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Contributors

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Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

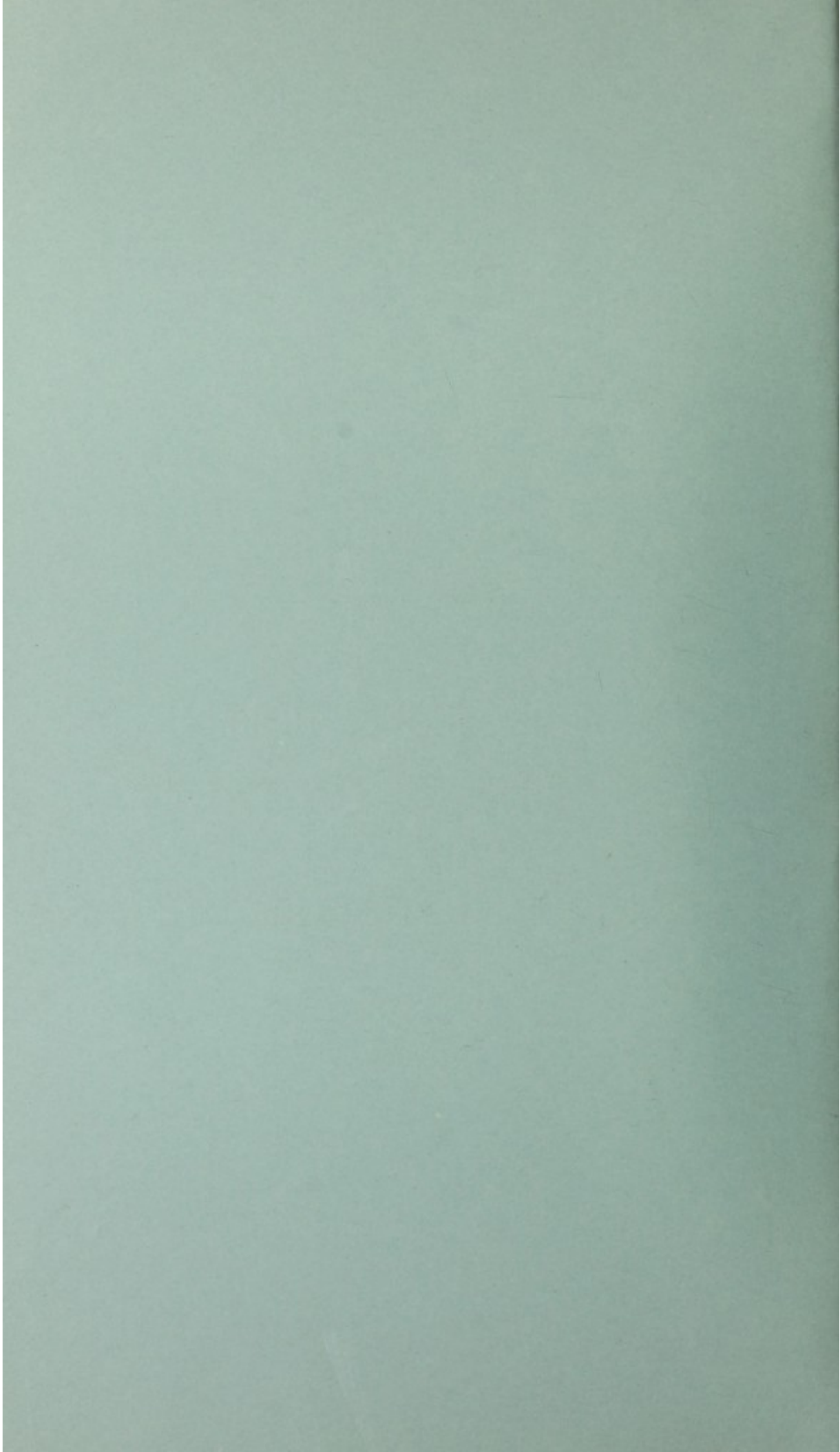
Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1970



CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1970

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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.
- (2) Bright, J.
- * Cheetham, Lt.Cdr.A.E.B.
- * Clarkson, Miss J.
- * Cook, J.C.
- * Cuzack, W.J.
- Dove, R.R.
- Edmonds, R.H.G.
- Fetherston-Godley, Mrs.P.
- * Field, C.E.J.
- * Flint, R.J.
- Fuller, Mrs.C.H.
- Gale, E.W.
- Gardener, A.E.H.
- Gordon-Farleigh, D.
- * Greenwood, J.C.
- Gunning, A.E.
- * Henly, R.T.
- Hibberd, R.G.
- Holman, W.T.
- * Iles, Mrs.E.D.
- Jackson, A.S.R.
- * King, K.G.
- * Light, W.J. (Chairman of the Council)
- MacCarthy, Lt.Col.J.H.
- Merry, Mrs.K.J.
- * Payne, J.A.
- * Pearce, R.R.
- * Pinker, A.A.
- * Prior, W.P.
- Sapsford, L.
- Shaw, H.E.
- (1) Shelburne, Earl of. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
- * Smith, F.Halliburton.
- * Spackman, E.S.
- Stegall, H.J.
- * Thomas, G.W.
- Wray-Bliss, C.
- Wyrill, Mrs.B.M.
- Young, E.

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

- - - - o o o o o o o o - - - -

MEMBERS OF THE CALIF. AND OREGONIAN RURAL HYGIENE SOCIETY

- * Bailey, W.B.H.
 - * Baker, Mrs. J.S.
 - * Baker, A.B.H.
 - (2) Bright, J.
 - * (Chairman) Dr. C.A.H.H.
 - * Clarkson, Mrs. J.
 - * Cook, J.C.
 - * Gamm, V.L.
 - * Howe, E.H.
 - * Johnson, E.W.G.
 - * Johnson-Hodges, Mrs. F.
 - * Keith, O.E.J.
 - * Kline, E.L.
 - * Kline, Mrs. E.H.
 - * Kline, E.H.
 - * Kline, A.H.H.
 - * Kline-Hodges, E.
 - * Greenwood, J.C.
 - * Gresham, A.E.
 - * Haily, E.T.
 - * Haily, E.G.
 - * Holman, W.T.
 - * Hoss, Mrs. E.D.
 - * Jackson, A.B.H.
 - * King, E.G.
 - * Light, W.L. (Chairman of the Council)
 - * Macomber, Dr. C.L.H.
 - * May, Mrs. E.L.
 - * Myers, J.A.
 - * Pearson, E.H.
 - * Pearson, A.A.
 - * Ryker, W.E.
 - * Ryker, J.
 - * Shaw, E.H.
 - (1) Stevenson, Earl of. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
 - * Smith, F. Robinson
 - * Spalding, E.H.
 - * Spalding, E.L.
 - * Thomas, O.V.
 - * Tracy-Giles, O.
 - * Wall, Mrs. E.H.
 - * Young, E.
- (1) - Chairman of the Public Health Committee.
- (2) - Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee.
- * - Members of the Public Health Committee.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

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

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.
Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council.
School Medical Officer.

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs.V.L.Gregory.

(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.F.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.

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(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John R. Wray, M.D., M.B.C.P., F.R.C.

Officer of Health

London, Ontario

Chippewa

1st St., Chippewa 1911

Medical Officer of Health for the

Board of Health, Chippewa and Huron

and the

Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer, Chippewa County Council

General Medical Officer

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health

Mr. V. A. Murphy

(b) CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. L. Taylor, F.A.P.H.I., M.B.C.P.

Officer of Health

London, Ontario

Chippewa

1st St., Chippewa 1911

Public Health Inspector

A. F. A. Brown, M.B.C.P., F.R.C.

Public Health Inspector

E. L. Taylor, M.B.C.P.

E. L. Taylor, M.B.C.P.

E. L. Taylor, M.B.C.P.

(c) COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AND THE BOARD

with respect to Public Health

Public Health Committee

Board of Health

Finance, Staff and General Purpose Committee

These Committees meet monthly throughout

the year, except during August, and deal

with all matters pertaining to Public

Health and Housing

Incident 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 pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1970.

The vital statistics for the year remain favourable. The infant mortality rate and the perinatal mortality rate were once again well below the rates for England and Wales.

The main interest in the public health field at the moment is in what plans the government have for the detailed re-organisation of the National Health Service. Public health doctors will no longer be employed by local authorities, although these authorities will still control all the factors vital for positive health - good housing, clean air, a safe water supply, hygienic food - free from contamination and adulteration- and proper disposal of sewage and other wastes. Good mental health also requires a pleasant planned environment, freedom from excessive noise and plenty of opportunity for recreations and sports. All these factors will remain largely under the control of local authorities.

