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Contributors

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I
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1971



CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1971



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MEMBERS OF THE CAINE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

- * Bailey, W.S.R.
- * Beale, Mrs.J.S.
- * Beard, A.S.M.
- * Bowers, Mrs.S.
- (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.
- Gunning, A.E.
- Henly, R.T.
- Hibberd, R.G.
- Holman, W.T.
- * Iles, Mrs.E.D.
- Jackson, A.S.R.
- * King, K.G.
- Lavelle, J.P.
- * Light, W.J. (Chairman of Council)
- MacCarthy, Lt.Col.J.H.
- Merry, Mrs.K.J.
- * Payne, J.A.
- * Pinker, A.A.
- * Prior, W.P.
- Sapsford, L.
- Shaw, H.E.
- (1) Shelburne, Earl of. (Vice-Chairman of Council)
- * Smith, F.Halliburton
- * Spackman, E.S.
- * Steggall, 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.

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MEMBERS OF THE CALISE AND CHITTEHAM HUNAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

- * Bailey, W.S.R.
- * Bais, Mrs. J.S.
- * Bais, A.S.M.
- * Bowers, Mrs. S.
- (2) Bright, J.
- * Chestnut, Lt. Col. A.E.B.
- * Clackson, Mrs. J.
- * Cook, J.C.
- * Cusack, W.J.
- * Dove, E.R.
- * Edwards, E.R.B.
- * Patterson-Godley, Mrs. P.
- * Field, G.E.J.
- * Flint, H.J.
- * Fisher, Mrs. C.H.
- * Gale, E.W.
- * Gardner, A.E.B.
- * Gunning, A.E.
- * Hall, R.E.
- * Hibbert, R.G.
- * Holman, W.E.
- * Isaac, Mrs. E.H.
- * Jackson, A.S.B.
- * King, E.S.
- * Lavelle, J.P.
- * Light, W.J. (Chairman of Council)
- * MacGregor, Lt. Col. J.S.
- * Murray, Mrs. K.J.
- * Payne, J.A.
- * Pinner, A.A.
- * Fisher, V.P.
- * Spalding, J.
- * Shaw, E.E.
- (1) Shawcross, Earl of. (Vice-Chairman of Council)
- * Smith, P. H. H. H. H.
- * Spedman, E.S.
- * Stegall, E.L.
- * Thomas, G.W.
- * Troy-Bless, C.
- * Wall, Mrs. S.M.
- * Young, E.

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

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

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

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

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

Public Health Committee.
Housing Committee.
Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee.

These Committees meet six-weekly 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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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH:

John A. Wiley, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.P.H.

Offices: Municipal Offices,

Madison Park,

Philadelphia.

Tel. No. 2821. Philadelphia 2821.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:

boroughs of Calne, Philadelphia and Haverhill,

and the

Local District of Haverhill.

Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council.

Local 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.B.B.S.

Offices: Bowley House,

Marshall Road,

Philadelphia.

Tel. No. 2824. Philadelphia 2824.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

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

E. J. Winter, M.A.P.H.I.

S. 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 six-weekly throughout the year, except during August, and deal with all matters pertaining to Public Health and Housing.

Local Health 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 1971.

In view of re-organisation of local government and the
health services, this will probably be the penultimate report of
your Medical Officer of Health. The Report of the Working Party
on Medical Administrators (Chairman: Dr.R.B.Hunter), which has
recently been published, recommends that there should be a
"District Community Physician" employed by the National Health
Service, but that by mutual agreement between the local government
District Authority and the local Area Health Authority one of these
"Community Physicians" should be appointed as adviser on
environmental hygiene and communicable disease control to the
District Council, and "...be directly accountable to it for these
matters..".

On the previous page you may have noticed the addition
of the initials 'M.F.C.M.' after my name: this is because I have
been elected a member of the recently-formed Faculty of Community
Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Physicians.

The vital statistics for the year were generally
favourable, and there was a low incidence of infectious disease.

I should like to thank the Council and its Officers for
their support 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
Caine and O'Connell Health Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the
Year 1971.

In view of re-organisation of local government and the
health services, this will probably be the penultimate report of
your Medical Officer of Health. The Report of the Working Party
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their support and interest during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. WATKINS

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	85,388
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	39,810
Number of inhabited houses, as at 1st April 1971... ..	9,045
Number of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1971...	2,015 permanent 57 temporary
Number of applicants for Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1971...	385
Rateable Value, as at 1st April 1971	£ 1,040,767
Estimated Penny Rate for 1971/2	£ 9,840

The drop in number of permanent Council dwellings is due to sales to tenants.

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>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	18.7	20.0	10.4	12.1
Wiltshire	17.2	17.4	10.7	10.5
England and Wales	16.0	16.0	11.7	11.6

* 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	280	235	515
Illegitimate	21	15	36
Totals:	<u>301</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>551</u>

20. STILL BIRTHS AND PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Seven still births were notified during 1971, an increase of one over the total notified during 1970. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is thirteen. The rate for England and Wales, as given by the Registrar-General, is twelve.

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

21. INFANT MORTALITY.

	Male:	Female:	Totals:
Under one year	4	6	10
Under four weeks	2	3	5
Under one week	2	3	5
Infant Mortality Rate for the District ...	18 per 1000 live births.		
Comparative Rate for England and Wales ...	18 per 1000 live births.		

22. DEATHS: ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male:	Female:	Totals:
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases ...	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc. ...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, larynx... ..	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	1	17
Malignant neoplasm, breast... ..	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus... ..	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	3	8	11
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes mellitus	1	2	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1
Multiple sclerosis	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	3	-	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease... ..	2	3	5
Hypertensive disease	1	2	3
Ischaemic heart disease	51	30	81
Other forms of heart disease	8	7	15
Cerebrovascular disease	23	21	44
Other diseases of circulatory system... ..	8	7	15
Pneumonia	8	13	21
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	-	4
Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	-	2	2
Peptic ulcer	-	3	3
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	3	2	5
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	9	1	10
All other accidents	4	3	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	2	4
Totals:	164	121	285

2f. DEATHS: BY AGE GROUPS.

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
<u>Under 4 weeks:</u>			
Other forms of heart disease	-	1	
Congenital anomalies... ..	1	2	
Birth injury, difficult labour etc. ...	1	-	
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	5
<u>4 weeks and under 1 year:</u>			
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	-	
Pneumonia	-	1	
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	
Congenital anomalies... ..	1	-	
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	5
<u>1 - 4 years:</u>			
All other accidents	1	-	
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	1
<u>5 - 14 years:</u>			
Congenital anomalies... ..	1	-	
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	
All other accidents	1	-	
	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	4
<u>15 - 24 years:</u>			
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	
	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	3
<u>25 - 34 years:</u>			
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries...	1	-	
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	3
<u>35 - 44 years:</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	
Other malignant neoplasms... ..	1	-	
Ischaemic heart disease	1	-	
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	5
<u>45 - 54 years:</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	-	
Other malignant neoplasms... ..	-	1	
Hypertensive disease... ..	-	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	6	-	
Cerebrovascular disease	1	1	
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1	
All other accidents	1	-	
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries...	-	1	
	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	18
<u>55 - 64 years:</u>			
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	4	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	-	
Other malignant neoplasms... ..	1	2	
	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	
Carried forward:	10	5	

55 - 64 years (continued)...

Brought forward:	10	5	
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	-	
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	1	1	
Ischaemic heart disease ...	14	2	
Other forms of heart disease ...	2	-	
Cerebrovascular disease ...	4	3	
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	-	
Pneumonia...	-	4	
Bronchitis and emphysema...	1	-	
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	-	
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	-	
All other accidents	1	-	
	37	15	52

65 - 74 years:

Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity...	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, intestine...	1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, larynx ...	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	5	1	
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	1	
Other malignant neoplasms ...	-	3	
Diabetes mellitus ...	-	2	
Multiple sclerosis ...	-	1	
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	-	
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	1	2	
Hypertensive disease ...	1	-	
Ischaemic heart disease ...	19	9	
Other forms of heart disease ...	3	-	
Cerebrovascular disease ...	6	10	
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	-	
Pneumonia...	-	2	
Bronchitis and emphysema...	2	-	
Peptic ulcer ...	-	1	
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	
	46	34	80

75 years and over:

Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, intestine...	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	3	-	
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	1	
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ...	1	-	
Other malignant neoplasms ...	1	2	
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	1	
Diabetes mellitus ...	1	-	
Hypertensive disease ...	-	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	11	19	
Other forms of heart disease ...	3	6	
Cerebrovascular disease ...	12	7	
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	7	
Pneumonia...	8	6	
Bronchitis and emphysema...	1	-	
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	
Peptic ulcer ...	-	2	
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	-	1	
Other diseases of digestive system...	2	-	
All other accidents...	-	3	
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1	
	50	59	109

There was an increase in the total number of deaths for the year from 262 in 1970, to 285 in 1971. Due to the Census figures, the population of the Rural District was found to be 1,880 less than was estimated the previous year. These two factors taken together produced a rise in the standardised death rate for the year. However, there were nearly twice as many live births as deaths, giving a standardised live birth rate of 20.0 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the rate for England and Wales of 16.0 per 1,000.

