Corsham and Lacock, and little trouble has been experienced with wanton damage except at the Colerne conveniences, where windows have been broken and water fittings damaged.

Improved washing facilities were made available in the Box conveniences by the provision of hot air hand-dryers.

The proposed new public conveniences in Corsham and Lacock were not provided during the year, as allowed for in the estimates. The Engineer and Surveyor has now prepared the detailed drawings for these conveniences and it is hoped that they will be constructed during 1969.

3. WATER SUPPLIES.

Almost all of the water supplied to the Rural District is provided by the North Wilts Water Board, with the Bristol Waterworks supplying a small area at Burton. The Buxted Chicken Company obtains water from its own borehole for its Poultry Packing Station at Sutton Benger.

Extension of Mains Supply to Clevancy and Corton, Hilmarton.

This main was eventually laid in the early part of the year. It was hoped to effect immediate connections to the individual properties but there were considerable difficulties in getting the owner to agree

to pay the connection charges. This has now been done and the North Wilts Water Board will do the necessary work very early in 1969. It will be a great relief when this longstanding project is accomplished.

Adequacy of Supplies.

The North Wilts Water Board has extended its supply to the Hither Farm area of Pewshan and the premises which I reported last year to be without water because of the failure of their private supplies, are now all connected to the mains.

Local improvements have been made at Kingsdown, Box, and supplies to this area are now adequate.

No reports of water shortages have been received during the year and, so far as is known, the few private supplies as well as mains supplies, have been adequate.

Private Water Supplies.

Samples were taken of a proposed private supply at North Wraxall. It is intended to use this source to replace the existing supply to a farm which is too far from the mains for connection at a reasonable cost. The results of the samples and location of the spring suggest that a pure and adequate supply should be obtained, and means of collecting the water and protecting the source were discussed with the Water Engineer who will install the new system.

Two other private supplies, from shallow springs, were investigated and found to be polluted. The presence of pollution in these was only to be expected as the spring catchment areas not only collect water, they are the depository for droppings of countless wild animals and birds. A major consideration in such a case is whether or not there is any human pollution via septic tanks, soakaways, privies, or pail-closet burying. One supply has already been replaced by a connection to the mains; the other supply has been overhauled and chlorinated, and is in process of being sampled afresh to see if it should continue in use.

Contamination.

A number of suspect samples were again obtained from the Burton supply. These were reported to the Bristol Waterworks Company and an improvement effected with their co-operation. There were no complaints of discoloured water from Burton this year.

An unsatisfactory sample at Yatesbury, Cherhill, led to check sampling in that area and from adjacent services on the same supply. The North Wilts Water Board investigated, and carried out works which cleared the trouble.

Other unsatisfactory reports were followed up, but nothing significant was found.

Sampling.

Samples of treated water, as supplied to consumers, are taken by this Department for bacteriological examination. Weekly samples are taken from the main sources and from various points to give comprehensive coverage of the supplies throughout the area.

Analysis of Reports on Samples taken for
Bacteriological Examination by this Department.

	Satisfactory	Suspect (Non-faecal coliforms present)	Unsatisfactory (Faecal-type coliforms present)
<u>Weekly Samples:</u>			
Bristol Waterworks: Burton	34	15	-
Calstone supply: Theobalds Green	46	1	-
Cherhill " : Yatesbury	41	10	1
Chippenham: " : Bowden Hill	44	-	-
" " : Fiveways	45	2	-
Goodshill " : Vellely Hill	38	-	-
Rodbourne " : Stanton St. Quintin	44	1	-
Washwells " : Box (Market Place)	44	4	-
Widendenham " : Box (Bargates)	45	2	1
Mixed sources: Castle Combe	46	3	-
Christian Malford	48	-	-
Colerne	45	2	1
Corsham (Bath Road)	47	-	-
Hilmarton	44	-	2
Marshfield Reservoir	42	7	-
Nettleton (Horsdown)	37	7	-
West Kingston	45	2	2
<u>Monthly Samples:</u>			
Compton Bassett	15	-	-
Draycot Cerne	16	1	1
East Tytherton	11	-	-
Foxham	11	1	1
Grittleton	11	1	-
Neston	12	-	-
<u>Totals of Samples taken:</u>			
Public supplies	811	59	9
Private supplies	11	4	10

Sampling by the North Wilts Water Board.