The Secretary of State for Social Services, in his Consultative Document on National Health Service Re-Organisation, stated "...It will be necessary to ensure that local authorities continue to have the medical advice they need for the effective discharge of their functions in education, the personal social services, and the environmental health services..." and he has set up a Working Party to study how this can be implemented in practice. A memorandum agreed by all the district medical officers of health in Wiltshire has been sent to this Working Party for consideration.

The main aim of this memorandum is to urge that after local government re-organisation, each new District Council should have locally a 'community physician', whose work would be based on their geographical area, to whom they could turn to for advice. We do not want all medical advice for district councils to be centralised at County Hall, Trowbridge.

Another fear is that public health doctors will be based on district hospitals in future, and the medical thinking in hospitals is so disease-orientated that eventually most public health minded doctors would disappear. This fear is based on paragraph 7 of the Secretary of State's Consultative Document, which states "...Each area health authority will also be responsible for the management of the integrated health services in the various parts of its area ('districts') served by separate district general hospitals and the community health service associated with them...". The district general hospital does not mean a local general practitioner hospital like the one in Chippenham, but a hospital providing major surgery and accident facilities. In this area the people are served by the district general hospitals in Bath, which, after re-organisation, will be in a different area health authority to ours in Wiltshire.

I should like to thank the Council and its Officers for their help and interest during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. WRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1905.

The vital statistics for the year 1905 are as follows:
Infant mortality rate and the percentage mortality rate were again well
below the rates for England and Wales.

The main features in the public health field at the present time are
that plans the government have for the detailed re-organization of the
National Health Service. Public health officers will no longer be employed
by local authorities, although these authorities will still control all the
sanitary work for public health - food poisoning, infectious diseases, etc.
sanitary food - from their contribution and administration and proper
disposal of sewage and other wastes. Good public health also requires a
pleasant pleasant environment, freedom from excessive noise and plenty of
opportunities for recreation and sports. All these factors will remain
largely under the control of local authorities.

The Secretary of State for Social Services, in his Committee
Report on National Health Service Re-organization, stated "...It will be
necessary to ensure that local authorities continue to have the medical
advice they need for the effective discharge of their functions in education,
the treatment of mental diseases, and the environmental health services..." and
he has set up a Working Party to study how this can be implemented in
practice. A working party agreed by all the District Councils of
Wiltshire has been sent to this Working Party for consultation.

The main aim of this reorganization is to make that after local
government re-organization, each new District Council should have locally a
'community physician' whose work would be based on their geographical area,
to whom they could turn for advice. It is not until all medical advice
for District Councils is centralized at County Hall, Trowbridge.

Another fact to note public health officers will be based on
district health in future, and the medical planning in hospitals is to
be done centrally. This fact is based on paragraph 5 of the Secretary of State's
Committee Report, which states "...each new health authority will also
be responsible for the management of the integrated health services in the
various parts of the area ('districts') served by separate 'local general
hospitals and the community health services associated with them...'". The
District General Hospital does not mean a local general practitioner hospital
like the one in Chippenham, but a hospital providing major surgery and
accident treatment. In this area the people are served by the District
General Hospital in Bath, which, after re-organization, will be in a
different area but its authority is now in Wiltshire.

I should like to thank the Council and the Officers for their help
and interest during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obedient servant,

J. E. MAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	85,388
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	32,690
Number of domestic premises (Valuation Roll), as at 31st March 1970	8,989
Number of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1970 ...	2,102
Number of applicants for Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1970	368
Rateable value, as at 1st April 1970	£ 1,015,040
Estimated product of Penny Rate, as at 1st April 1970 ...	£ 9,800

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

2a. 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>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	18.9	18.7	10.2	10.4
Wiltshire	17.6	17.2	10.7	10.7
England and Wales	16.3	16.0	11.9	11.7

*Comparability 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.

2b. LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Legitimate	288	228	516
Illegitimate	15	15	30
Totals:	<u>303</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>546</u>

2c. STILL BIRTHS AND PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Six still births were notified during 1970, an increase of two from the total notified during 1969. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is eleven. The rate for England and Wales, as given by the Registrar-General, is thirteen.

Perinatal mortality means still births and deaths under one week of age. The rate for the district was fourteen per 1000 total births (live and still), whereas for England and Wales it was twenty-three.

2d. INFANT MORTALITY.

	Male:	Female:	Totals:
Under one year	1	4	5
Under four weeks	1	1	2
Under one week	1	1	2
Infant Mortality Rate for the District:	9 per 1000 live births.		
Comparative Rate for England and Wales:	18 per 1000 live births.		

2e. DEATHS: ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male:	Female:	Totals:
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	5	2	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	18	4	22
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	3	-	3
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other malignant neoplasms	10	6	16
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	1	1
Diabetes mellitus	1	2	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	2	3
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	-	1	1
Hypertensive disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic heart disease	36	20	56
Other forms of heart disease	7	9	16
Cerebrovascular disease	20	18	38
Other diseases of circulatory system...	9	6	15
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	9	11	20
Bronchitis and emphysema	8	2	10
Asthma	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system...	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system ...	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	3	3
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	-	3	3
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	5	4	9
All other external causes	-	1	1
Totals:	152	110	262

2f. DEATHS: BY AGE GROUPS.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
<u>Under 4 weeks:</u>			
Congenital anomalies	-	1	
Birth injury, difficult labour etc. ...	1	-	
	1	1	2
<u>4 weeks and under 1 year:</u>			
Congenital anomalies	-	2	
All other accidents	-	1	
	-	3	3
<u>1 - 4 years:</u>			
All other external causes	-	1	
	-	1	1
<u>5 - 14 years:</u>			
All other accidents	1	-	
	1	-	1
<u>15 - 24 years:</u>			
Leukaemia	1	-	
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	
All other accidents	1	-	
	4	-	4
<u>25-34 years:</u>			
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	-	
	1	-	1
<u>35-44 years:</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	2	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	2	-	
Asthma	1	-	
	5	1	6
<u>45 - 54 years:</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	1	
Other malignant neoplasms	1	1	
Diabetes mellitus	1	1	
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	4	-	
Bronchitis and emphysema	-	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	
	8	7	15
<u>55 - 64 years:</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	3	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	8	2	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	
Other malignant neoplasms	2	3	
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	1	
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	-	1	
Hypertensive disease	1	-	
Ischaemic heart disease	7	2	
Cerebrovascular disease	3	2	
Pneumonia	-	2	
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	-	
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	-	1	
	29	16	45

		<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
2f. 65 - 74 years:				
(continued)				
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1		
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	2	1		
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1		
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1		
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-		
Leukaemia	-	1		
Other malignant neoplasms	3	-		
Diabetes mellitus	-	1		
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1		
Hypertensive disease	-	1		
Ischaemic heart disease	10	4		
Other forms of heart disease	2	1		
Cerebrovascular disease	3	4		
Other diseases of circulatory system... ..	4	3		
Influenza	-	1		
Pneumonia	3	2		
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	-		
Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	1	-		
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1		
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	2		
	39	26		65
75 years and over:				
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	2		
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1		
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	-		
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-		
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-		
Other malignant neoplasms	4	2		
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	1		
Ischaemic heart disease	13	14		
Other forms of heart disease	5	8		
Cerebrovascular disease	14	12		
Other diseases of circulatory system... ..	5	3		
Influenza	1	-		
Pneumonia	6	7		
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	1		
Peptic ulcer	1	-		
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	-		
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-		
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1		
All other accidents	3	3		
	64	55		119

Nearly half the deaths (more accurately, five-elevenths) were in persons aged over 75 years, and about three-quarters of the deaths were in persons aged over 65.

There was a drop in the number of deaths from ischaemic (coronary) heart disease, from 70 in 1969 to 56 in 1970. There was a corresponding increase in the number of deaths from cerebrovascular disease ('strokes'), from 23 in 1969 to 38 in 1970. Generally speaking, strokes affect an older age group.

There was an increase in deaths from lung cancer from 11 to 22. This is now by far the commonest form of cancer death in the district. In 1951, when the total population of the district was 38,450 - higher than it is today, there were only 4 deaths from lung cancer, although there were 7 deaths from cancer of the stomach. A new report by the Royal College of Physicians entitled "Smoking and Health Now", gives clear evidence that cigarette smoking increases deaths from lung cancer, coronary heart disease and chronic bronchitis. From their studies over the years on people who have given up smoking, they are able to estimate that if everyone gave up smoking, the number of deaths from lung cancer would fall to one-tenth of its present rate. For the individual who gives up smoking there is a decreasing risk of dying from lung cancer for every year that passes. The risk was found to be halved in persons who had stopped for between one and five years, and in those who had stopped for fifteen years the risk becomes

2f. almost negligible (in actual fact, 0.2 deaths per 1000, which compares with (continued) 0.1 deaths per 1000 for life-long non-smokers). These hopeful figures apply even if a person has smoked for twenty years or more.