The main cause of death was again ischaemic (coronary) heart disease. The total rose from 56 in 1970 to 81 in 1971. One man died from this cause very young (in the age group 35-44 years), and six died in the age group 45-54 years. Of the male deaths in 1971, 31.1 per cent were due to this cause. The disease occurs from a combination of factors due to our modern way of life, and can occur suddenly without warning, so the following advice might be found useful to avoid this end:

- (1) Those with a family history of the disease should be especially careful to avoid smoking and should stop becoming overweight.
- (2) Avoidance of prolonged stress - short periods of mental stress are unavoidable (such as a family crisis, or having to change one's job) and these are not necessarily harmful, but one should try and get a job (if that is possible in these days of unemployment) which suits one's temperament and intellectual ability. For example, a far greater percentage of 'bus drivers in London die from ischaemic heart disease than do 'bus conductors. I suspect (although I do not see how one could do a retrospective survey to prove it) that the 'bus drivers who survive to a ripe old age are phlegmatic characters who do gardening or some other regular exercise in their spare time.

Another example of prolonged job stress is the over-ambitious man who accepts a promotion or takes on a job that is really beyond his capabilities. Hard work, physical or mental, hurts no-one as long as they know they can cope with it, in fact some people feel stress if their capabilities are under-employed.

Most people need some time to relax each day, but with modern life this becomes increasingly difficult; more hire-purchase (must have a colour T.V.!) means the wife goes out to work and the husband has to help with the housework, or else he takes a second job in the evenings to get the extra money. Then the soaring cost of services means everything is "do-it-yourself" these days. This used to mean mowing the lawn or occasional home decorating, but more and more is being added - self-service of the car, adding a home extension, etc., etc. If the husband is a natural handyman this is fine - it may be a relaxing hobby for him - but if he is not, this extra "do-it-yourself" to keep up with the Jones may be a contributing factor in heart attacks. This does not include regular exercise such as mowing the lawn, but only "fiddly" or over-ambitious jobs.

- (3) Avoidance of smoking - the latest report by the Royal College of Physicians has shown that smoking is a definite causative factor in ischaemic heart disease.

- (4) Diet - there is continuing controversy over what are the exact factors that are of importance - suggestions have been made that it is better to eat more vegetable fat and less animal fat, that too much sugar and "refined" foods are bad (e.g. brown bread is better than white) but what is generally agreed is that it is dangerous for the middle-aged to become overweight - they should either eat less high calorie food or take more regular exercise. High calorie

(cont'd.)

foods are sugar, starch, fat, and alcohol. Food that is better is lean meat, fish, poultry, vegetables, and fruit.

(5) Regular exercise - when you run, or climb a long flight of stairs, the rate at which the heart beats goes up from the average of around 80 beats per minute to about 120 or more beats per minute. In the healthy person, when you stop and rest the heart rate drops back to its normal rate in about one or two minutes - if the heart or lungs are out of condition, it takes much longer. Regular exercise is good for the heart, but as people get older they must avoid sudden extreme exertion which they are not used to doing regularly. For example, I knew one elderly man who died of a heart attack when dancing the 'Twist' too energetically.

You will note from the tables showing death by age groups that although less women die of ischaemic heart disease than men, they do die from this disease, in a much older age group. For example, in the group of 75 years and over, nineteen women died from this cause and only eleven men. I have suggested in previous annual reports that this is not due to the physiological difference between the sexes, but because most women continue to do regular housework until they are at least seventy years old, or more.

Finally, the motor car may be more of a modern killer than road accident statistics suggest, because the sedentary worker who drives to work every day and never walks anywhere may not get enough exercise during the day to keep his heart in good condition.

The next biggest cause of death was various forms of cancer (50 deaths), with cancer of the lung predominating, with a total of 17 deaths. Health education is carried out regularly in Wiltshire schools to advise pupils of the dangers of smoking.

There was an unfortunate rise in the number of deaths from motor vehicle accidents, from two in 1970 to ten in 1971. Although all of these involved people whose homes are in the Rural District, the accidents might have occurred anywhere in England or Wales.

3. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

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

	1968		1969		1970		1971	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Tuberculosis	2	2	4	4	7	7	4	4
Scarlet Fever	2	2	4	4	4	4	3	3
Whooping Cough	5	5	-	-	10	10	15	15
Measles	45	45	138	138	129	129	59	59
Dysentery	31	31	9	7	2	2	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Salmonella Infections	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	3
Food Poisoning	2	-	4	-	-	-	2	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	4	35	35	22	22	8	8
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals:	93	91	195	189	178	178	96	94

(a) = Numbers originally notified.
(b) = Final numbers, after correction.

In July 1971 the Spanish health authorities notified the World Health Organisation of seven cases of cholera in Zaragoza, and later, on the 7th September 1971, Spain notified the World Health Organisation of six cases of cholera in Barcelona Province and eight cases in Valencia Province. On the 20th September 1971 the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health informed us that two British travellers had developed cholera after returning from holiday in Spain. On the 17th September 1971 airports started notifying me of travellers returning from cholera-infected areas in Spain to homes in this area, who were without valid cholera certificates.

In October there was an outbreak of cholera in Lisbon, Portugal, and we were notified of travellers from there. All the people involved were visited by health inspectors and specimens were taken from those with diarrhoea. No cases of cholera were found, but two returning travellers to North Wiltshire were found to be suffering from a salmonella food poisoning infection.

The Infectious Diseases Regulations 1968 enable me to place restrictions on food handlers suffering from suspected enteric diseases but only those diseases specified in Schedule 5 of the Regulations, which, by not mentioning cholera, specifically excludes it. I immediately took up this point with the British Medical Association and learnt later that they were recommending to the Department of Health that cholera should be specifically included in these Regulations.

(a) Tuberculosis.

Four cases were notified during the year. In each case a health inspector visits the home and reports on the sanitary circumstances. The Chest Physician, helped by health visitors of the County Council, check on the family and all contacts. All schoolchildren at secondary school are offered B.C.G. immunisation, which protects against tuberculosis.

(b) Whooping Cough.

Fifteen cases of whooping cough were notified, of which twelve were from Colerne.

(c) Measles.

This was a non-epidemic year with only 59 cases reported. Immunisation is offered to all children in their second year of life.

(d) Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

One case of meningococcal meningitis in a child was reported.

(e) Salmonella and other Food Poisoning.

In two cases of suspected food poisoning, no cause could be found. There were three isolated cases of salmonella infection: in two cases the source of infection was probably farm animals, and in the other case the person concerned had just returned from a holiday in Spain.

(f) Infective Hepatitis.

The outbreak of this virus disease that started in 1969 (with 35 cases notified) now appears to have come to an end as only eight cases were notified during 1971, and at the time of writing this report (the end of May 1972), no cases have been reported in 1972. During an outbreak the virus becomes widely spread throughout the community and most people gain immunity (or get this immunity reinforced) by a small dose of germs that does not make them ill.

3.
(cont'd.)

(g) Leptospirosis.

This disease only became notifiable since 1968, and 1971 was the first year for a case to be notified. This disease is commonly spread by rats who, when infected, pass the germ in their urine. The germ can stay alive for a short time in sewage or streams or puddles of water on the farm. It can enter the skin of a human being through a small cut or abrasion, so the persons most at risk of picking up this infection are sewer workers, farm workers, or people who bathe in infected streams.

A rarer form of the disease is occasionally found in dogs or farm animals, but this is quickly diagnosed by the Veterinary Surgeons who warn the owners (and also let the Medical Officer of Health know). The case reported was in a farmer, and as there were no sick animals on the farm the health department carried out a widespread campaign against rats in the area.

(h) Immunisation.

I am grateful to Dr.C.D.L.Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following immunisation statistics for the Rural District carried out in 1971:-

	Children born in years:-							
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1962 to 1966	1956 to 1961	Others under 16
<u>Primary Immunisations completed during 1971:</u>								
Diphtheria	185	212	13	6	1	11	4	-
Whooping Cough	182	211	13	3	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	185	213	13	6	1	15	29	-
Measles	-	263	48	21	21	41	4	-
Poliomyelitis	185	216	18	5	4	9	5	-
<u>Reinforcing Immunisations given in 1971:</u>								
Diphtheria	1	104	156	23	116	103	8	-
Whooping Cough	-	83	123	15	7	17	-	-
Tetanus	2	104	155	26	119	130	59	-
Poliomyelitis	-	103	147	21	112	127	12	-

Age Group:-	Months:				Years:		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
* Smallpox Vaccinations	-	-	-	1	101	126	3
Smallpox Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	5	48

* Vaccination discontinued as a routine measure for early childhood in September 1971.