The Engineer to the Water Board has kindly given me the following results of bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of samples taken by the Board.

(a) Bacteriological Examination of Water from Sources:

Source:	No. of Samples	Coliform Counts:			
		Less than 1	1 - 3	4 - 10	10 and more
Cherhill and Yatesbury Borehole	51	50	-	1	-
Chippenham "	47	26	14	6	1
Goods Hill "	47	44	3	-	-
Nettleton "	17	17	-	-	-
Rodbourne "	47	44	3	-	-
Calstone Spring	46	7	20	13	6
Washwells "	47	21	21	1	4
Widendenham "	47	12	15	6	14

(b) Bacteriological Examination of Samples
taken from Consumer Supply Points.

District	No. of Samples	Coliform Counts:		
		Less than 1	1 - 2	3 and more
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	819	770	47	4

(c) Chemical Analysis of Raw Water.

	Source and Date:							
	Chippenham 15.1.69	Widenedham 21.2.68	Washwells 21.8.68	Goods Hill 17.10.68	Cherhill 19.6.68	Yatesbury 15.1.69	Rodbourn 17.9.68	Calstone 19.5.68
Turbidity	Less than 1	Less than 3	Nil	Less than 3	Nil	Less than 1	Less than 3	Less than 3
p.H.	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.5	7.1
Conductivity	650	590	360	570	420	590	600	570
Total Solids (p.p.m.)	450	400	250	400	290	410	410	390
Chlorine as Chloride (")	31	37	16	21	11	12	43	13
Hardness (")	355	270	190	330	270	350	305	320
Carbonate (")	270	185	135	270	230	290	250	265
Non-Carbonate (")	85	85	55	60	40	60	55	55
CO ₂ (")	36	20	12	36	32	48	17	45
Nitrate N. (")	0.8	3.5	6.3	4.4	4.2	3.0	0.6	3.5
Nitrite N. (")	Nil	Less than 0.01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal N. (")	0.01	0.03	Nil	Nil	0.01	0.01	0.09	0.01
Albuminoid N. (")	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen Absorbed (")	0.4	0.20	0.30	Nil	0.10	Nil	0.50	0.30
Metals (")	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Iron 0.06	Nil
Fluoride (")	0.7	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	0.15	0.55	Less than 0.1

These waters are not plumbo-solvent, being relatively "hard" waters, with a high degree of permanent hardness.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Refuse Collection.

In 1967 the Council gave consideration to the report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection, when it was found that the Council was already providing certain of the services recommended in the report, i.e. special collections of bulky refuse and furniture and the disposal of abandoned cars.

As Consultants had been engaged to carry out work study of the three outside departments, it was decided not to change the frequency of refuse collection for the time being, but it was agreed to introduce a pilot scheme for "paper sack" collection of household refuse from approximately 500 dwellings located at Rudloe and Prospect, Corsham.

This scheme was put into operation during the year and it has received the general approval of the householders served by this system of collection, and the method is approved by the refuse collectors.

The labour force remains unaltered and consists of one working foreman, one tip attendant, four loader-drivers, ten ashbinmen and one man engaged full-time on paper baling. Maintenance of the force has been most difficult, six employees having left the service during the year. I have been fortunate in recent months in finding young replacement employees who have now become valuable members of the department. I would however, like to express my gratitude to the small group of men who have formed the backbone of the service and who have served the Council faithfully and well for a number of years. Without this solid core of labour it would not be possible to operate this service, which is expected to expand year by year.

The Council's fleet of vehicles now includes:-

* One - Bedford 12 cu.yd.	(side-loader)	purchased 1959
One - Shelvoke and 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

* This vehicle was replaced by a similar type of vehicle which was delivered in mid-December.