There is clear evidence that the more the number of cigarettes you smoke per day, the greater the risk of dying from lung cancer. Figures for the United Kingdom show that someone who smokes 30 or more a day has a risk thirty times that of a non-smoker, 20 a day, twenty times the risk, and 10 a day about eight times the risk. Studies from America and Canada show a lower risk, and it is suggested that the higher British rate may be due to the British habit of smoking cigarettes to a shorter stub length than the Americans, and to the greater exposure of the British to air polluted by domestic and industrial smoke.

If you are not yet ready to give up your addiction to smoking, then I advise you to use filter cigarettes and stub them out when they have burnt halfway down; in your ashtray you should see white stubs at least as long as the brown filter tip. This extra waste of money will well repay you in later years by far better health. If you change to cigar or pipe smoking only, this further reduces the risk.

Wiltshire County Council is willing to organise special clinics to help smokers to give up the habit entirely. If enough people write to the Health Department, County Hall, Trowbridge, they will arrange a clinic.

Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents decreased during the year to two, compared with eight for 1969. Both were in the age-group 15-24 years. Other fatal accidents, mostly home accidents, increased from six to nine. Six of these were in people aged over 75. In this age group the commonest accident is a fall leading to a broken leg. In view of the excellent progress the Accident Prevention Committee has made in reducing road accidents, I have advised them to increase their publicity on the prevention of home accidents.

3. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

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

	<u>1967</u>		<u>1968</u>		<u>1969</u>		<u>1970</u>	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Tuberculosis	14	14	2	2	4	4	7	7
Scarlet Fever	4	4	2	2	4	4	4	4
Whooping Cough	10	10	5	5	-	-	10	10
Measles	350	350	45	45	138	138	129	129
Dysentery	42	36	31	31	9	7	2	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Salmonella Infections	8	8	2	2	1	1	2	2
Food Poisoning	3	3	2	-	4	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	4	4	35	35	22	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals:	431	425	93	91	195	189	178	178
(a) = Numbers originally notified. (b) = Final numbers, after correction.								

No case of poliomyelitis has been reported since 1957, and no case of diphtheria since 1950. This shows the value of immunisation. Typhoid has not been reported locally for very many years, but nearly every year now we are notified of people who have been in contact with typhoid when on holiday abroad.

3. (a) Tuberculosis.
(continued)

Seven cases were notified during the year. Following representations by this Council last year to the South-Western Regional Hospital Board, asking that there should be no reduction in the present mass radiography service, the Administrative Officer wrote back to state that there was no intention to alter the service as it now exists, without prior consultation with all interested organisations within the region.

(b) Whooping Cough.

Ten cases were notified. Although it is still possible for a child to get this disease after being immunised against it, the attack is always mild.

(c) Measles.

Measles immunisation is now offered by the County Council to all children in their second year of life. It is hoped eventually to eliminate this disease, which can give rise to fatal complications.

(d) Dysentery.

Only two isolated cases were confirmed during the year.

(e) Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Another name for this disease is Meningococcal Meningitis. One case, in a child, was notified.

(f) Salmonella Infections.

Two isolated cases were reported. One man picked up the infection when abroad.

(g) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

This is the name given to the eye disease which newborn babies get when infected with the gonococcus. One case was reported. During the year posters giving information about venereal disease clinics were put up in public conveniences and on caravan sites.

(h) Infective Hepatitis.

I have given information about this disease in previous Annual Reports. In 1970, twenty-two cases were notified, so far this year only eight cases have been notified, so it looks as if the outbreak is coming to an end as everyone in the community gains natural immunity. Most people fight off the effect of the virus and only feel "off-colour" for a few days.

(i) Liver Fluke Disease.

One of the duties of a Medical Officer of Health is "to inform himself as far as practicable respecting all matters affecting or likely to affect the public health in the district". During the year an article was published in the British Medical Journal reporting forty-four cases of liver fluke in persons who had eaten wild watercress in the Forest of Dean area. As I could find nothing in medical literature about prevention of this disease, I studied the matter and contributed an article to the weekly journal "Medical Officer". I have included this as an Appendix to my report.

From my survey of the district I decided that there was no action that I need advise the Council to take at the present time. The watercress at Calstone is now fenced in; the watercress at Box appears perfectly safe. There were two places where the public were unlikely to go but I warned the landowners of the risk to themselves. There are other small amounts in isolated areas which do not warrant warning notices.

3. (continued) I am personally against the use of chemicals, but included the subject in my article for the sake of completing the methods of control available. It may be of interest that in an adjoining rural district I have had two warning notice boards erected because the watercress in those areas was regularly picked by the public.

(j) Immunisation.

A new immunisation campaign was started during the year to protect all girls at secondary school against Rubella (sometimes called "German Measles"). This is a mild disease, but if contracted during the early months of pregnancy can damage the foetus so that if the child is born alive it is found to have congenital effects such as deafness, blindness, or a deformed heart. When it is known that the mother has been in contact with Rubella in pregnancy she can be given a protective serum. However, it may not always be known that she has contracted the disease, so it is far safer to give long-lasting protection in adolescence.

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

	Children born in years:-							Others under 16
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1961 to 1965	1955 to 1960	
<u>Primary Immunisations completed during 1970:</u>								
Diphtheria	185	170	5	4	4	10	-	-
Whooping Cough	182	166	5	2	1	-	-	-
Tetanus	183	170	5	4	4	11	6	-
Measles	-	241	178	65	42	48	4	-
Poliomyelitis	183	167	7	7	1	14	-	-
<u>Reinforcing Immunisations given in 1970:</u>								
Diphtheria	1	94	179	23	102	159	31	-
Whooping Cough	-	73	145	11	5	12	1	-
Tetanus	1	94	180	25	104	188	88	1
Poliomyelitis	-	89	165	14	95	171	11	1

	Months:				Years:		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Smallpox Vaccinations	1	1	1	6	248	24	6
Smallpox Re-Vaccinations					-	1	49

4. HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

I am grateful to the Mid-Wilts Hospital Management Committee for the following statistics for local hospitals during 1970:-

	Chippinham	Frogwell	Greenways	St. Andrews
<u>BEDS.</u>				
Number of beds	32	24	25	156
Average daily number of beds occupied	20.18	19.23	14.1	151.28
Average duration of stay in days:				
Acute	9.44	-	-	-
Maternity	-	-	6.73	-
Highest daily occupation during year	31	23	24	156
Lowest daily occupation during year	7	13	4	139
Total patient days for year	7364	7020	5147	55217
<u>IN-PATIENTS.</u>				
Total admissions	765	249	769	134
Total discharges (including deaths)	765	242	765	145
Deaths	65	24	-	102
<u>MATERNITY.</u>				
Cots in maternity hospitals and departments	-	-	27	-
Live births	-	-	560	-
Still births	-	-	-	-
Neonatal deaths	-	-	-	-
Maternal deaths	-	-	-	-
Number of infants wholly breast-fed on discharge	-	-	247	-
Patient days for year of infants in maternity wards or departments	-	-	4165	-
<u>OPERATIONS</u> <u>(including out-patients).</u>				
Major	1	-	-	-
Intermediate	20	-	24	-
Minor	1207	4	426	-
TOTAL	1228	4	450	-
<u>X-RAY.</u>				
New out-patients	2756	-	-	-
Attendances: Out-patients	4298	-	-	-
In-patients	180	-	-	-
<u>PHYSIOTHERAPY.</u>				
<u>Individual Treatment:</u>				
New out-patients	1389	-	-	-
New in-patients	59	43	2	64
Attendances: Out-patients	11679	-	-	-
In-patients	415	517	6	1037
<u>Group Exercises:</u>				
New out-patients	609	-	129	-
New in-patients	-	-	513	-
Attendances: Out-patients	4963	-	671	-
In-patients	-	-	625	-

4.(continued)