4. WATER SUPPLIES.

The Health Department take regular samples from consumers' supply points throughout the district for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory in Bath. They also test for residual chlorine in the water. I receive copies of the Public Analyst's reports on the water from all sources, showing that it does not contain any trace of poisonous metals, and also that it does not dissolve the lead in lead pipes. It is only a certain type of soft water that dissolves lead from lead pipes and we are fortunate that the water in this area is comparatively hard. People may complain that hard water uses more soap, but there is now good evidence that hard waters are healthier than soft waters. A summary of the facts is given in an article by A.N.Howard in the April 1972 medical journal entitled "Modern Geriatrics" - some of this is worth quoting in full:-

"... In the United Kingdom, Crawford and her colleagues showed that in 61 County Boroughs of England and Wales with a population of over 80,000 in 1961, the harder the local drinking water and the more calcium it contained, the lower was the death rate in middle and early old age; this was particularly so for cardiovascular mortality. Chemical studies of trace elements in water from consumers' taps showed none at a concentration which could be considered toxic, either in towns with very soft or very hard water.

"... The death rates in Glasgow for cardiovascular disease are about the highest in Britain (654 per 100,000 for people aged 45-64 years) and the city has a very soft water supply. Greater London has a very hard drinking water and similar deaths (440 per 100,000) are approximately two-thirds of those in Glasgow.

"... Probably the most interesting report is that provided by Robertson, who has studied the rise in death rate from cardiovascular disease over the last seven years in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, where the water supply was artificially softened. Nearby Grimsby has exactly the same water supply, but unsoftened. Scunthorpe has 27% more deaths than Grimsby. Moreover, while death rates are still rising in Scunthorpe, they are falling slightly in Grimsby. The local water board have taken the unusual step of doubling the calcium content of the town's water supply and have given up using the water softener.

"... There is no clear evidence as yet as to what is present or missing in soft water that makes it deleterious. ..."

I am grateful for the following report by the Chief Engineer of the North Wilts Water Board, Mr.R.Farrage:-

Development.

During the year under review the Board's new borehole at Holt has been developed and a pumping station constructed. This station is now in operation. A further production borehole has been successfully drilled to the south of Holt village which, together with the first borehole, has been licensed for abstraction of water up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.g.d.

Further trial boreholes have been sunk near Market Lavington, and a production borehole has been drilled at Easterton.

Work on a production borehole at Lacock is in progress.

Consumption.

	1970	1971
Average daily consumption in million gallons	8.76	9.44
Metered supplies	3.08	3.29
Unmetered supplies	5.68	6.15

Despite the ever-increasing demand for water, the Board is still meeting this demand with some reserves.

Bacteriological Examination of Water.

(a) Samples taken from consumers' supply points:

During the year, 1,330 samples from consumers' supply points were examined; of these:-

1,241 were satisfactory, having coliform counts of less than 1
49 were reported to have coliform counts of 1-2
40 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.

(b) Samples taken from sources:

775 samples of water from sources were submitted for examination, 280 samples before treatment was applied to the water, and 495 samples after the water had been treated:-

Samples of water before treatment:

280 samples were submitted:

Excellent:	Coliform count of less than 1	...	...	154
Satisfactory:	" " " 1-3	...	...	80
Suspicious:	" " " 4-10	...	...	21
Unsatisfactory:	" " " more than 10	...	...	25

Samples excellent and satisfactory: 83.6%.

Samples of water after treatment:

495 samples were submitted:

Excellent:	Coliform count of less than 1	...	...	469
Satisfactory:	" " " 1-3	...	...	18
Suspicious:	" " " 4-10	...	...	4
Unsatisfactory:	" " " more than 10	...	...	4

Samples excellent and satisfactory: 98.4%.

(c) Typical Analysis of Raw Waters.

Chlorination of all sources is practised with the aim of obtaining chlorine residuals at all consumers' points of supply of between 0.1 and 0.3 parts per million.

The 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 by Mr. Gordon Miles, the Principal of these Laboratories.

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.38 to 0.75 p.p.m. in the water obtained from the deep borehole sources in the limestone but it is usually absent in the waters obtained from shallow wells and spring sources. The Board is advised by its Consultant Chemists that none of the waters supplied is plumbo-solvent.

(c) Typical Analysis of Raw Waters (continued)...

		Source and Date:-				
		Chippenham	Rodbourne	Charlton	Calstone	Widdenhamp
		Borehole	Borehole	Borehole	Springs	Springs
		25.8.71	22.9.71	21.7.71	16.2.72	18.5.71
Colour		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH		7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4
Free CO ₂	(p.p.m.)	32	25	26	29	19
Chloride	"	35	40	18	15	33
Hardness:	"	320	285	310	335	300
Carbonate	"	255	250	260	275	215
Non-Carbonate	"	65	35	50	50	85
Nitrate Nitrogen	"	0.3	0.6	2.6	3.6	3.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	"	0.01	Absent	0.01	Absent	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed	"	0.30	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.40
Alb. Nitrogen	"	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iron	"	0.10	0.03	0.04	Absent	0.05
Zinc	"	Absent	0.04	Absent	Absent	Absent
Other Metals	"	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	"	0.75	9.63	0.38	0.1	0.2

5. SEWERAGE.

I am grateful for the following information from Mr.W.Langley Jones. I requested him to include projected schemes, because with the re-organisation of local government I consider these schemes should be carried through (whoever at the time is the responsible authority) in the best interests of public health.

Sewerage Schemes.

During the financial year 1971/2, work has proceeded on two major schemes as follows:-

(a) Corsham Sewerage Scheme, Stage I.

This involved the reconstruction of the aeration plant at the main works and includes the provision of a de-watering plant for sludge and two storm tanks. Relief sewers have also been constructed in the town area to alleviate flooding problems that occurred in very wet weather. The total cost of this stage of the scheme is approximately £120,000.

(b) Stanton Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme includes the drainage of:-

- The motorway service area at Leigh Delamere.
- The Stanton villages.
- The flow from the Royal Air Force establishment at Hullavington which previously discharged to the Royal Air Force works at Lower Stanton; this works has now been closed.

Foul water drainage from most of the settlements and villages in the north and north-eastern areas of the District are now treated at a single sewage works at Sutton Benger, with the effluent outfall to the River Avon.

The Stanton scheme has cost approximately £139,000 and substantial contributions to these costs have been made by the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Burton Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme is now virtually complete and provides main drainage to the village with sewage treatment at a "package" type aeration plant. The approximate cost is £19,000.

1972/3:

(a) South-Eastern Drainage Area.

The contract has now commenced for the provision of foul water sewers in the settlements and villages of Heddington, Calne Without, Compton Bassett and Cherhill parishes.

The sewers will all drain to an existing sewage works at Compton Bassett, which the District Council have purchased from the Ministry of Defence. This scheme will cost approximately £337,000 and is due for completion in the autumn of 1973.

(b) Notton and Bowden Hill Sewerage Scheme.

The estimated cost of this scheme is £84,000.

(c) Langley Burrell Village.

The estimated cost of this scheme is £36,000.

(d) Pewsham Sewerage Extension.

The estimated cost of this extension is £15,000.

(e) Sutton Penger Sewerage Works.

The cost of the de-watering plant for sludge treatment is £30,000.

These schemes are in the design stage and are programmed to be carried out or commenced during the financial year 1973/4.

1973/4:

Schemes of drainage for:

- (a) Bremhill village,
- (b) North-western drainage area,

are expected to be designed during the above financial year and carried out during 1974/5.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS.

These are dealt with fully in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector herewith.

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 1971.

Construction of the M.4 Motorway.

Hundreds of local people heaved a sigh of relief when the
section of this motorway from Tormarton to Stanton St.Quintin roundabout
was declared open in June, followed by the second section - from
Stanton St.Quintin to the other side of Swindon - in December.

Not only did the opening of this motorway syphon off the
heavy traffic from the A.4 and once more restore the pleasure of
travelling from Chippenham to the Beckhampton boundary of the District,
but it also, I am sure, contributed to a reduction of noise levels
through the Cherhill, Studley and Pewsham areas.

The normal peaceful atmosphere of the villages in the north-west
areas of the Rural District, including Grittleton, Leigh Delamere,
Kington St.Michael and Stanton St.Quintin has also been restored, with
the disappearance of the heavy motor lorries taking construction materials
to the motorway.

Whilst this department has been concerned only with fringe
activities in connection with the motorway construction, it has been
intimately concerned with the establishment of the Leigh Delamere Service
Station, including the petrol filling stations and catering facilities.

The petrol filling stations were completed towards the end of
1971, and are to be officially opened in January 1972.

The two restaurants are well under construction and planned to
be operational in March 1972.