It may interest Members to know that the distance travelled by these vehicles in 1968 exceeded 89,000 miles.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

In the preface to this report I have expressed my concern at the shortage of suitable tipping space and the position becomes more acute with each succeeding year. The very useful quarry situated just west of Colerne became full during the year and all refuse from this parish now has to be taken to the Clapcote tip at Grittleton. The future life of this tip is thus being reduced and I calculate that it will be filled by the end of 1969.

This means that the Council will be left with two tipping areas, one in the old gravel pits at Sutton Benger and the other in the sand excavations at Sands Farm, near Calne.

(c) Supply of Dustbins.

The Council has continued its policy of purchasing dustbins for re-sale to householders at cost price plus a small delivery charge, and 120 dustbins were sold during the year.

(d) The Litter Problem.

We in the Public Health Department are all litter-conscious and we go out of our way to ensure that the Rural District is kept free from litter, even to the extent of collecting it in the boots of our cars as we travel around the district. We note any large accumulations and make arrangements for these to be cleared by the Public Cleansing Department, but I find that we are fighting a losing battle and a change of tactics does not bring success.

I share the views of a local magistrate who, when passing sentence on a person found guilty of depositing litter, expressed dissatisfaction that he could only impose a maximum fine of £10.0.0.; this is no deterrent and a fine of £50.0.0. would be more appropriate.

(e) Civic Amenities Act 1967.

This Act has enabled us to deal with abandoned vehicles much more effectively than hitherto. Two cases which gave us trouble were two caravans left behind by departing contractors who had been engaged on Post Office contracts, laying cables under the roads.

The threatened cost of removal, storage and disposal fees is encouraging owners to come forward and remove vehicles of their own accord but in far too many cases it is proving impracticable to trace owners of vehicles abandoned by persons passing through the district.

During the year we dealt with eleven vehicles under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act and, of these, five were removed by their owners, one was "sold" to a local garage in lieu of charges incurred in towing it off the road, and six were broken up at Sutton Benger refuse tip and sold as scrap.

5. SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

The Council has continued to collect waste paper separately from household refuse, not because it is economical to do so, but to help to reduce the "bulk" of material collected and to conserve space in our limited tipping areas. It should also be borne in mind that every ton of waste paper salvaged is saving the country money, as the quantity of wood pulp imported is thereby considerably reduced.

I am glad to report that during the year the selling price of mixed baled paper has been increased from £6.10.0. per ton to £7.10.0.

During the year, 316 tons of baled paper was sold for £2217.0.0., an increase of £100.0.0. over the previous year.

6. CARAVAN SITES.

(a) Private Caravan Sites.

The number of licensed sites at the end of the year was twenty-four, a reduction of four on the previous year. Two new temporary licences, one at Cherhill and one at Christian Malford, were issued during the year.

The site at Thickwood, Colerne, continues to cause concern. Having been formed on the remains of a war-time hutted site, practicable improvements on the site are limited, and it has only been possible to re-house one of the families in the dilapidated vans.

Total Number of Current Licences:

<u>Parish:</u>	<u>No. of Licences:</u>	<u>No. of Caravans:</u>
Box	3	33
Bremhill	3	3
Cherhill	1	1
Christian Malford	2	3
Colerne	4	25
Corsham	2	3
Hilmarton	2	2
Kington Langley	2	2
Lacock	1	1
North Wraxall	1	1
Pewsham	1	1
Sutton Benger	2	2
	<u>24</u>	<u>77</u>

(b) Sites Provided by the Council.

The eighty-seven caravan standings provided by the Council have been maintained at Corsham, Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell, and there is still a demand for this facility. The Council has decided however, to run down the small site for five caravans at Goatacre, Hilmarton, as it has served its useful purpose.

7. NUISANCES FROM INTENSIVE FARMING.

The complaints of smell from spraying of pig manure from the 700 or so pigs on the experimental establishment at Marden Farm, Calne, have continued throughout the year. The earlier method of adding a deodorant to the liquid manure was not successful and both this Council and Calne Borough Council made strong representations to the Company. During the summer there was a demonstration on the farm of a proposed new masking agent; when this was used the smell "disappeared". The experiment was generally agreed to be a success and, as a result of the afternoon's performance, the Company put the matter in hand.