	Chippenham	Frogwell	Greenways	St. Andrews
IN-PATIENT ANALYSIS:				
AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF OCCUPIED BEDS.				
General Medicine.	-	5.67	-	-
Infectious Diseases	-	2.82	-	-
Chest Diseases	-	0.01	-	-
Chronic Sick	-	10.73	-	151.28
General Surgery	3.60	-	-	-
Ear, Nose and Throat	-	-	-	-
Tonsils and Adenoids	-	-	-	-
Trau. and Orthopaedic	1.06	-	-	-
Gynaecology	3.08	-	-	-
General Practice Units:				
Maternity	-	-	14.1	-
Other Medical	12.32	-	-	-
Dental	0.03	-	-	-
Private beds: (S.1)	-	-	-	-
(S.2)	0.09	-	-	-
TOTALS:	20.18	19.23	14.1	151.28

OUT-PATIENT ANALYSIS:	CHIPPENHAM			GREENWAYS			CORSHAM CLINICS		
	New patients	Attendances	No. of Clinics	New patients	Attendances	No. of Clinics	New patients	Attendances	No. of Clinics
General Medicine	80	322	23	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paediatrics	32	134	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chest Diseases	219	923	53	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dermatology	104	193	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neurology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cardiology	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2
General Surgery	283	610	46	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ear, Nose and Throat	235	885	52	-	-	-	17	40	11
Trau. and Orthopaedic	178	443	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmology	201	622	58	-	-	-	42	161	14
Radiotherapy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gynaecology	107	221	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental illness	25	938	49	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pathology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Radiology	70	105	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CONSULTANTS' CLINICS:	1534	5396	397	-	-	-	60	205	27
CASUALTY DEPARTMENT:	4121	7846	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G.P. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS:	-	-	-	747	3248	309	-	-	-

I am indebted to the Engineer to the North Wilts Water Board for a comprehensive report on water supplies, much of which has been included in the attached report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

I think it is worth reporting that during the year the Water Board managed to hear that a local landowner was proposing to allow his land to be used for a Pop Festival. This land was very near two of the Water Board's sources (springs). I could well imagine that if hundreds of thousands of pop fans turned up, at least one of them might well be a typhoid carrier, and however good the temporary toilet arrangements, it would be impossible to supervise that they were universally used. So I telephoned the organiser in London, and the landowner, and threatened action under the Water Acts. I am glad to say they decided to transfer the Festival elsewhere.

6. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I am grateful for the following information from Mr. W. Langley-Jones, Engineer and Surveyor:-

Stanton Sewerage Scheme.

Work started on this scheme early in the year and it is important that the main sewer and pumping main from the Leigh Delamere Service Area to Sutton Benger is complete at the time of the opening of the motorway on the 15th June. This date should be achieved and during the next twelve months the works at Sutton Benger will be doubled in capacity and sewers constructed to serve the two Stanton villages.

Burton Sewerage Scheme.

The replacement of the old village drock with separate sewers within the extent of the road improvement scheme has now been completed. The Public Health Committee have authorised further sewer extensions and the construction of a Package-Type Aeration Plant as a temporary measure at the eastern end of the village. This further work should be completed during the present financial year and will provide main drainage for the village of Burton.

South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme was delayed for twelve months because of the urgency of completing the Stanton scheme. A local informal enquiry will be held on the 11th June 1971, and if the Minister will give loan sanction a start can be made on this scheme during the present financial year.

Refuse Disposal: Proposed Tip at Leigh Delamere.

The River Board and the Water Board are now satisfied with the precautions which will be taken to prevent the possible pollution of water supplies and they have withdrawn their objections. Planning approval is expected shortly and, subject to the conclusion of satisfactory negotiations with the owners, controlled tipping of crude refuse can be undertaken at the site in the autumn.

7. HOUSING.

The excellent Annual Report of the work of the Housing Department has already given a full picture of the progress in Council housing, so I would like to comment on the first-class progress that has been made during the year on the improvement to private cottages throughout the district, made possible by the increased grants available to owners. This modernisation of old cottages not only preserves the beauty of the countryside, but means a real increase in the standard of living for many country dwellers.

APPENDIX.

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

PREVENTION OF HUMAN FASCIOLIASIS.

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

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

Cultivated watercress can be protected quite easily if the recommendations of the Working Party of the Public Health Laboratory Service on the Hygienic Production of Watercress (1966) are implemented. The main barriers to the contamination of cultivated watercress beds are:-

- (a) properly-constructed beds;
- (b) an adequate and uncontaminated water supply; and
- (c) prevention, by means of adequate fencing, of access of cattle and sheep to the beds.

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

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

Fasciola hepatica was named by Linnaeus in 1758. It is a trematode which is a parasite of cattle, sheep and rabbits and has a world-wide distribution. The infected animal passes the egg in its faeces; this develops into a miracidium, which must find the intermediate host, the freshwater snail, *Lymnaea truncatula*, for the life cycle to continue.

The miracidium can travel up to two yards in moist conditions. In the snail it develops over a period of about two months and emerges in the form of free-living cercariae, which travel onto grass or waterside plants, where they encyst, surrounding themselves with a tough, protective coat. If eaten by a mammalian host, the immature fluke migrates through the intestinal wall to the liver. After growing in the liver tissue for some six weeks, it settles in the biliary passages where four weeks later it becomes mature. The adult fluke can lay 20,000 eggs a day and a severely infected animal can contaminate the ground with up to 6,000,000 eggs a day.

The snail *Lymnaea truncatula* is about 1/4-inch long, and only multiplies in moist conditions. Mozley (1957) lists areas in which it is common as hoof prints near drinking places, on the banks of streams, near springs, and along the course of seepages, also roadside ditches and any shallow depression in a pasture that is badly drained.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Because the farmer may not know that his cattle have fascioliasis, any area of wild watercress to which cattle have access, and where the snail *Lymanea truncatula* is present, should be regarded as potentially dangerous. For this reason I consider that the first step in prevention is for the District Medical Officer of Health to survey all areas of wild watercress in his district.

In my areas I was surprised to find that it was present in so many places. The information can be obtained from health inspectors and councillors. In these days of specialization I suppose it would be possible to call in an expert to look for the snail, but in my case the prospect of some pleasant country walks was inviting, so, armed with a pair of gum-boots

and a plastic bag in which to put the snails, I set off to investigate. I had no difficulty in finding snails in muddy hoof prints and on banks near watercress. They are very small, so good eyesight and some patience is required. An excellent book with good illustrations of the snail is "Liver Fluke Snails in Britain" by Alan Mozley, published by H.K.Lewis and Company, London. The snails were sent to the Zoology Department of Bristol University for identification, but this can also be arranged by the local Public Health Laboratory. Snails are most plentiful in summer and autumn, so this is possibly the best time of year for a survey. In winter they go into hibernation until March or early April.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

District councils are used to buying chemicals to kill rats and mice, and disinfectants and insecticides for use in homes and on rubbish tips. These chemicals are all used to control vectors of disease, so they might be persuaded to buy a molluscicide or herbicide in suitable circumstances. However, the views of the Pollution Officer of the local River Authority must be taken into account. In this area the Pollution Officer has no objection to spraying "Trescon" on land, but is not keen on its being sprayed near the water's edge as it is toxic to fish. He would however, approve the use of "Aquacide", an officially-approved Chipman Chemical Company formulation of diquat, for killing off wild watercress. This would be preferable to removing the watercress by hand, for which labour is unlikely to be available. If either "Trescon" or "Aquacide" is considered for use, the consent of the owner of the land must first be obtained.

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

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

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

Finally, the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland have members throughout the country who, I am sure, would be willing to help on anything to do with snails. In order to obtain the addresses of members living locally I suggest contacting the Secretary, Miss J.Sawyer, of 58, Teignmouth Road, London N.W.2.

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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 to present my contribution to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1970.

European Conservation Year.

The year 1970 having been declared "European Conservation Year", this Council gave special consideration to certain projects which would support the principle of conservation of the countryside and make a significant contribution to the improvement of the environment in some selected parts of the Rural District.

After due deliberation, it was decided to improve the conditions surrounding the Foxham Lock area by co-operation with the Wiltshire County Council and adjoining property owners. As a result of consultations with the County Land Agent, approximately 150 yards of the canal has been dredged, and what was originally a foul-smelling and stagnant morass has been converted into a relatively clean stretch of water. Two further adjoining sections of this disused canal remain to be improved.

Gypsies.

This subject is not unconnected with the preceding one, especially if the gypsies in question are of the motorised, scrap-dealer type. When such a group has been encamped in the district we usually have to clean up after their visit as they leave behind them all that is not required after sorting out their saleable scrap material.

There is no question of gypsies lacking a spirit of independence, their ability to pay their way, or wish not to be a public liability, and therefore it could be a job for the Gypsy Council to organise the purchase of land on which to set up camping sites, and to run and maintain such sites, all in accordance with existing legislation.