I became involved in the arrangements for the collection and
disposal of commercial refuse from these premises which, because of their
size and volume of business, require more than a weekly refuse collection.
The final arrangements for this service will be settled early in 1972.
but it is anticipated that at least three collections per week will be
necessary and contributions over and above the rates for the establishment
will have to be paid by the Company.

The architectural concept for this development is most pleasing
and fits in well with the Leigh Delamere environment, and the facilities
will be of the highest possible standard, but when the restaurants are
opened to the public this department will be much involved in ensuring
that the running of the catering service is on sound hygienic principles.

REPORT of the CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

to the Chairman and Members of the
Caine and Chipman Rural District Council.

I have the honor to present my contribution to the Annual
Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1931.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE M.A. MOTORWAY.

Work on the M.A. motorway has been a right of relief when the
section of this motorway from Thornton to Stanton St. Quintin roadstead
was declared open in June, followed by the second section - from
Stanton St. Quintin to the other side of Swindon - in December.

Was only the opening of this motorway opened off the
heavy traffic from the A.4 and once more restore the district
traveling from Chipman to the Buckingham boundary of the district,
but it also, I am sure, contributed to a reduction of noise levels
through the Cheshill, Studley and Bowden areas.

The normal peaceful atmosphere of the villages in the north-west
area of the Rural District, including Crickley, Litch Delamere,
Kington St. Michael and Stanton St. Quintin has also been restored, with
the disappearance of the heavy motor traffic being construction materials
to the motorway.

While this department has been concerned only with taking
activities in connection with the motorway construction, it has been
intimately connected with the establishment of the Litch Delamere Service
Station, including the petrol filling stations and catering facilities.

The petrol filling stations were completed towards the end of
1931, and are to be officially opened in January 1932.

The two restaurants are well under construction and planned to
be operational in March 1932.

I became involved in the arrangements for the collection and
disposal of commercial refuse from these premises which, because of their
size and volume of business, require more than a weekly refuse collection.
The final arrangements for this service will be settled early in 1932.
but it is anticipated that at least three collections per week will be
necessary and contributions over and above the rates for the establishment
will have to be paid by the Corporation.

The architectural concept for this development is most pleasing
and fits in well with the Litch Delamere environment, and the facilities
will be of the highest possible standard, but when the restaurants are
opened to the public this department will be much involved in ensuring
that the running of the catering service is on sound hygienic principles.

Housing Improvement.

A fairly detailed statement on improvement grant work is included in the body of this report.

I would however, like to comment on the continued rising cost of improvement work and the spectacular rise in the selling prices of cottage property in the Rural District.

A year or so ago it was reasonably possible to acquire an average cottage with possibilities for improvement, for something in the region of £2,500 to £3,000; today these cottages are being purchased for £5,000 plus. The better type of country cottage can realise as much as £8,500 to £10,000.

Building costs too, are rising, and the discretionary grants issued for the eighty-one applications approved in 1971 averaged £865, compared with a figure of £735 in 1970 - an increase of 17.6%.

Litter.

The Dangerous Litter Act 1971 came into effect in June. The effect of Sub-section 1 of Section 1 of the Act is to increase the original maximum fine of £10 under the Litter Act 1958, to £100. The Act directs Courts, when fixing a penalty after conviction, to have regard not only to the question of defacement by litter, but also to the nature of the litter and any resulting risk of injury to persons or animals or of damage to property.

It is too early to determine whether the higher penalty of £100 will lead to a diminution of the amount of litter scattered throughout the towns and countryside. No immediate improvement is apparent and until a number of maximum fines for these offences have been imposed I can see the unsatisfactory "don't care" attitude of the general public towards litter continuing.

Several instances of the dumping of litter in this District have been reported to the Police, with evidence of names and addresses of the depositor, but unless the people concerned are actually seen depositing the litter, or a written statement confirming the offence can be obtained, a prosecution cannot be instituted.

A more troublesome form of litter is created by persons "fly-tipping" on waste land, or by breaking into our refuse tips, mostly at weekends, and by the unauthorised creation of dumps in out-of-the-way places.

There is a particular problem concerning the disposal of bulk material such as building rubble, stiff clay from excavations, sewage sludge and detritus. Now that such materials cannot be accepted at the Council's refuse tips, I know of two areas only where this material can be deposited, namely at Wadswick Quarry and at Lower Seagry Gravel Works.

Litter, refuse collection and disposal, conservation, pollution, and the Civic Amenities Act are all inextricably bound together. There is a rapidly growing awareness amongst the more enlightened members of the public, of the environmental danger of unnecessary production by the "throw away" society, but the answers to these problems have still to be found.

Housing Improvement

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A year or so ago it was reasonably possible to acquire an average cottage with possibilities for improvement, for something in the region of £2,500 to £3,000; today these cottages are being purchased for £2,000 plus. The better type of country cottage can realize as much as £3,500 to £4,000.

Building costs too, are rising, and the discretionary grants issued for the eight-year application approved in 1971 averaged £265, compared with a figure of £175 in 1970 - an increase of 17.6%.

Litter

The Dangerous Litter Act 1971 came into effect in June. The effect of Sub-section 1 of Section 1 of the Act is to increase the original maximum fine of £10 under the Litter Act 1958, to £100. The Act directs Courts, when fixing a penalty after conviction, to have regard not only to the question of deterrence by litter, but also to the nature of the litter and any menacing risk of injury to persons or animals or of damage to property.

It is too early to determine whether the higher penalty of £100 will lead to a diminution of the amount of litter deposited throughout the town and countryside. No immediate improvement is apparent and until a number of maximum fines for these offences have been imposed I can see the unsatisfactory "don't care" attitude of the general public towards litter continuing.

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Litter, refuse collection and disposal, conservation, pollution, and the Civic Amenities Act are all inextricably bound together. There is a rapidly growing awareness amongst the more enlightened members of the public, of the environmental danger of unnecessary pollution by the "throw away" society, but the answers to these problems have still to be found.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS DURING 1971.

I trust that when Members study this report, they will realise the contribution which this department makes in the field of environmental health and the maintenance of a safe and hygienically-produced food supply.

My grateful thanks are extended to the staff of the Public Health Department for their help in the compilation of this report, and for the continued support of Dr.Wray, the other Chief Officers, and particularly the Council, in the successful promulgation of the work of the department.

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

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Inspection of:-	Public Health Act 1936	11
	Re-visits to the above houses	11
Houses inspected under Housing Act		49
	Re-visits to the above houses	11
Houses inspected for overcrowding		2
Houses inspected for improvements		100
	Re-visits to the above houses	100
Visits to housing schemes		70
Food and Hygiene:-		
Inspection of:-	Food and Hygiene Act 1954	3
	Butchers' shops	25
	Butchers' shops, etc.	41
	Meat and milk distributors	2
	Fried fish shops	4
	Grocers and general stores	59
	Licensed premises	10
	Poultry packing stations	100
	Stalls, vehicles, etc.	37
	Other food premises	31
Follow-up visits to the above premises		9
Complaints investigated		17
Other food and hygiene visits and re-visits		31
General:-		
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:-		
	General inspections	3
	Other inspections	17
Factories Act:-	visits to factories	17
	visits to employers' premises	4
Visits to:-	road transport	23
	motor and abandoned vehicles	406
	refuse and salvage collection	79
	refuse disposal	97
	petroleum licensing	57
Miscellaneous visits		100

I trust that when members study this report, they will realize the contribution which this department makes in the field of environmental health and the maintenance of a safe and hygienically produced food supply.

My grateful thanks are extended to the staff of the Public Health Department for their help in the compilation of this report, and for the continued support of Dr. Wray, the other Chief Officers, and particularly the Council, in the successful presentation of the work of the department.

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

Your obedient servant,

E. J. FAYOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1971.

Public Health.

Investigations into complaints of nuisance due to:-	
premises prejudicial to health	1
keeping of animals	12
accumulations or deposits	36
atmospheric pollution	56
noise	31
other causes	48
General inspection of District for nuisances	62
Re-visits concerning nuisances	54
Visits re:-	26
water supplies	150
sanitary surveys and sewer connections	128
other domestic drainage matters	112
land drainage	47
infectious disease	137
treatment of infested premises	49
Inspections of:-	282
private caravan sites	11
Council caravan sites	120
gypsy camps	568
public conveniences	
Other public health calls and re-visits	

Housing.

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	11
Re-visits to the above houses	23
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	69
Re-visits to the above houses	78
Houses inspected for overcrowding	2
Houses inspected re improvements	228
Re-visits to the above houses	336
Visits re housing advances	78

Food and Drugs.