Briefly, it is a liquid masking agent which is atomised into the air when the pump-trailer is blowing, sucking and spraying. To be effective the apparatus has to be attached to the trailer and for the experiment the electric motor atomiser was powered by the mains electricity supply of 240 volts. To accompany the trailer the motor will have to be driven by the tractor engine or battery, and the absence of a suitable pump has caused a disappointing delay. Despite expressed hopes, manufacture had not been achieved by the end of the year, but I most sincerely hope it will be in use by next spring. We are by no means the only authority with such a nuisance. Intensive farming has brought similar problems to many others and there must be a considerable potential demand for this type of apparatus.

8. SCHOOLS.

With the general modernisation of schools in the district, we now have little cause to visit them, except in the case of outbreaks of infectious disease. General supervision is carried out by the County Public Health Department. A complaint was received from a new school at Corsham that unpleasant smells from the toilets entered the classrooms, and on investigation it was found that doors from the toilets connected directly with classrooms. On referring the matter to the County Council, we were informed that this arrangement is approved by the Ministry in accordance with the modern ideas of their designers. This seems an odd line of thought because Building Regulations (which do not apply to schools) have always required an intervening space between a closet and an occupied room. Fortunately, on a proposed extension to the school, these communicating doors have been eliminated, at the firm request of the governors.

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1968 enquiries were made into the following cases of infectious disease:-

Dysentery	...	...	...	...	31
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	4
Salmonella	...	...	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Smallpox (contacts)	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2

Twenty of the dysentery cases during the year occurred among pupils at a Corsham school and involved children from Corsham and Colerne. Some ninety visits were made before the outbreak was cleared.

The occurrence of Sonne dysentery in schools has a certain advantage as it is a relatively mild disease but gives us the opportunity of impressing upon all the children the necessity for routine hand-washing. The effect of this is noticeable now, as girls concerned in the big Corsham outbreak of 1956 are rearing their own children and we find that they have not forgotten the lesson they learned at that time.

Five visits were made, as precautionary measures, to persons who had been in contact with notifiable diseases in other districts.

During August a case of Salmonella food poisoning was notified, which proved to be an interesting one. The patient had attended a party at a public house outside the Rural District and had eaten a buffet supper, after which most of the forty guests were taken ill. The source of infection - Salmonella Montevideo - was traced to pre-roasted chicken obtained from a shop in Swindon. The manager and an assistant at the shop were found to be symptomless excretors of the organism.

10. SALMONELLA INFECTIONS AND BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION.

There was some national publicity following an outbreak of food poisoning in Liverpool, which was traced to the consumption of chickens, and attention was drawn to the risk of Salmonella food poisoning from imperfectly-cooked chickens.

Although there was no connection between this outbreak and the broiler packing station at Sutton Benger, this station is claimed to be the largest in the country and I think it appropriate to state the findings of my own experience and observations.

There are about 400 employees involved in the various stages of production from live handling, through to bleeding, de-feathering, eviscerating, grading, trussing and packing. These employees and their families also probably eat more than the normal average of chicken, because they are able to obtain them at reduced prices from the firm and, from this, one would expect evidence of any food poisoning hazard to appear among these workers or their families. In fact, I cannot remember the last case of Salmonella food poisoning in the nearby area, and this village has a lower incidence of intestinal infection than most.

This is only circumstantial evidence and it is not impossible for the strain of Salmonella - said to be a most aggressive one - which caused the Liverpool outbreak to appear at Sutton Benger. However, it is necessary to put the situation in perspective and the absence of reports of other outbreaks may mean that factors outside the packing station are involved.

The risk of Salmonella infection is always present in the dressing of meat and poultry, but it is normally removed by the cooking process. Most of the broilers produced at packing stations are deep-frozen, and it is possible for the inside of a carcass not to reach a sufficient temperature unless the bird is properly thawed out before cooking. Broilers are not a "convenience food" which can with safety be unwrapped and immediately put in the oven.