Construction of the M.4 Motorway.

I am sure it is a common problem that large construction projects produce filthy and unhygienic conditions at points where the workmen are based, due to litter and rodent infestation around the huts and canteens, and to badly-maintained or non-existent closets.

Several attempts were made to secure acceptable conditions on the M.4 site, succeeding for a short while, but when the group re-forms elsewhere - or the teaboy leaves - we are back to where we started, with a rat- and fly-infested environment of tins, paper, food scraps, dirty milk bottles, and brown-stained, unwashed tea mugs. It is a great relief to see the project progressing and the sites being vacated.

The Litter Problem.

This problem continues with us, being mostly due to stupidity, and a gap in the offenders' education, but the deposit of unwanted bulky items is wilful. I should like to see youth clubs and other such organisations tackling the clearance of some areas. If they were to put the litter material into large heaps for collection the effect might be beneficial.

Refuse Collection and Disposal Service.

The acceptance of the Report of the London Boroughs Management Services Unit in March 1970, which recommended the introduction of a work-study-based incentive bonus scheme for this service, enabled a weekly refuse collection to be implemented throughout the whole of the Rural District as from the 1st June. This improved service has been much appreciated by local ratepayers.

Although consideration has been given to extending the 'paper sack' system of refuse collection to other parts of the Rural District, the rising general rate requirements have curtailed the expansion of this desirable method for the time being. I trust however, that in the relatively near future it will be possible to introduce throughout the District this hygienic method of storing household refuse.

To Members of the Public Health Sub-Committee, who for some time have been considering the long-term solution of refuse disposal, the decision of Trowbridge Urban District Council to withdraw from the consortium of authorities considering this problem must have come as a complete surprise and disappointment.

Although the treatment of refuse by incineration is an expensive method, it is a very efficient one. The opportunity to establish such a plant has now been lost and to resurrect the idea in the future would be very costly.

Housing Improvement Grants.

The Housing Act 1969 has certainly aroused considerable interest, particularly in regard to discretionary grants. Enquiries have increased by almost fifty per cent and, although there has been a drop in standard grants, the number of discretionary grants approved is twice that for 1969.

Time spent on individual enquiries has also increased considerably, not only in describing the kinds of repair and replacement work on which a grant may now be claimed but also in explaining that certain basic requirements have to be fulfilled, and that, despite the Ministry's enthusiastic publicity, all repairs and improvements do not attract grant. The commonest misconception concerns central heating and repairs to houses which do not qualify for grants for improvements.

The number of improvements completed during the year is relatively low, but work is now proceeding on many of the schemes approved early in the year.

Increasing the discretionary grant maximum from £400 to £1000 has effectively stimulated interest in grants, whether or not the interest will be maintained remains to be seen. In this District we have had a fairly steady flow of grant applications, the speed of which appears to be regulated more by changes in occupation of houses and the capacity of the local building force than by financial stimuli; 1969 was a rather 'dead' year as many owners were holding back applications until the expected grant increases were announced.

We must wait awhile to see the full effect of the new Act, but meanwhile, the seventy-five applications approved, with an average grant of £733, may be compared with the fifty-six approvals in 1968, averaging £388 each.

Housing Act 1969: Controlled Tenancies.

This Act introduced a procedure for converting a controlled tenancy into a regulated one, if the dwelling is provided with all standard amenities, for the exclusive use of its occupants, is in good repair having regard to its age, character and locality, and is in all respects fit for human habitation.

Two forms of procedure are prescribed: one combined with application for standard or discretionary grant, where the dwelling lacks one or more amenities, and the other where the amenities were provided before the Act came into force.

The first procedure is straightforward enough as, once a combined application form for grant and qualification certificate is checked as complying with grant requirements, a certificate of provisional approval can be issued to the owner. This enables the Rent Officer, on application from the owner, to fix a fair rent. On completion of the work a 'qualification certificate' is issued to the owner, who may then increase the rent.

The procedure in the case of a dwelling already provided with the amenities is similar, except that, as the dwelling should already be up to the required standard, the qualification certificate is issued immediately, once the twenty-eight days allowed for tenant's objections have expired.

In all cases but two of the applications received this year, the owners had made no attempt to see that their houses were in a satisfactory state of repair and, in two of these, some of the standard amenities had not been provided!

Combined Grant and Qualification Certificates:

Applications received:	16
Certificates of Provisional Approval issued:	16
Qualification Certificates issued:	1

Applications for Qualification Certificates only, the amenities having already been provided:

Applications received:	13
Qualification Certificates issued:	-
Applications refused:	2

Housing Slum Clearance.

Only a small number of unfit houses have been represented for action by the Council, the main housing activity having been directed towards the improvement of existing properties.

More than 1100 house properties have been improved by means of discretionary or standard grants and I am impressed by the general standard of cottage property within the Rural District. House improvement is a slow, laborious process, but the efforts of this Council over the past two decades, in encouraging the restoration of existing cottages, can now claim to be a success story.

Housing Surveys.

Our housing records are now somewhat out-of-date, and in order to rectify this situation, a new housing survey of all dwellinghouses of up to £56 rateable value has been started. By the end of the year, all such houses in the parishes of Stanton St. Quintin and Yatton Keynell had been surveyed, together with most properties in Nettleton parish. This is a continuing survey, which I estimate will take five years to complete.

I have highlighted some of the achievements and objectives of the Department during 1970, and a perusal of the main body of the report will give you a more detailed account of our activities during the year.

Because of my recent illness, a large part of this Annual Report has been prepared by Mr. Howard and other members of the Public Health Department, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation of their help.

It has been a great pleasure to work so closely with Dr. Wray, Medical Officer of Health to the Council, and I am most grateful for his advice and consideration on environmental health problems.

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

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Investigations into complaints of nuisance due to:-									
	premises prejudicial to health								8
	keeping of animals								23
	accumulations or deposits								24
	atmospheric pollution								43
	noise								5
	other causes								49
General inspection of district for nuisances								56
Re-visits concerning nuisances								33
Visits re:-									
	water supplies								69
	sanitary surveys and sewer connections ...								153
	other domestic drainage matters								127
	land drainage								109
	infectious disease								45
	treatment of infested premises								54
Inspections of:-									
	private caravan sites								51
	Council caravan sites								234
	gypsy camps								6
	public conveniences								124
Other public health	calls and re-visits								422

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	9
Re-visits to the above houses	13
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	152
Re-visits to the above houses	84
Houses inspected for overcrowding	--
Houses inspected re improvements	219
Re-visits to the above houses	256
Visits re housing advances	48

Inspections of:-	Number of inspections
bakehouses	3
butchers' shops	10
canteens, cafes, etc.	26
dairies and milk distributors	38
fried fish shops	5
grocers and general stores	66
licensed premises	37
poultry packing stations	168
stalls, vehicles, etc.	4
other food premises	23
Follow-up visits to the above premises	4
Complaints investigated	8
Other Food and Drugs visits and re-visits	48

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:-		
	general inspections	22
	other inspections	37
Factories Act:-		
	visits to factories	17
	visits to outworkers' premises	--
Visits re:-		
	rodent control	48
	litter and abandoned vehicles	359
	refuse and salvage collection	207
	refuse disposal	100
	petroleum licensing	29
Miscellaneous visits		236

Public Health			
Investigations into complaints of nuisances and fire			
8	...	...	premises prohibited to health
23	...	...	keeping of animals
24	...	...	accumulation of refuse
43	...	...	atmospheric pollution
2	...	...	noise
49	...	...	other cases
58	...	...	General inspection of districts for nuisances
13	...	...	Re-visits concerning nuisances
49	...	...	water supplies
173	...	...	sanitary surveys and sewer connections
177	...	...	other domestic drainage matters
109	...	...	land drainage
42	...	...	infected houses
24	...	...	inspection of infected premises
21	...	...	private drainage sites
134	...	...	General drainage sites
2	...	...	sewer maps
124	...	...	public conveniences
422	...	...	Other public health calls and re-visits

Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts			
9	...	...	Re-visits to the above houses
13	...	...	Houses inspected under Housing Acts
123	...	...	Re-visits to the above houses
41	...	...	Houses inspected for overcrowding
219	...	...	Houses inspected as improvements
252	...	...	Re-visits to the above houses
46	...	...	Visits to housing schemes

Food and Drugs

Inspections of:-			
3	...	...	butcher's shops
10	...	...	butcher's shops
26	...	...	confectionery, etc.
39	...	...	drugs and other retailers
2	...	...	food shops
62	...	...	grocers and general stores
17	...	...	licensed premises
169	...	...	public eating places
4	...	...	restaurants, etc.
23	...	...	other food premises
2	...	...	Follow-up visits to the above premises
8	...	...	Complaints investigated
48	...	...	Other Food and Drugs visits and re-visits

General

Offices, Shops and Public Buildings			
23	...	...	General inspections
37	...	...	other inspections
17	...	...	visits to factories
1	...	...	visits to restaurants, premises
48	...	...	schools visited
129	...	...	libraries and children's centres
201	...	...	public and private collections
100	...	...	public displays
29	...	...	public relations
232	...	...	Miscellaneous visits

A. PUBLIC HEALTH - GENERAL.

A1. DRAINAGE.