Inspections of:-	
bakehouses	3
butchers' shops	25
canteens, cafes, etc.	43
dairies and milk distributors	9
fried fish shops	6
grocers and general stores	59
licensed premises	38
poultry packing stations	168
stalls, vehicles, etc.	37
other food premises	33
Follow-up visits to the above premises	5
Complaints investigated	12
Other Food and Drugs visits and re-visits	51

General.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Acts:-	
general inspections	5
other inspections	17
Factories Acts:-	17
visits to factories	-
visits to outworkers' premises	
Visits re:-	29
rodent control	456
litter and abandoned vehicles	79
refuse and salvage collection	97
refuse disposal	57
petroleum licensing	308
Miscellaneous visits	

Public Health

Investigations into complaints of nuisance due to:-	
houses prejudicial to health	1
breeding of animals	18
accumulations or deposits	36
atmospheric pollution	56
noise	31
other causes	48
General inspection of Markets for nuisances	65
Re-visits concerning nuisances	54
Visits re:-	26
sanitary surveys and sewer connections	150
other domestic drainage matters	158
land drainage	112
infectious diseases	67
treatment of infected premises	137
private sewerage works	49
Council sewerage works	285
civic sewage	11
public conveniences	150
Other public health calls and re-visits	368

Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	11
Re-visits to the above houses	23
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	69
Re-visits to the above houses	78
Houses inspected for overcrowding	2
Houses inspected for improvements	228
Re-visits to the above houses	336
Visits re housing schemes	76

Food and Drugs

Inspections of:-	
bakeries	3
butchers' shops	25
caterers, etc.	43
dairies and milk distributors	9
fried fish shops	6
grocers and general stores	59
licensed premises	38
public drinking stations	168
stalls, vehicles, etc.	37
other food premises	33
Follow-up visits to the above premises	3
Complaints investigated	12
Other Food and Drugs visits and re-visits	51

General

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Acts:-	
General inspections	5
other inspections	17
visits to factories	17
visits to outworkers' premises	-
robust control	29
litter and abandoned vehicles	456
refuse and salvage collection	79
refuse disposal	97
petroleum licensing	57
Miscellaneous visits	308

Al. DRAINAGE.

(a) Sewer Connections.

Stanton sewerage system came into use towards the end of the year and owners are making good progress in connecting their properties to it. Provision of this sewer will eliminate the drainage problems which have arisen in the past on the Court Close Estate, where individual plots were too small to accommodate septic tanks and soakaways satisfactorily,

A private pumping station has been built at the Manor House Hotel, Castle Combe, to pump its sewage into the public sewer. The use of the inadequate septic tank which used to overflow into the stream is now discontinued.

(b) Drainage Survey.

A survey of Notton and part of Reybridge, in the Parish of Lacock, confirmed that drainage conditions were very unsatisfactory and could be resolved only by the installation of a public sewer. It was accordingly reported to the Council, and agreed, that the area in question should be sewered in 1973. Fortunately, no sewage disposal work will be required because the scheme will drain to the existing Lacock works, by means of a pumping main.

A survey was also carried out at Langley Burrell, and here again it was confirmed that the widespread difficulties and nuisances could be resolved only by the installation of a public sewer. It is proposed that this area also will be sewered in 1973.

(c) 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 Thingley sewage disposal works.

Periodic complaints are received from residents adjacent to the Hyde Brook between the Thingley Works and Lacock, of pollution of the Brook by effluent from the sewage works. Those near the works object to the detergent foam, which is particularly bad on wash-days, and in the village the main complaint is of periodic murkiness in what should be a clear brook.

A recent call was received from a resident about one mile downstream of the works, complaining of smell. This was exceedingly offensive and was due to a breakdown of the plant at the sewage works. Complaints of this nature can arise from the best-regulated sewage disposal works and the only answer in such a case is to carry out the proposals suggested sometime ago to provide an effluent pipe discharging directly into the River Avon, where there will be greater dilution.

(d) Sludge Disposal.

Every year, more and more septic tanks have been constructed, and we are now receiving complaints of nuisance due to disposal of septic tank contents by contractors. Several complaints have been received from farmers of the dumping of cesspool contents at Pretty Chimneys at Kingston Langley, where the effluent seeped into a stream. This complaint was passed to the Bristol Avon River Authority who took up the matter with the contractor and landowner concerned, to stop the practice.

Another complaint concerned the dumping, with the owner's consent, of the contents of the cesspool emptier by a private operator in a paddock. Part of the more liquid portion of the load ran down into an adjacent garden.

A1.

(cont'd.)

(e) Land Drainage.

It was reported last year that the Catbrook scheme at East Tytherton could be carried out during 1971. Unfortunately, this was not possible because of extra work and serious flooding elsewhere, but the Land Drainage Officer has promised that if possible the job will be done this coming Spring.

A2.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The new conveniences for the Corsham Central Area are to be built in 1972, and this will enable us to close down the unsatisfactory ones in Post Office Lane.

The public conveniences at Box, Castle Combe, Colerne and Lacock have been satisfactorily maintained, but unfortunately the hand-dryers at Castle Combe have been out of action for the latter part of the year, due to difficulties in obtaining spare parts.

A3.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Almost all of the water supplied to this District is provided by the North Wilts Water Board, with the Bristol Waterworks supplying a small area at Burton. Ross Poultry Ltd. obtain water from their own borehole for their poultry packing station at Sutton Benger.

(a) Adequacy of Supplies.

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

The scheme mentioned in last year's report, which could alleviate a problem at Colerne, is proceeding, and the new main may be laid in the coming year.

(b) Private Supplies.

There are few private water supplies remaining in the District, and no action has been necessary during the year in connection with them.

The private supplies mentioned in our table of Sample Reports were taken from Sutton Benger Poultry Packing Station, where their borehole water is heavily chlorinated before use.

(c) Contamination.

The usual sporadic crop of suspect samples from mains supplies was received. These were mostly of no significance but in one week during the summer, all samples taken in the Box and Corsham area failed, due to a burst water main. The trouble was soon rectified, following repair of the main.

(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 the 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, and information on the reports on such samples is given by the Medical Officer of Health in his part of this Report.

A3.
(cont'd.)

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

	Satis- -factory:	Suspect (Non-faecal coliforms present):	Unsatis- -factory (faecal- -type coliforms present):
<u>Weekly Samples:</u>			
Bristol Waterworks: Burton	42	1	-
Câlstone supply: Theobalds Green	42	2	2
Cherhill " : Yatesbury	44	1	2
Chippenham " : Bowden Hill	46	1	1
" " : Fiveways	43	3	1
Goodshill " : Velley Hill	42	2	3
Rodbourne " : Stanton St. Quintin	41	3	2
Washwells " : Box (Market Place)	45	2	-
Widdenhams " : Box (Bargates)	44	1	1
Mixed sources: Castle Combe	46	1	-
Christian Malford	45	-	-
Colerne	47	-	-
Corsham (Bath Road)	42	2	2
Hilmarton	40	5	2
Marshfield Reservoir	44	1	-
Nettleton (Horsdown)	38	7	1
West Kingston	46	-	-
<u>Monthly Samples:</u>			
Compton Bassett	9	1	-
Draycot Cerne	9	-	-
East Tytherton	10	-	-
Foxham	10	-	-
Grittleton	10	-	-
Neston	10	1	-
<u>Totals of Samples taken:</u>			
Public supplies	795	34	17
Private supplies	6	-	-

A4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Refuse Collection.

This service continued to operate successfully, with minor troubles which had to be ironed out. Considering the complexity of the service, the ratepayers have little to complain about.

The one aspect of the service which does irritate householders is the non-collection of refuse during Bank Holiday periods. It is just not possible with the labour force and vehicles available to make alternative arrangements to satisfy some 2,000 householders in the Box, Corsham and Langley Burrell areas who are affected on Bank Holidays.

To make such alternative arrangements, would require nine additional men and three vehicles, and these are not available.

These householders could help themselves during holiday periods by excluding from their dustbins all cardboard containers and paper, and this could be salvaged, or burnt, or put on the compost heap; a little self-help is all that is required to overcome these difficulties.

A4.
(cont'd.)

(b) Refuse Disposal.

The refuse disposal problems for the Council became very acute towards the end of 1971, when tipping facilities at Sutton Benger and Grittleton were almost exhausted.

An approach to the Borough of Chippenham for tipping facilities at their Westmead tip until such time as the Leigh Delamere tipping area is available became essential, and the ready co-operation of the Borough Council in agreeing to this arrangement was most gratifying.

It is a matter of much regret to me that we should find ourselves without tipping space through no fault of the Council, who for some ten years had been giving serious consideration to alternative arrangements for the disposal of refuse for this area and for adjoining authorities.

The last-minute failure of the consortium of local authorities to proceed with the erection of an incineration plant at Thingley constituted a major error of judgement on the immensity of the problem of refuse disposal in north-west, central and south-west Wiltshire; a problem which is becoming more menacing in local authority areas believed to have had tipping space for many years to come.

(c) Supply of Dustbins.

Seventy-two strong, heavy-duty polythene dustbins were sold in 1971 at £2.10 each. This is a service which is appreciated by new householders and those living in the more remote parts of the Rural District.

(d) Civic Amenities Act 1967.