A few years ago, the Director of Bath Public Health Laboratory carried out a series of tests for Salmonella on birds taken from the production line and I am now trying to arrange for some routine testing to be done. Unfortunately, the test is not as simple as those devised for milk, water and ice-cream, and there appears to be a shortage of laboratory staff and facilities for this work.

11. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

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

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

The Council, under this Act, has a responsibility to see that agricultural employees are provided with satisfactory closet accommodation.

B. FOOD AND DRUGS.

1. FOOD PREMISES: FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960.

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:
Bakers	7	7	7	7
Butchers	9	8	9	8
Fish-and-Chip Shops	2	2	2	2
Fish and Fruit Shops	6	6	3	3
Grocers and General Stores	72	72	31	31
Licensed Premises	60	60	60	60
Restaurants and Cafes	10	10	10	10
Sweets and Ices Shops	14	14	-	-
Factories and Distributors	2	2	1	1
	182	181	123	122

We have continued our efforts to secure the improvement of all food premises in the district and one shop in particular - at Kington St. Michael - has been greatly improved. This shop has had four owners during the past ten years and the rate of progress until now has been very slow. One unsatisfactory small general store has been closed and is not likely to be re-opened.

Poultry Packing Station, Sutton Benger.

This factory continues to receive, as far as is possible, three visits a week. Throughout the year there have been extensive alterations, additions, improvements and replacements, made necessary by the need to increase throughput to satisfy the ever-growing public demand for broiler chickens.

One of the improvements was the installation of a gaseous system of water chlorination to replace the rather obsolete liquid doser. This enables the chlorine content to be maintained at ten parts per million or more, and is a most desirable aid to keeping the product safe. Further apparatus to increase the dosage is under discussion.

For years now, many of these broilers have been sent to the large chain stores, which are big enough and enlightened enough to maintain company laboratories. Random samples are taken from each consignment for bacteriological examination, and they have to pass the standards laid down in the contracts. This commercial arrangement has a permanent effect on the maintenance of hygiene in the factory and, since hygiene is indivisible, all throughput gets the same treatment, including that which is sent to less particular customers.

It is worth contemplating how (bacteriologically) these deep-frozen broiler carcasses compare with other poultry dressed entirely by hand; also with pork, lamb and beef carcasses, and much-handled joints; and, indeed, how they compare with cold, sliced cooked meats, trifles, custard tarts and cream pastries, which we buy and eat without further cooking.

Licensed Premises.

The remaining three public houses mentioned in last year's Annual Report now have new sanitary accommodation, and major improvements to another have been completed.

For some years now, it has been the policy of the department to ask the brewery companies not to spend money on patching up old amenities but to scrap and renew them with modern schemes. This has sometimes meant waiting two or three years to fit in with the brewers' programme of works, but it has been well worthwhile, not only to us but to the trade itself.

There are sixty licensed premises in the Rural District.

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in this district is seven, the same as last year, situated at:-

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

Fried Fish Shops.

There are two fish-and-chip shops in the Rural District, at Colerne and Corsham.

2. FOOD COMPLAINTS.

Ten complaints concerning food, varying from metal in bread to stale potato crisps, were dealt with during the year. Where appropriate, the complaints were taken up with the producers and the Public Health Departments of the District concerned.

Proceedings were taken against a bakery firm concerning a piece of sheet metal discovered in a sliced loaf of bread. On conviction, a fine of £15.0.0. was imposed. There was insufficient evidence or justification for taking proceedings in respect of the other complaints.

Enquiry was made regarding a complaint about the condition of a packet of stale potato crisps purchased from a local firm, but we were unable to identify the premises where they were bought. On reference to the manufacturers it was found that these crisps had been produced twelve months before; their whereabouts in the meantime remains a mystery.

Another complaint, of stale cake, elicited the fact that the cake was six weeks old with a clear code number on it, and instructions from the manufacturer to sell within a fortnight of receipt. The retailer received a lecture from us and from the manufacturer on the observance of coding and an improvement has resulted.

When a purchaser's complaint of finding a piece of plastic material in a jar of marmalade was referred to the makers, they said that in the interests of hygienic production, they had recently replaced wooden barrels at the factory with plastic containers, and a sliver of this material had got into the mix.