(a) Sewer Connections.

No new sewers have been completed during the year and work on sewer connections has consisted of dealing with those properties which remained unconnected at the end of last year.

(b) Sampling of Effluents from Sewage Disposal Works.

Examination of effluents from the Council's sewage disposal works is arranged by the Engineer and Surveyor and carried out by the Council's Chemist at the Thingley Sewage Disposal Works.

(c) Land Drainage.

An improvement scheme to stop repeated flooding at The Comedy and Beanhill Farm, Christian Malford, has been prepared by the Land Drainage Officer. Under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1961 the cost of this work will be shared between this Council, the Wilts County Council and the riparian owners. The Contractor will be doing the work early in 1971. A similar scheme has been prepared for the watercourse which flows through East Tytherton village down to the main stream, the Cade Burna, at Catbrook. This followed an investigation by this department into the danger of flooding in the village of East Tytherton. Work is expected to be carried out during the coming year.

Alterations to the drainage and increased stocking of a farmyard at Nettleton led to complaints of pollution of a stream which passes through Nettleton village. As any alternative method of disposal would involve the farmer in enormous cost, he and his neighbour were prevailed upon to clean out the part of the watercourse which passes the affected houses, in the hope that by regular maintenance future complaints might be avoided. At the same time this Council cleaned out and filled in a silted-up pond through which the stream flowed, using pipes supplied by the Wilts County Council for piping the stream.

A2. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

I report with much pleasure the opening of the Council's new public conveniences at Lacock, one of our show villages. The old conveniences were a source of much justified complaint but now we receive only favourable comment and appreciation.

We tried to make everything in the new conveniences as vandal-proof as possible but there has been repeated damage to the liquid soap dispensers. Because of this we have had to discontinue this vital aid to hygiene.

We are still waiting on the re-development of the central area of Corsham for the provision of public conveniences suited to this town. The old conveniences have been maintained very well under difficulties. Here, as at our other conveniences at Box, Castle Combe and Colerne, we are fortunate in having good attendants.

A3. WATER SUPPLIES.

Almost all the water supplied to this 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 the poultry packing station at Sutton Benger.

A3. (a) Adequacy of Supplies.
(continued)

Two properties at Colerne are supplied with water from a hydraulic ram supplying Marshfield, and this ram is wearing out. Notification was received from Sodbury Rural District Council that Bristol Waterworks Company were considering laying a main to replace the local supply, but this would leave the Colerne properties without water as the Water Board are unlikely to be able to supply them. We are now waiting to learn from the Water Board whether or not they can in fact supply these properties if, and when, the main is laid.

No complaints of shortages or deficiencies in supplies were received during the year.

(b) Private Supplies.

Five of the unsatisfactory samples from private supplies were taken from a well, the owner of which was accusing the motorway contractors of polluting the source. No blame was established. The premises served by this well are some way from the main supply but the owner is endeavouring to arrange for them to be connected to it.

(c) Contamination.

The occurrence of suspect samples from mains supplies has, except in the case of Nettleton, not followed any regular pattern and on re-sampling, after notification to the Water Board, samples have been satisfactory.

Reports on samples from Nettleton are not quite as bad as they were last year but this source, which is used as a reserve, is not entirely satisfactory.

(d) Sampling for Bacteriological and Chemical Examination.

Samples of treated water, as supplied to consumers, are taken by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath.

Weekly samples are taken from houses supplied directly from the main sources and from various points to give comprehensive coverage of supplies throughout the district.

The monthly samples are taken from places at the ends of mains or as a check on supply areas between the weekly sampling points.

Untreated water is not sampled by this department, these samples being taken by the North Wilts Water Board. The Water Board also takes its own check samples at consumer supply points.

A summary of the reports on all samples is given in the following sub-sections.

(i) Sampling by the North Wilts Water Board.

The Engineer to the Water Board has kindly supplied the following information.

General.

During the year under review the Board have been able to bring into use the water from the new source at Holt by the installation of temporary plant pending the completion of the new pumping station at this site. The operation of this source has enabled the Board to discontinue using the Bradford source, the quality of which has been considered unsatisfactory. Water from the Holt source, mixed with water from Chippenham sources, has enabled the Board to improve supply conditions in the south-western part of the Board's area. This includes a marked improvement in the supplies to the Kingsdown area.

Bacteriological Examination of Samples
taken from Consumer Supply Points:

During the year, 1,512 samples from consumers' supply points were examined; of these -

1,428 were satisfactory, having coliform counts of less than 1.
43 were reported to have coliform counts of 1-2.
41 had coliform counts of 3 or more.

On the occasions when reports of coliform counts were received from the Laboratory, investigations and repeated samplings were undertaken and continued until satisfactory reports were received.

Bacteriological Examination of
Untreated Water from Sources.

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

594 samples of raw water were submitted.

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

Samples excellent and satisfactory, 89.4%.

Typical Chemical Analyses of Raw Waters.

	Source and Date:				
	Chippenham Borehole:	Redbourne Borehole:	Charlton Borehole:	Calstone Springs:	Widderham Springs:
	15.9.70	17.6.70	19.8.70	18.3.70	2.6.70
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.2
Free CO ₂ (p.p.m.)	30	28	30	45	28
Chloride "	46	42	19	14	20
Hardness: "	355	305	310	325	295
Carbonate "	275	260	255	275	210
Non-Carbonate "	80	45	55	50	85
Nitrate Nitrogen "	1.1	0.7	2.5	3.2	7.6
Nitrite Nitrogen "	0.01	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed "	0.40	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.30
Alb. Nitrogen "	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals "	Absent	Iron 0.08	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride "	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1

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 p.p.m.

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

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.4 to 0.7 p.p.m. in the water obtained from the deep borehole sources in the limestone but it is usually absent in the waters obtained from shallow wells and spring sources.

A3. (continued)

The Board is advised by its Consultant Chemists that none of the waters supplied is plumbo-solvent.

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

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

	Satis- -factory:	Suspect (Non-faecal coliforms present):	Unsatis- -factory (faecal -type coliforms present):
<u>Weekly Samples:</u>			
Bristol Waterworks: Burton	41	2	1
Calstone supply: Theobalds Green	44	2	3
Cherhill " Yatesbury	46	2	-
Chippenham " Bowden Hill	44	1	-
" " Fiveways	47	1	1
Goodshill " Velly Hill	42	-	1
Rodbourne " Stanton St. Quintin	40	2	-
Washwells " Box (Market Place)	41	9	-
Widdenham " Box (Bargates)	46	3	-
Mixed sources: Castle Combe	43	3	-
Christian Malford	47	2	1
Colerne	47	1	-
Corsham (Bath Road)	45	2	-
Hilmarton	42	6	-
Marshfield Reservoir	44	4	-
Nettleton (Horsdown)	34	8	-
West Kingston	45	1	-
<u>Monthly Samples:</u>			
Compton Bassett	9	-	-
Draycot Cerne	11	-	-
East Tytherton	9	-	-
Foxham	10	-	-
Grittleton	25	-	1
Neston	11	-	-
<u>Totals of Samples taken:</u>			
Public supplies	813	49	8
Private supplies	-	1	7

A4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Refuse Collection.

The work study of this service by Consultants allowed the introduction, as from 1st June 1970, of a weekly refuse collection throughout the twenty-four parishes of the Rural District.

This weekly service could not have been achieved without the full support of the Trade Unions and the men engaged in this work, and I would like to thank them for their co-operation.

The scheme introduced is a work-study-based incentive bonus scheme and for increased productivity the men will receive greater financial rewards over and above their basic pay rates.

The introduction of some seventeen new weekly refuse collection routes for the various vehicle crews naturally led to early 'teething troubles' but by the end of 1970 the scheme was running relatively smoothly after modifications to certain of the routes had been agreed.