During the year, forty vehicles were dealt with under the provisions of this Act. This number included seven which were abandoned on the newly-opened M4 motorway. Vehicles which are abandoned on the motorway are towed off under Police supervision by the Wilts County Council, to their Motorway Maintenance Compound at Stanton St. Quintin, where they remain whilst being dealt with by this department.

The vehicles dealt with consisted of thirty-eight cars and vans, one tractor unit of an articulated vehicle, and one motor-cycle which proved to have been stolen. Fourteen were removed by their owners from the places where they had been abandoned and two more were recovered by their owners after payment of the Council's towing and storage charges. The remainder were removed for breaking up, either by the Council directly or by arrangement with scrap dealers.

A5. SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

During 1971 the amount of salvage sold to the mills totalled 294,957 kilograms (approximately 290 tons), valued at £2,787. This is a reduction of 15 tons on the amount collected and sold the previous year.

I cannot lay my finger on the reason for this reduction, other than by reference to a general loss of interest in the separation of waste paper by some members of the community. A minority of householders regularly salvage paper and cardboard, but they represent less than 30% of the community and it is most difficult to secure the co-operation of the majority. I hope we may improve on these figures in 1972.

A6. CARAVAN SITES.

(a) Private Sites.

The number of licensed sites has now dropped to twenty-two, of which fourteen are of long standing, the remainder being licensed for temporary periods. In addition to the sites licensed for residential use, there are four sites registered for use by members of the Caravan Club.

With the opening of the motorway, most of the caravans at the Stanton St. Quintin site have left, and it is expected that this site will close down completely early in 1972.

Total Number of Current Licences:

<u>Parish:</u>	<u>No. of Licences:</u>	<u>No. of Caravans:</u>
Box	3	30
Bremhill	3	3
Chippenham Without	1	1
Christian Malford	2	3
Colerne	1	1
Corsham	3	3
Hilmarton	1	1
Kington Langley	2	2
North Wraxall	1	1
Pewsham	2	2
Sutton Benger	3	3
	<u>22</u>	<u>50</u>

(b) Sites Provided by the Council.

The 107 standings for residential caravans have been satisfactorily maintained by the Council at Corsham, Colerne, Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell.

The amenities at the Thickwood site near Colerne have been improved but the expected response from licensees to improve the general appearance of the site has not materialised. Few of the occupants take a pride in their own plots and as a result this caravan site bears no resemblance to the other well-maintained sites belonging to the Council. I have offered to provide top-soil to enable parts of the site to be cultivated or grassed over, but I have not had a single request for this.

A7. NUISANCES FROM FARMING ACTIVITIES.

Complaints of smell from the disposal of manure from intensive farming units continue to be received and dealt with, and with the increasing number of these units in the District I foresee no reduction in the number of complaints.

Disposal of animal manure by spreading it on the land must be accepted as a necessary and normal activity in a rural area, but we expect the farmer to take all reasonable precautions, including paying attention to prevailing weather conditions, to avoid causing a nuisance.

Some variations in the usual pattern have occurred this year. On one occasion numerous complaints were received from residents of a housing estate at Corsham, due to the disposal of sludge from the sewage works at Thingley. This was a necessary job and the sludge was ploughed in as speedily as possible but unfortunately during this period the wind direction was unfavourable.

One smallholder erected pig sheds literally within a few feet of a dwelling to the obvious discomfort of the residents. Warning of possible formal action effected their speedy removal.

One hardy annual - the disposal of drainage from Marden Pig Farm - appears to have been overcome by the installation of a lagoon system of disposal. No complaints of nuisance from this source have been received during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In addition to the usual investigations when cases of infectious disease are notified, we visited a number of people on their return from Spain, where there was an outbreak of cholera in the summer. It is fortunate that none of these developed the disease, as they could possibly have infected others before we received notification of their return to this country. The information about vaccination certificates supplied by the notifying authorities often differed from that given by the visitors and one wonders if, in the case of rapidly-incubating diseases such as cholera, our present method of controlling the international spread of infectious disease is too cumbersome to cope with today's larger number of travellers and rapid transport.

A suspected case of leptospirosis (Weill's disease) was reported in a farmer and from enquiries it appeared that there was a heavy infestation of rats in the area. A veterinary surgeon also reported a case of the same disease in a dog on one of the Council estates in another part of the District. In both cases, the areas were treated to clear them of rats and no further cases have been reported.

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 and 1968.

We are fortunate in this District in that we have no real trouble from emissions of black smoke, but a wholesale grocery company was persuaded to have an incinerator built in order to dispose of their daily waste hygienically and without nuisance.

A relatively large oil-fired central heating boiler was installed at another warehouse, using a balanced flue which discharged at a comparatively low level. Although its situation is such that a nuisance is not likely to arise, we would have liked the chimney to have been taken somewhat higher. The installation did not, however, require prior approval and we can now only watch carefully to see if a nuisance is caused.

We have been consulted by the Department of the Environment about the proposed replacement of six chimneys at Spring Quarry, Westwells, Corsham. Although we have had no complaint about the existing chimneys, we strongly recommended that the flues be grouped together into one stack, to obtain better dispersion of the flue gases.

I am pleased to be able to report that Mr.G.Jones has obtained the Diploma in Air Pollution Control of the Royal Society of Health.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

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

NOISE ABATEMENT.

We have no great problems from noise nuisances in this area, owing to the absence of large industrial concerns, but during the past year we have had a number of complaints which justified official action.

One was of a 'pop' group performing at a village public house and upsetting the neighbours. Thanks to the co-operation of the brewery, this was finally stopped.

The second complaint concerned greyhounds kennelled in close proximity to a group of houses. These dogs barked continuously in the early morning and for long periods during the day, but with informal action, we were successful in getting them moved to a more isolated position.

Noise nuisance, other than from industrial sources, can be very difficult to establish as, frequently, sound which one person finds unbearable may not disturb a neighbour, and collating sufficient evidence to prove a nuisance can be time-consuming and tedious work.

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	8	8	8	8
Fish-and-Chip Shops	1	1	1	1
Fish and Fruit Shops	4	4	3	3
Grocers and General Stores	64	64	31	31
Licensed Premises	60	60	60	60
Restaurants and Cafes	8	8	8	8
Sweets and Ices Shops	12	12	-	-
Factories and Distributors	2	2	1	1
	166	166	119	119

Poultry Packing Station, Sutton Benger.

During the year, 168 visits were made to the Packing Station. The aim is to visit three times a week to check the premises and environment, the live and dead chickens, viscera and portions, and generally to see that the preparation, freezing and packing processes are hygienically conducted. Rejected carcasses and viscera are also inspected so that anything untoward can be commented upon to the management.

There were 9,030,002 broiler chickens processed during 1971, of which 24,128 were rejected - a percentage of 0.265. Although the amount expressed as a percentage is very small, it is a significant amount, and the management is duly concerned about it because rejected material is a serious loss. There is, however, no attempt to pass through anything that is in any way even slightly suspect. The quality control policy of the Company is such that there are virtually no queries in respect of the finished product.

Each year we can be excused for thinking that the improvements and alterations are at an end, and each following year one finds that the pace of capital improvement work has been faster than ever. From talks with the management, we learn that an even greater amount of automatic processing machinery will be installed during 1972.

During the year there were experiments in filleting, coating with batter and breadcrumbs, and cooking. These processes have had our close attention.

Licensed Premises.

The number of licensed houses in the Rural District remains at sixty. No major improvements were carried out during the year and those visited were found to be reasonably satisfactory, except in the case of one club where the sanitary facilities are now inadequate for the increased membership; a scheme for rebuilding these facilities has been prepared.

B1.
(cont'd.)

This club has also caused us considerable concern on account of the amount of noise produced at times. The noise is not unusual for this size and type of club and only affects one family which lives adjacent to and partly over the club. The club was already in existence when the adjoining property was bought by the present owner and so far there appears to be no practical way of ameliorating the situation. The club licence is due for renewal in 1972, when no doubt the problem will be taken into account by the magistrates.

Bakehouses.

The seven bakehouses in the District are situated at:-

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

Fried Fish Shops.

The fish-and-chip shop at Corsham is still in operation on its temporary site, but it is hoped that with the start of development of the Central Area, new premises may become available. Periodic visits have been made to the shop, when the standard of hygiene has been found to be satisfactory.

An application to open a new shop at Colerne was refused planning permission, partly on representations from this department that the premises were quite unsuitable for the purpose.

B2. FOOD COMPLAINTS.

Two complaints were received on the same day of the sale of mouldy cakes by a travelling bakers' roundsman. These were taken up with the parent firm, when it became apparent that their stock coding and rotation left a lot to be desired. The firm was prosecuted and fined £15 at Chippenham Magistrates' Court.

A complaint of a piece of wax in a packet of cornflakes was found on investigation to be sealing material from the waxed inner liner. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers, who satisfied us that the steps they were taking would prevent a recurrence.