Two complaints were received from retailers, one of metal in cream and the other of poor cellophane wrapping of meat; these were dealt with as normal complaints and referred to the producers.

On our visits to food shops, we always stress the need for strict rotation of perishable foods, and advise the retailer to have his own code number on each article so that he can check its shelf life at any time. This is particularly important where several staff are employed, as a stale package which has been put aside for destruction may be sold by another assistant.

With the development of modern marketing methods in relation to foodstuffs, the shopkeeper must adjust his routine to a new tempo, and this is not always a simple matter.

3. CONDEMNED FOODS.

During the year the following foodstuffs were examined by the Public Health Inspectors, found to be unfit, and subsequently surrendered:-

7 x 3½lbs. tinned pork - defective cans.
10 x 6lbs. tinned steak - defective lacquering.

Also, due to breakdown of refrigeration plants, over £180.0.0. worth of frozen foods at various shops were condemned and removed by the refuse collectors.

4. MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Registration.

The number of registered distributors has dropped slightly. Retail shops, such as grocers, which sell small quantities of bottled milk, are included in this category, and changes of ownership and type of trade of these premises usually accounts for the annual fluctuation in the numbers registered.

No. of registered dairies	...	...	...	10
No. of registered distributors	...	...	...	21

The dealers' licences to sell designated milk which have been issued in this District are for:-

Designation:

Untreated milk	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	20
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	6
Ultra-Heat-Treated milk...	...	...	...	...	1

Four producer-retailers sell untreated milk in this District and these are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(b) Milk Sampling for Statutory Examination.

Monthly samples from distributors licensed in this District are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath. The reports on these were as follows:-

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	207
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	4
Void (shade temperature at Laboratory exceeded prescribed maximum)	...	...	...	...	-

Three of the unsatisfactory samples were taken from one retailer and all within a few weeks. These were referred to the Public Health Department of the district concerned with the production of milk, for investigation. No further failures occurred in the ensuing six months.

(c) Milk Sampling for Biological Examination.

Twenty-four sets of samples were taken from churns at the farms of producers who supply untreated milk to retailers in this area. None of these samples showed the presence of Tuberculosis or Brucella Abortus.

All samples of milk taken for statutory examination were also tested for the presence of Brucella Abortus, with negative results.

(d) Bottle Rinses.

Twenty-one sets of empty, washed bottles were submitted for examination, of which eighteen were satisfactory and three unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory results were obtained from bottles supplied to a farmer by a large dairy for untreated milk to be bottled at the farm, and the high bacterial counts were attributed to over-stocking with empty bottles at the farm. Production and retailing problems have since caused the dairy to discontinue selling this type of milk.

5. ICE CREAM.

The standard of hygiene in the eighty-nine premises which are registered for the sale of ice cream has been satisfactory. Fifty-seven samples of ice cream were taken for routine examination, and of these, fifty-two were Grade I, five were Grade II, and none fell within Grades III or IV.

6. THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in this District.

7. SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

The number of carcasses of horses received at the Heddington knackers' yard during the year totalled twelve, eight of these animals having been slaughtered on farms.

Six slaughterman's licences have been issued, all to men employed at the Heddington knacker's yard.

During the year, this Department was called upon to assist the Chippenham Borough Council in full-time meat inspection at the Chippenham bacon factory, due to illness of the Borough Council Inspectors. This assistance was given by one Public Health Inspector for one day early in September, and for a week later in the same month by two Inspectors in turn.

C. HOUSING.

1. IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

The improvement area scheme for Priory Street, Corsham, has been completed, apart from any improvements which may be carried out when the suspended improvement notices which have been served on the owners of four houses come into effect in 1971.

Work on the improvement of houses in the Grittleton improvement area is now in progress.

2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The total number of houses improved during the year was eighty-one, nine less than for last year, and is well up to our annual average.

3. HOUSING ADVANCES.

Government financial restrictions and high interest rates have again curtailed our work in connection with housing advances almost entirely to cases involving improvement grants.