The official strike in the service, the first that I can recall in thirty-six years of local government service, brought about a complete cancellation of the service from the 19th October until the 7th November. Arrangements were made whereby all local ratepayers could have the facilities of the various refuse tips for the disposal of their refuse, and this worked very well because no serious refuse dumps were formed in any part of the Rural District during the strike period.

Throughout the year, approximately 7,000 tons of refuse were collected and the vehicle fleet covered some 83,000 miles on refuse and salvage collection.

No new refuse vehicles were purchased during 1970, but delivery of a new Michigan Earth-Moving Tractor was accepted in April, the older Michigan machine being retained as a standby and the surplus Matbro Mastiff Minor sold in September.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

All domestic and industrial refuse produced in the Rural District is disposed of by controlled tipping in three quarries situated at Calne Without, Grittleton and Sutton Benger.

Tipping space is becoming most scarce and I estimate that by the end of 1971 the Grittleton and Sutton Benger tips will be completely filled. I have managed to prolong the life of the Grittleton tip by excavating stone and covering material from the unworked area of the quarry and this has produced six months' extended tipping facilities.

(c) Supply of Dustbins.

One hundred large and fourteen small dustbins were sold during 1970. Small dustbins are now unattainable at an economic price for re-sale. The large dustbins now purchased are manufactured from high density polythene and are a very good product.

(d) Civic Amenities Act 1967.

During 1970, fifteen vehicles were dealt with formally under this Act and various others were brought to the Council's tips by members of the public.

The fifteen comprised thirteen cars and vans, one caravan, and a dumper truck. Of these, five were removed from the place of abandonment by their owners and the rest by the Council. One was collected by its owner but in the remaining cases there was insufficient evidence of ownership to take statutory action or recover costs. All saleable vehicles have been sold to help defray expenses.

A5. SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

During 1970, the weight of baled waste paper sold to the mills totalled 305 tons, bringing in a revenue of £2,864, to set against the running costs of this service. This was a reduction of 35 tons on 1969, and the strike of employees could account for most of this reduction.

The sale price of mixed baled waste paper has increased from £8.10.0. to £9.10.0. per ton during the year.

A6. CARAVAN SITES.

(a) Private Sites.

The number of licensed sites in the Rural District reduced during the year to twenty-eight. Of these, some seventeen sites are of long standing, the remainder being licensed for temporary periods.

Besides the sites licensed for residential use there are four sites in the district registered for use by members of the Caravan Club, and at Stanton St. Quintin there is a large site of about thirty caravans used by workers on the M.4 motorway.

Total Number of Current Licences:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Licences</u>	<u>No. of Caravans</u>
Box	4	34
Bremhill	4	4
Chippenham Without	1	1
Christian Malford	2	3
Colerne	3	3
Corsham	2	2
Hilmarton	2	1
Kington Langley	2	2
North Wraxall	1	1
Pewsham	2	2
Stanton St. Quintin	1	1
Sutton Benger	4	4
	<u>28</u>	<u>58</u>

(b) Sites Provided by the Council.

One hundred and seven standings for caravans are maintained by the Council on their sites at Corsham, Yatton Keynell, Sutton Benger and Thickwood, Colerne. The first three sites have been fully-occupied and there is a continuous demand for standings, particularly at Corsham. The waiting list however, is not particularly long and there is no urgent need at the moment for the provision of extra sites.

The private site at Thickwood, Colerne, was taken over by the Council on April 1st 1970 and during the year some £2,500 was expended on improvements to the sanitation, drainage, water supply, roadways, fencing and electricity supply. We acquired a very poor sewerage system and there were some problem families among the licensees, all of which has caused endless difficulties.

I hope that during the coming year we may be able to overcome some, at least, of the difficulties involved, but the site does not lend itself to improvement to model standards.

A7. NUISANCES FROM INTENSIVE FARMING.

Complaints are received periodically from householders, of nuisance from spreading of manure from intensive farming units. This material is usually highly offensive and the smell from it very obnoxious when blown into houses. Residents from Gastard suffer regularly from this.

As with the deep litter from broiler houses, farmers are requested to study weather conditions and wind directions before spreading such material in the vicinity of houses, but even so, a farmer is perhaps slightly careless of wind changes and we receive complaints.

Investigating one particular complaint about spreading of broiler chicken litter, my principle concern was the presence of dead casualty chickens in the litter. I have since asked that care be taken to make sure that all casualties are picked up after the broiler houses have been emptied, and before the contractors move in to clear out the litter with their mechanical shovels.

Marden Farm Pig Experimental Station.

In December I was able to report that the 'lagoon' scheme for the disposal of drainage from this pig farm had been completed and that its operation to date showed it to be a great improvement over the original system, which had given so much cause for complaint.

The lagoon is a large holding system situate at the far corner of the farm, its job being to allow the farm wastes to be collected there until they can be disposed of on the land during suitable weather conditions. No complaints have been received since the completion of the scheme.

A8. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1970 must have been our lowest year on record for infectious disease, twenty-seven enquiries in all being recorded. Enquiries are made into all cases referred to us by the Medical Officer of Health, to see if there is some common factor, or other indication of the possible source of infection. At the same time advice is given on measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection, possibly by excluding the patient from school, or from work if engaged in food handling. When necessary, arrangements are made for the appropriate tests to be made to ensure that the patient is free from infection before returning to work or school.

In the course of an investigation into a case of salmonella food poisoning, it seemed possible that it was contracted from a hot dog stall at a fairground outside this district, but the source could not be conclusively established.

A9. CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 and 1968.

No formal applications for approval of boiler or chimney installations were received during the year, but an application for relaxation of the Building Regulations relating to chimney heights was referred to this Department by the Engineer and Surveyor. Consultations have also been held with the architects for the Leigh Delamere Motorway Service Station concerning the proposed boiler installations.

A10. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades, as defined by Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936, established within this District.

B. FOOD AND DRUGS.

B1. 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	10	10	10	10
Fish-and-Chip Shops	1	1	1	1
Fish and Fruit Shops	4	4	3	3
Grocers and General Stores	66	66	31	31
Licensed Premises	60	60	60	60
Restaurants and Cafes	8	8	8	8
Sweets and Ices Shops	11	11	-	-
Factories and Distributors	2	2	1	1
	169	169	121	121

Poultry Packing Station, Sutton Benger.

During 1970 there were 168 routine visits to the factory to inspect the live and killed chickens, the viscera, portions, rejects, and all preparation and packing processes, plus of course, the general environment.

There were 8,818,556 broiler chickens processed, of which 6821 were rejected, representing a percentage of 0.077. That this percentage remains satisfactorily and consistently low is due to the continuous process of culling throughout all stages of breeding and rearing.

Nevertheless, the frequent visits are fully justified. However good a food factory may be, it needs the regular critical eye of a public health inspector who sees everything there from his trained food hygiene angle, and can get the numerous little but important faults rectified.

The Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967.

This Act came into operation early in 1970, the main provisions being that an electric stunning device must be used in the slaughter of fowls and turkeys unless the birds are slaughtered instantaneously by decapitation or dislocation of their necks. Premises to which the Act apply have to be registered with the local authority.

The Sutton Benger factory has always used electric stunners and the two other registered poultry slaughtering establishments have both installed equipment to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

Licensed Premises.

Last year I mentioned that "The Crown" at Giddeahall was the only licensed premises in the District without waterborne sanitation. This house, with licence, has been bought by a private individual who is carrying out extensive improvements and has now installed septic tank drainage with sufficient public and private sanitary accommodation.

The number of licensed houses in the District remains at 60.

Bakehouses.

There is no change in the number of bakehouses in the District, these being situated at:-

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

Fried Fish Shops.

There is now only one fish-and-chip shop in the District, at Corsham. As I have previously reported, the building is not good but can have only a short life due to redevelopment of the site. Several visits were made and it was found that the business was operated satisfactorily, taking into account the prevailing conditions.

B2. FOOD COMPLAINTS.

A complaint of mouldy sausages bought in this District was investigated, and it was found that the sausages were ten days old when sold. The firm concerned were convicted and fined £25.

On inspection following complaint from the cook, ten boiling fowls supplied to a local school kitchen were found to be decomposing. The suppliers were unable to give any explanation and, on conviction, were fined £10.0.0.

One complainant, who brought in a tin of mushroom savoury to the office was concerned at the rich yellow colour of some of the mushrooms. He was worried in case they were a poisonous variety of fungus. The explanation was that a concentration of permitted colouring matter had occurred in this particular tin.