When an allegation of the sale of mouldy cakes by a local shop was checked, it was found that these were eclairs sold well within the recommended time limit, but which had been kept in a warm place by the purchaser. The retailer was not at fault this time but the investigations demonstrated the limitations of date stamping as a means of ensuring that food is always fresh when eaten.

An ice-cream which was reported to have a bitter taste was analysed and found to contain excess chloride. Bristol Corporation was notified, and when one of their public health inspectors visited the factory which produced the ices he found that the firm was in process of replacing faulty moulds which had permitted the access of brine to some ices. No further action was taken in this case.

B3. CONDEMNED FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were examined by your public health inspectors, found to be unfit or unsaleable, and subsequently surrendered by the owners:-

B3.
(cont'd.)

48 x 12ozs. tins of lambs' tongues.
2 x 6lbs. tins of veal.
1 x 6lbs. tin of ox tongue.
16lbs. of ham.
£680 worth of frozen foods, spoint by the
breakdown of refrigeration plants.

The increasing use of deep-freeze cabinets in grocers' shops and stores can give rise to considerable loss of food if the equipment breaks down during a weekend. By the time the damage is discovered, the food is not fit to be removed into cold storage and must be dumped. The retailers ask for a certificate of unfitness for insurance purposes.

B4. MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Registration.

The number of registered distributors has increased by three. Retail shops, such as grocers, which sell small quantities of bottled milk, are included in this category.

No. of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	8
No. of registered distributors	...	...	...	...	23

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

Designation:

Untreated milk	...	...	...	...	...	-
Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	...	22
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ultra-heat-treated milk	...	...	...	...	...	3

All milk retailed in this District is now heat-treated.

(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 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	...	...	...	...	...	139
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Void (shade temperature at Laboratory exceeded prescribed maximum)	...	...	...	...	...	13

(c) Milk Sampling for Biological Examination.

As no raw milk is sold within this Rural District, there is no routine sampling for the presence of tuberculosis or brucella abortus.

(d) Pasteurisation Plant.

The only pasteurising plant in the District, at Castle Combe, is licensed by the County Council, and bottle rinse samples to check the efficiency of bottle-washing are taken regularly by the County public health staff.

B5. ICE CREAM.

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

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

Grade:

I	...	...	...	30
II	...	...	...	5
III	...	...	...	1
IV	...	...	...	-

B6. SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

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

I am pleased to be able to report that the old buildings are being replaced by new ones on the same site, and that the work is expected to be completed by the Spring of 1972.

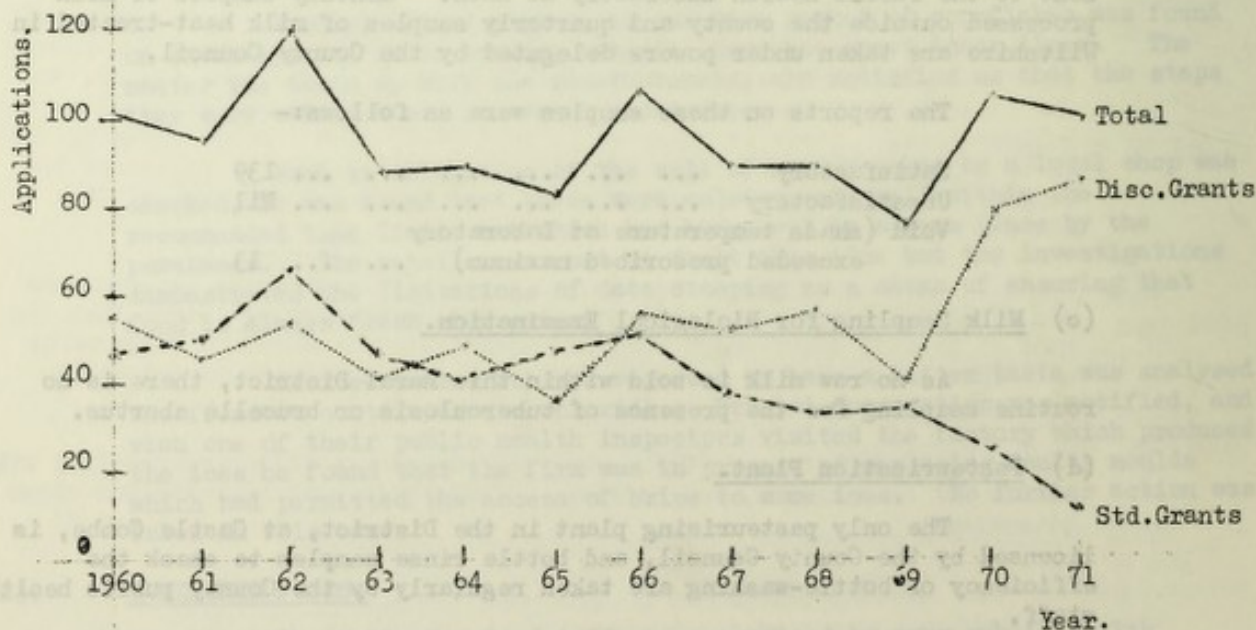
Six slaughtermen's licences were issued, all to men employed at the Heddington knackers' yard.

The number of horse carcasses received at this yard during the year totalled 35; of these, 18 had been slaughtered on farms.

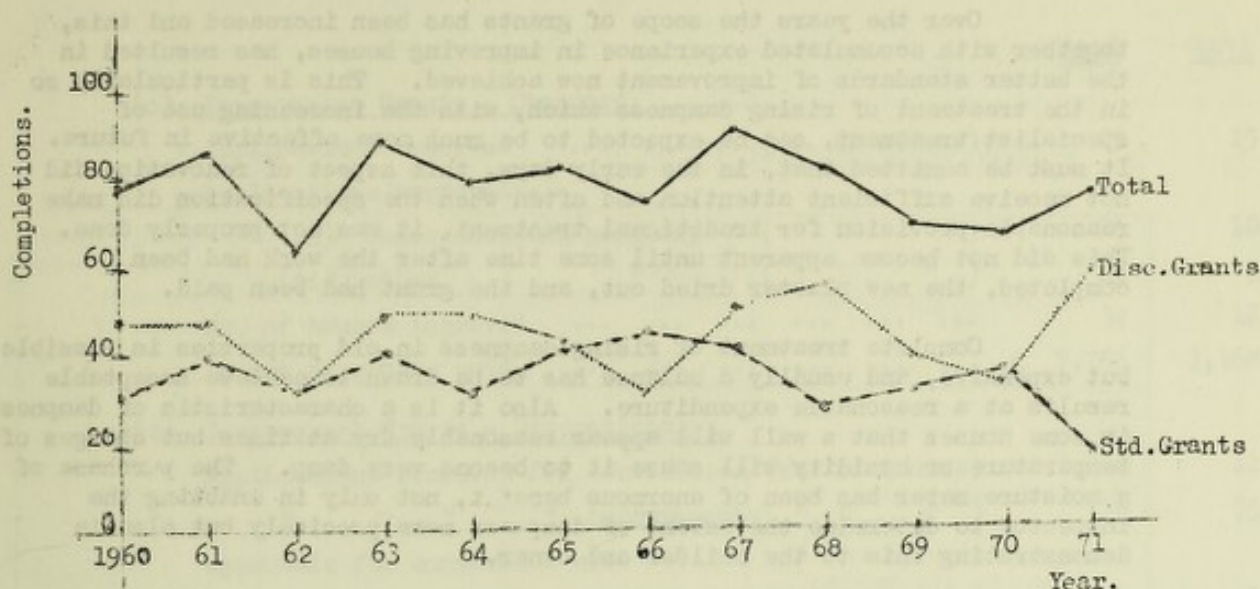
C. HOUSING.

C1. HOUSING ACT 1969: HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS.

Improvements have again been the major housing activity, although the number of houses improved during the year was slightly less than the average immediately before 1969. From the graph below it will be seen that the major effect of the Housing Act 1969 has been a considerable increase in the number of applications for Discretionary Grants, and a corresponding drop in the number for Standard Grants.



Improvement Grants - APPLICATIONS received.



Improvement Grants - COMPLETED Improvements.

In this district, if nowhere else, the figures seem to show that Government and local exhortations, and even increasing the maximum grant by 250%, are not decisive factors in determining the number of houses improved. These things create interest, as is shown by the number of applications received, but positive results - the number of houses actually improved each year - have remained fairly steady.

The limiting factors here are probably the number of houses changing hands, the provision of main drainage, availability of money, and availability of building labour, with the relative importance of each changing from year to year.

In 1962 we mounted a publicity campaign against local estate agents which may, or may not, be associated with our highest-ever number of applications and lowest-ever completions in that year.

In 1964 we did another publicity exercise, which included showing the "Bronze Horses" film, but it did not seem to have much immediate effect. Increasing the maximum standard grant in the same year did increase the number of standard grants completed over the next year or two - but at the expense of discretionary grants.