4. HOUSING STATISTICS.

(a) Number of Dwellings in the District at the end of the year:

No. of permanent dwellings privately owned	...	...	...	...	6750
" " " " Local Authority owned	...	...	...	...	1995
" " temporary " " " " " " " " " "	...	...	...	...	122

(b) Proceedings under Housing Act 1957.

Houses inspected for fitness	...	...	...	...	...	31
No. reported as unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	11
Notices served requiring defects to be remedied (Secs.9,10)	...	...	...	...	...	--
Houses made fit after service of formal notices:-						
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	--
Houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	16
Demolition Orders made (Sec.16)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	10
Demolition Order revoked, house made fit (Sec.24)	...	...	...	...	...	4
War-time bungalows demolished by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	41

Undertakings not to re-let accepted (Sec.16)	2
Undertakings to make fit accepted (Sec.16)	5
Undertakings to make fit complied with... ..	3
Closing Orders made (Secs.17,18)	4
Houses closed... ..	3
Closing Order revoked, house made fit (Sec.27)	-
Overcrowded houses at the end of the year	Nil
Cases of overcrowding discovered during the year... ..	Nil
" " " abated " " "	Nil

(o) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Houses inspected for defects under Public Health Acts... ..	13
Formal notices served	--
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal notices:-	
(a) by owners... ..	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners... ..	--

(d) Improvement Grants - Discretionary:

	1967	1968
Applications received for conversions ...(houses)	5	7
" " " improvements...(")	47	50
Approvals for conversion of:-		
(i) owner/occupied property ...(")	3	1
(ii) other " ...(")	1	6
Approvals for improvement of:-		
(i) owner/occupied property ...(")	25	30
(ii) other " ...(")	11	19
Amount of grants approved for conversions	£1,600	£2,800
" " " " improvements	£14,032	£18,927
No. of dwellings provided or improved ...	49	54
Amount of grants paid	£18,050	£20,615

(e) Improvement Grants - Standard:

	1967	1968
Applications received ... ..(houses)	38	33
" approved:-		
(i) owner/occupied property ...(")	24	21
(ii) other " ...(")	21	7
No. of houses improved	41	27
Amount of grants paid	£7,216	£4,610
No. of baths or showers provided... ..	38	25
" " wash-basins "	36	25
" " water closets "	40	25
" " hot water supplies "	37	25
" " food stores "	26	14

5. RENT ACT 1957.

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

6. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

I know of only one property, at Pickwick Road, Corsham, which comes within the provisions of Part II of the Housing Act 1961. Routine visits have been made during the course of the year to this house.

7. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No common lodging houses are registered in this District.

D. FACTORIES, OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

1. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

Conditions in premises covered by this Act are generally satisfactory. Only one accident was reported during the year and, while hoping that there were no more, I feel that the fact that no more were reported indicates that most employers do not realise that they have a duty to report accidents to the Council.

In the course of inspections, we now make a point of reminding employers that they must notify us of every accident which results in an employee being away from work for three days or more.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Class of Premises:	No. of premises registered during the year:	Total no. of registered premises at end of the year:	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year:
Offices	2	34	2
Retail shops	1	66	2
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	18	1
Fuel storage depots	2	4	3
Totals:	6	124	8

The total number of visits of all kinds by Public Health Inspectors to registered premises during 1968, was thirty-four.

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

Class of Workplace:	No. of persons employed:
Offices	214
Retail shops	221
Wholesale departments, warehouses	37
Catering establishments open to the public	68
Canteens	16
Fuel storage depots	16
Total:	572
.....	
Total males:	271
Total females:	301

(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.

	Found:	Remedied:
Sec. 4: Cleanliness	-	-
" 5: Overcrowding	-	-
" 6: Temperature	1	1
" 7: Ventilation	-	-
" 8: Lighting	-	-
" 9: Sanitary conveniences	1	1
" 10: Washing facilities	1	1
" 11: Supply of drinking water	-	-
" 12: Accommodation for clothing	-	-
" 13: Sitting facilities	-	-
" 14: Seats for sedentary workers	-	-
" 15: Eating facilities	-	-
" 16: Floors, passages, stairs	1	2
" 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	-	-
Information for Employees Regulations 1965	-	-
Totals:	4	5
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.