A complaint of Christmas turkeys which had 'gone off' was looked into. Two birds were involved and both had been delivered to the same house by a grower producing some 2,500 birds annually. This was the only complaint received of the quality of his birds and it was suspected that the fault lay in the conditions under which the purchaser had stored the birds.

A complaint of an unusual scent to sausage rolls supplied to a canteen was investigated. It was found that they were a good quality product, but the baker had packed them in cartons which had contained yeast, the odour of which had permeated the rolls.

B3. CONDEMNED FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were examined by your Public Health Inspectors, found to be unfit, and subsequently surrendered by the owners:-

48 x 8ozs. tins of stewed steak
10 - boiling fowls
32 - game birds
1 x 35ozs. tin of tomatoes
28lbs. of cod fillets
£80 worth of frozen food damaged by a
breakdown of refrigeration machinery.

The game birds, which were in oven-ready packs, had been delayed in transit.

B4. MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Registration.

The number of registered distributors has increased by one. 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 in these premises usually account for the annual fluctuation in the numbers registered.

No. of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of registered distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

The dealers' licences to sell designated milk which have been issued in this district are as follows:-

Designation:

Untreated milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ultra-heat-treated milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The last producer/retailer of milk in this District went out of business during 1970 and the one retailer licensed to sell untreated milk has given up its sale, so although this is a large milk producing area, there is now no retailer of raw milk in the District.

(b) Milk Sampling for Statutory Examination.

Regular samples from distributors licensed in this District are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath.

Monthly samples of raw milk and milk processed outside the County, and quarterly samples of milk heat-treated in Wiltshire, are taken under powers delegated by the County Council.

The reports on these samples were as follows:-

Satisfactory	145
Unsatisfactory	6
Void (shade temperature at Laboratory exceeded prescribed maximum) ...	1

Five of the unsatisfactory samples were of pasteurised milk from a factory outside the County. This factory was closed down shortly after these failures occurred.

(c) Milk Sampling for Biological Examination.

Two sets of samples were taken from churns at the farm of a producer who retailed untreated milk in this area. Neither of these samples showed the presence of tuberculosis or brucella abortus.

(d) Bottle Rinses.

There were no sales of raw milk in bottles during the year, so no samples of washed bottles were necessary.

Bottle rinse samples from the pasteurising plant at Castle Combe are taken regularly by the County public health staff, as this plant is licensed by the County Council.

B5. ICE CREAM.

The standard of hygiene in the eighty-nine premises which are registered for the sale of ice cream has been satisfactory.

Thirty-three samples of ice cream were taken for routine examination, with the following results:-

Grade:

I	23
II	10
III	Nil
IV	Nil

B6. THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in this District.

B7. SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

There are no slaughterhouses in the Rural District, but we have one knackers' yard, at Heddington.

The number of horse carcasses received at this yard during the year totalled nineteen, eight of these having been slaughtered on farms.

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

The anticipated re-building of this yard has not yet been started because of a change in design and siting, but the work is now due to start early in 1971.

C. HOUSING.

C1. HOUSING ACT 1969: HOUSING SURVEY.

Pressure of other work, particularly in connection with the introduction of the new refuse collection service, has curtailed the time available for this work. Survey of the Parish of Yatton Keynell has been completed during the year, and that of Nettleton is almost complete.

C2. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

There is only one property in this District, at Pickwick Road, Corshan, known to be in multiple occupation.

C3. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

C4. HOUSING STATISTICS.

(a) Number of Dwellings in the District:

No. of inhabited houses (as at 31st March 1970)	...	...	8,989
" " Council dwellings (as at 31st December 1970)	...	...	2,039
" " temporary Council dwellings (as at 31st December 1970)	...	...	63

(b) Proceedings under Housing Acts:

Houses inspected for fitness	...	...	152
No. reported as unfit for human habitation	...	...	8
Notices served requiring defects to be remedied (Secs.9,10)	...	...	-
Houses made fit after service of formal notices:-			
(i) by owners	...	...	6
(ii) by local authority in default of owners	...	...	-
Houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	...	16
Demolition Orders made (Sec.16)	...	...	-
Houses demolished	...	...	4
War-time bungalows demolished by the Council	...	...	70
Undertakings not to re-let accepted (Sec.16)	...	...	-
Undertakings to make fit accepted (Sec.16)	...	...	1
Undertakings to make fit complied with	...	...	-
Closing Orders made (Secs.17,18)	...	...	-
Houses closed	...	...	4
Closing Order revoked, house made fit (Sec.27)	...	...	3
Cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	...	...	-
" " " abated	...	...	-

(c) Improvement Grants - Standard:

		1969	1970
Applications received	... (no. of houses)	35	25
" approved:-	(")		
(i) owner/occupied property	(")	25	11
(ii) other	(")	8	15
No. of houses improved	...	30	34
Amount of grants paid	...	£ 4,639	£ 7,766

(d) <u>Improvement Grants - Discretionary:</u>		1969	1970
Applications received for conversions (no. of houses)		-	4
" " " improvements (")		41	76
Approvals for conversion of:-			
(i) owner/occupied property	... (")	-	1
(ii) other	" ... (")	-	2
Approvals for improvement of:-			
(i) owner/occupied property	... (")	24	41
(ii) other	" ... (")	13	31
No. of dwellings provided or improved		38	32
Amount of grants paid		£ 13,992	£ 19,257

D. FACTORIES, OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

D1. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

Only three accidents were reported during 1970, none of which was serious. Enquiries are made into all reported accidents, however minor, as discussion with the employer and employee concerned may reveal a means of preventing a similar occurrence in the future, and any knowledge gained can often be usefully passed on to other employers.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total no. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year
Offices	1	34	5
Retail shops	3	66	12
Wholesale shops and warehouses	2	4	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	18	3
Fuel storage depots	-	3	-
Totals:	6	125	22

The total number of visits of all kinds by Public Health Inspectors to registered premises during 1970 was fifty-seven.

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

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	285
Retail shops	221
Wholesale departments, warehouses	66
Catering establishments open to public	104
Canteens	3
Fuel storage depots	17
Total:	696
Total males:	334
Total females:	362

(c) Exemptions.

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

(d) Contraventions.

	Found:	Remedied:
Sec. 4: Cleanliness	-	-
" 5: Overcrowding	-	-
" 6: Temperature	-	-
" 7: Ventilation	-	-
" 8: Lighting	-	-
" 9: Sanitary conveniences	-	-
" 10: Washing facilities	-	-
" 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	1	1
" 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	5	5
Information for Employees Regulations 1965	-	-
Totals:	7	8
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

D2. FACTORIES ACT 1961.

There are eighty-seven registered factories, seven of which are on Crown property and are 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	80	16*	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	1	-	-
Totals:	86	17	-	-

* 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.

No defects were found and none was reported to us by the Factories Inspectorate.

(c) Outworkers.

Notification has been received from other authorities of seven outworkers resident in this district, all engaged on glove-making.

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

I set out below the details of an annual return sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The figures referred to in paragraphs 2(a), 2(b), 3(a) and 3(b) represent the number of individual premises visited in connection with rodent infestation complaints, and do not include subsequent re-visits.

(a) Inspection of Properties other than Sewers.

	Type of Property:-	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1: No. of properties in the District	9658	1057
2(a): Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification:	254	35
(b): No. infested by:- (i) Rats	101	32
(ii) Mice	55	6
3(a): Total no. of properties inspected on routine surveys:	305	181
(b): No. infested by:- (i) Rats	64	69
(ii) Mice	6	9

(b) Sewer Test-Baiting and Treatment.

Ten per cent of all the manholes on public sewers have been test-baited, the only takes recorded being at Northleaze Caravan Site, where there are probably a number of disused connections left from when the wartime huts were demolished. This area received a follow-up treatment and on re-testing was found to be clear.

(c) Prevention of Infestation.

Prevention of infestation is in many ways more important, and in the long run can be much cheaper, than killing off an established colony of rats.

One particular example of this was found at a pig farm where the farmer had sited his sties close to a hedge and ditch and could not have made more comfortable conditions for the rats if he had set out to breed them instead of pigs. This farmer is now keeping down his rats but it is a much more difficult and expensive job than it need have been.

F. MISCELLANEOUS.

F1. PETROLEUM LICENSING.

At the end of the year there were 146 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum.

F2. DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957.

Two licences for swill boiling plants were given up during the year and one new licence was issued, making a total of five current at the end of the year. All plants have been visited during 1970.

F3. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

Seven premises were licensed during 1970. All have been visited and no contraventions of the Act were found.

F4. SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT 1964.

There were twenty registered scrap metal dealers in the District at the end of the year, as in 1969.

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