Although the number of houses improved during 1971 was an increase on the previous year's figure, the number of applications dropped, and this suggests that next year we are unlikely to exceed the norm of just under eighty improvements completed per year.

Although the Housing Act 1969 has not increased the number of houses being improved, it has increased the number of enquiries. In 1969 the total number of visits in connection with grants was 339; last year it was 564. With the broadening of the scope of grants by the inclusion of certain repairs in grant aidable work and by the freeing of local authorities to put their own interpretation on the legislation - instead of requiring them to follow Government practice notes and instructions - the department's work in establishing the new lines of policy required, and in explaining these policies to the public has added appreciably to the amount of work done in connection with house improvements.

Over the years the scope of grants has been increased and this, together with accumulated experience in improving houses, has resulted in the better standards of improvement now achieved. This is particularly so in the treatment of rising dampness which, with the increasing use of specialist treatment, can be expected to be much more effective in future. It must be admitted that, in the early days, this aspect of renovation did not receive sufficient attention and often when the specification did make reasonable provision for traditional treatment, it was not properly done. This did not become apparent until some time after the work had been completed, the new plaster dried out, and the grant had been paid.

Complete treatment of rising dampness in old properties is possible but expensive, and usually a balance has to be drawn to achieve acceptable results at a reasonable expenditure. Also it is a characteristic of dampness in some houses that a wall will appear reasonably dry at times but changes of temperature or humidity will cause it to become very damp. The purchase of a moisture meter has been of enormous benefit, not only in enabling the inspector to determine the extent of dampness more precisely but also in demonstrating this to the builder and owner.

C2. FAIR RENTS.

During the year seven applications for qualification certificates were received and nineteen certificates were issued. Most of the certificates issued related to improvement schemes which were approved in 1970.

C3. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

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

C4. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in this District.

C5. HOUSING STATISTICS.

(a) Number of Dwellings in the District:

No. of inhabited houses (as at 31st March 1971)	9,045
" " Council dwellings (as at 31st December 1971)	2,015
" " temporary Council dwellings (as at 31st December 1971)	57

(b) Proceedings under Housing Acts:

Houses inspected for fitness... ..	69
No. reported as unfit for human habitation	3
Notices served requiring defects to be remedied (Secs. 9,10)	-
Houses made fit after service of formal notices:-	
(i) by owners	3
(ii) by local authority in default of owners	-
Houses made fit as a result of informal action	10
Demolition Orders made (Sec. 16)	-
Houses demolished	1
Undertakings not to re-let accepted (Sec. 16)	-
Undertakings to make fit accepted (Sec. 16)... ..	-
Undertakings to make fit complied with... ..	-
Closing Orders made (Secs. 17,18)... ..	-
Houses closed... ..	1
Closing Order revoked, house made fit (Sec. 27)	1
Cases of overcrowding discovered during the year... ..	-
" " " abated " " "	-

	1970	1971
(c) <u>Improvement Grants - Standard:</u>		
Applications received (no. of houses)	25	15
Applications approved:-		
(i) owner/occupied property (" " ")	11	10
(ii) other " (" " ")	15	3
No. of houses improved	34	16
Amount of grants paid £	7,766	3,368
(d) <u>Improvement Grants - Discretionary:</u>		
Applications received for conversions (no. of houses)	4	11
" " " improvements (" " ")	76	75
Approvals for conversion of:-		
(i) owner/occupied property ... (" " ")	1	1
(ii) other " ... (" " ")	2	4
Approvals for improvement of:-		
(i) owner/occupied property ... (" " ")	41	47
(ii) other " ... (" " ")	31	29
No. of dwellings provided or improved	32	58
Amount of grants paid £	19,257	£40,579

C. FACTORIES, OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

DL. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

There are few large establishments in this District which come under the provisions of this Act: the majority are small businesses with from two to six employees which do not present any great difficulties in administration. One large firm in the warehouse class, who package and despatch components and carry out their own maintenance, is the source of most of our accidents. These, so far, have been of a minor nature and caused by carelessness of the employee rather than the fault of the employer.

All accidents, however minor, are investigated and the co-operation of the employer obtained where appropriate. We have always impressed on our shopkeepers the dangers of food-slicing machinery and of their obligations under the Act. Copies of the handbook on the safe use of food-slicing machines were distributed to all users, and their reception was very favourable, the general reaction being, "...we can always learn something new about these machines...". Since the Act has been in operation, we have had no accidents from slicing machines reported to us.

Perhaps the most serious occurrence during the year was the use of smoky, badly maintained, diesel fork-lift trucks operating in the enclosed space of a storage depot which had no through ventilation. The atmosphere was extremely uncomfortable and unhealthy, and urgent representations were made to the company. Some improvements were made, but only fume-free electric trucks are really satisfactory indoors. It is a matter of regret that the use of these cannot be insisted upon.

(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	31	1
Retail shops	1	65	1
Wholesale shops and warehouses	1	5	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	19	1
Fuel storage depots	-	3	-
Totals:	4	123	4

The total number of visits of all kinds by Public Health Inspectors to registered premises during 1971 was twenty-two.

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

Class of Workplace:	No. of persons employed:
Offices	229
Retail shops	220
Wholesale departments, warehouses	117
Catering establishments open to the public	94
Canteens	3
Fuel storage depots	15
Total:	678
Total Males:	296
Total Females:	382

(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	-	-
" 17: Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-	-
" 18: Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-	-
" 19: Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-	-
" 23: Prohibition of heavy work	-	-
" 24: First aid - general provisions	3	3
Information for Employees Regulations 1965	-	-
Totals:	3	3
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-six registered factories in this District, six 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 Presented
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by local authority	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	80	17*	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	-	-	-
Totals:	85	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.

No notifications were received during the year from other authorities of outworkers resident in this district. A considerable amount of rubber trimming is carried out at home but registration of this is not required under the Factories Acts.

E. RODENT CONTROL.

E1. RODENT DESTRUCTION AND CONTROL, COLERNE.

A very worthwhile exercise was carried out from November 1970 to early February of this year in conjunction with the Pest Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Ministry had suggested a block treatment of a whole parish - in this case the parish of Colerne - and asked for our co-operation in treating part of the area.

It was arranged that the Ministry would deal with eighteen farms, while the Council's Rodent Officer would survey and treat the rest of the parish, which included four farms, all of the sewage disposal works, Council estates, the Thickwood caravan site, and any other places requiring investigation.

At the conclusion it was evident from the records and sample checks that at least 80% of the rats had been killed and careful inspection showed that eleven of the farms, including all four treated by the Council's Rodent Operator, were completely cleared; only slight infestations were noted on the remaining farms.

With extra effort and expenditure it would have been possible to reduce infestations below this level. The object of the exercise was to show that rats can be controlled by block treatments on a large scale such as this and the treatments themselves were designed to show how farmers may do this work with their own labour at a minimum cost and under the overall control of the Ministry of Local Authority Rodent Officer.

E2. 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	7,997	1,048
2 (a): Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	345	41
(b): No. infested by:- (i) Rats	131	37
(ii) Mice	65	9
3 (a): Total no. of properties inspected on routine surveys.	279	89
(b): No. infested by:- (i) Rats	80	49
(ii) Mice	9	4

(b) Sewer Test-Baiting and Treatment.

All sewerage systems were test-baited during the course of the year but very little infestation of sewers was found. The only "takes" were at Northleaze Caravan Site and South Street, Corsham, and these areas received follow-up treatment.

E3. OTHER PESTS.

In the autumn we had the first complaint of fleas for several years and these proved to be cat fleas. Flies, especially cluster flies, and bees have also had to be dealt with, but wasps were particularly active this year.

F. MISCELLANEOUS.

F1. PETROLEUM LICENSING.

The twin 80,000 gallon installations at the motorway service stations at Leigh Delamere came into use at the end of the year after all the tanks and pipelines had been tested and the safety devices checked.

There are now 147 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum in the Rural District.

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

One new licence for a swill boiling plant was issued, making a total of six current at the end of the year. All plants have been visited during 1971.

F3. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

Seven premises were licensed during 1971. All these have been visited and no contraventions of the Act were found.

F4. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964.

There were nineteen registered scrap metal dealers in the District at the end of 1971, one less than in 1970.

(a) Investment of Properties other than Farms

Type of Property	Investment in Properties other than Farms	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Total no. of properties (including newly purchased) invested during the year	41	1,040
2. (a) Total no. of properties (including newly purchased) invested during the year	37	9
(b) No. of properties (including newly purchased) invested during the year	37	9
3. (a) Total no. of properties invested during the year	41	1,040
(b) No. of properties invested during the year	41	1,040

(b) Investment in Properties other than Farms

All investments in properties other than farms were made during the year 1971. The total investment in properties other than farms was Rs. 1,040 lakhs. The investments were made in the following manner:

(a) Investment in properties other than farms was made in the following manner:

(b) Investment in properties other than farms was made in the following manner:

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