There are eighty-six registered factories, seven of them being on Crown property, and therefore controlled entirely by the Factories Inspectorate.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Premises:	No. on Register:	No. of:-		
		Inspection	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	86	15*	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	4	-	-
Totals:	91	19	-	-

* Inspection of factories which are also food premise (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 were:-				Prosecu- -tions:
	Found:	Remedied:	Referred:-		
			to H.M. Insptr.	by H.M. Insptr.	
Sanitary conveniences (Sec.7):					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for the sexes	-	-	-	-	-

(c) Outworkers.

No returns of outworkers living in this area have been received from other authorities or from employers in this District. Registration of persons trimming moulded rubber articles, which is the main form of outwork in the Box and Corsham areas, is not required by law.

E. RODENT CONTROL.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

(a) Rural Rat Infestations.

The Council was without the services of a Rodent Officer during the period January-March 1968. In April, Mr. Holmes was appointed as your Rodent Officer and in quite a short time was making a valuable contribution to the control of rodent infestations. He has given most excellent service to the Council during the past nine months.

In my 1967 Report, I referred to the discussions I had had with officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, concerning the organisation of three-day training courses in rodent control for employees in industries where a knowledge of effective control is essential so that rodent extermination can be skillfully and successfully carried out. I regret that this suggestion has not been taken up by the agricultural community, or by factory and shop owners of premises where foodstuffs are stored in bulk. These courses should be free, concise, comprehensive, and incorporate all the modern teaching aids, including use of radio, television and films.

The problem of rodent control in a large rural district of 85,000 acres is immense, and with the full co-operation of the whole community it is only possible to contain the rodent population; complete eradication is an impossible task. The destruction and contamination caused to foodstuffs by rodents in England and Wales runs into millions of pounds, so this essential work must not be ignored.

In this Rural District there is more than enough work for two full-time rodent officers and I hope that at an appropriate time the Council will consider the appointment of an additional officer to assist with this work.

(b) Inspection of Properties other than Sewers.

	Type of Property:-	
	Non-Agricultural:	Agricultural:
No. of properties in the district	8236	1068
Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification:	154	10
No. infested by:- (i) Rats	62	10
(ii) Mice	21	1
Total no. of properties inspected on routine surveys:	193	258
No. infested by:- (i) Rats	45	82
(ii) Mice	1	3

(c) Sewer Test-Baiting and Treatment.

The test-baiting and treatment of the Council's eighty-seven miles of sewers form an important part of the Rodent Officer's work and with the addition of new public sewers this work becomes more onerous each year.

To carry out this work effectively, it is necessary to test-bait 10% of the sewer manholes in every sewerage scheme within the Rural District. Having initially placed the test-bait in the sewer manholes, it is then necessary to make two further visits to each manhole to check whether any "takes" have occurred. Where "takes" are indicated, a full poison treatment has to be carried out in that section of sewer where rodent infestation is indicated.

A return giving details of this work is forwarded to the Infestation Control Branch of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government each year.

F. MISCELLANEOUS.

1. PETROLEUM LICENSING.

During 1968, 153 premises were licensed for the storage of petrol or petroleum spirit.

The Home Office published a new Model Code of Principles of Construction for petroleum installations and these recommendations form the basis of the standard of construction of petroleum installations under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928.

2. DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957.

There are six licensed swill-boiling plants in the district and all have been visited to ensure compliance with the Order.

The disastrous and widespread outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which particularly affected Shropshire and other Midland counties, did not reach Wiltshire, but when the outbreak was at its peak the owners of licensed premises were advised to practice strictly the conditions attached to their licences.

3. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

Two additional boarding establishments were licensed during 1968, at Christian Malford and Corsham, bringing the total to seven. One such establishment went out of business.

4. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964.

At the 31st December 1967, sixteen scrap metal dealers within the Rural District were registered. During 1968, four additional dealers were registered from the parishes of Biddestone, Calne Without, Hilgerton and Sutton Benger. Eight of these dealers are registered as itinerant collectors.

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