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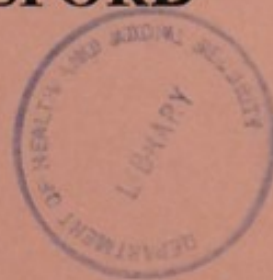
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BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR

1970

J. A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex

Divisional School Medical Officer, Mid-Essex

N. T. HUDSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector



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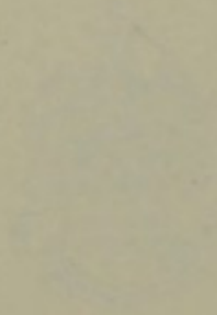
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THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CHURCH STREET, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX
CM1 1LJ

W. J. BENTON, C.M.D., F.R.C.S.
Chief Public Health Inspector

BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 1970/71

Chairman:

ALDERMAN H. PRYCE

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR Mrs. E. M. KING

Members:

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR ALDERMAN D. A. BELLAMY, J.P.

ALDERMAN Mrs. J. M. ROULSTON	COUNCILLOR C. G. T. PRINCE
COUNCILLOR Mrs. H. W. DOWN	COUNCILLOR J. T. STRATFORD
COUNCILLOR L. GOODIER	COUNCILLOR Mrs. D. V. TIBBENHAM
COUNCILLOR P. J. HOWARD	COUNCILLOR E. R. VAN TROMP
COUNCILLOR P. W. C. LOMAX	COUNCILLOR C. A. WARREN

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

Medical Officer of Health:

J. A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Clerk: Mrs. W. BALDWIN

Chief Public Health Inspector: N. T. HUDSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector: H. C. ORMEROD, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

T. A. DAWKINS, C.R.S.H.

J. V. KAYE, C.R.S.H.

A. BATES, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Authorised Meat Inspectors: J. FEENEY, B. EDWARDS

Inspector of Premises: A. R. BROWN

Administrative Assistant: R. F. HILLIARD

Clerk/Typist: Mrs. M. POLLARD

Public Analysts for the Borough:

J. H. HAMENCE, F.R.I.C.

P. S. HALL, F.R.I.C.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1970

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my report for the year 1970. The layout of this report is substantially the same as in previous years, but some figures are given in greater detail in order that they can be compared more easily with those shown in future reports.

The estimated mid-year population for 1970 was 57,840. There were 1,060 live births and 460 deaths in the Borough giving a natural increase of 600. You will note that the population increase since 1969 is 940 which means that immigration into the Borough exceeds the movement of families out of it by a total of about 340 people during the year.

Births The birth rate was below the national rate early in the century, a fact much lamented by your medical officer. It remained below the national rate from 1919 to 1939. Between 1945 and 1947 it rose above the national level then fell below it until 1952. Since that year however, Chelmsford's birth rate, although following the general contour of that for England and Wales has stayed consistently above it. It reached a peak in 1964 and fell steadily until 1969 but that year it showed a slight rise unlike the national rate which was continuing to fall. In 1970 the downward trend was continued both in Chelmsford and in England and Wales.

Deaths Chelmsford's death rate has been below the national level every year since 1919. Last year was no exception to the rule. Chelmsford's corrected death rate being 9.7 against the figure for England and Wales of 11.7. The Office of Population and Vital Statistics has pointed out that the local deaths accorded to Chelmsford in the statistical summary may differ a little from those shown under Causes of Death. This is because of delay in the receipt of information brought about by the postal strike. In fact the difference between the two totals amounts to one death.

Infant Mortality This is an important index of living conditions. The death rate of infants was lower in Chelmsford than in England and Wales every year from 1919 to 1939. Indeed Chelmsford's good record in this respect was noted by your Medical Officer of Health Dr. Newton as early as 1908. Since 1945 infant mortality in Chelmsford has been lower than the national rate apart from two small rises, the first in 1946, the second in the years 1955-57. Once again it is a pleasure to record a low infant mortality, the figure for Chelmsford being eleven, and for England and Wales eighteen. Stillbirths are closely related to infant deaths and it is therefore no surprise that Chelmsford's stillbirth rate of nine is also considerably lower than the national rate.

Lung Cancer During the year no less than thirty men and women died of lung cancer. Eleven of them were below retiring age. There has been a steady increase in deaths from lung cancer almost every year since 1950. We can now

expect to have three times the mortality of 1950 though the population of the Borough is little more than one and a half times as large as it was then. Cigarette smoking has killed most of these good citizens and will take the lives of many more until the smoking habit is driven out. As early as 1908 Chelmsford's school medical officer addressed children on what he called "The Evil of Cigarette Smoking". He may have been wrong in what he thought cigarette smoking did to the body, but his conclusions that it is an evil habit cannot be faulted. We are now renewing our efforts to persuade children not to smoke, but advice alone is not enough. Children will not begin to smoke in a house where cigarettes are seldom seen. There is no choice for thinking parents—they must give up smoking and do it now.

Measles Before the vaccination scheme began in May, 1968, measles epidemics occurred roughly every two years. 1967 was an epidemic year with 1,057 cases in the Borough. It has been calculated that in every 1,000 cases of measles one would expect to find complications of the following order:—

40 Cases of bronchitis or pneumonia	4 Cases of brain inflammation
25 Cases of ear infection	

It is said, too, that about a dozen children in every 1,000 cases are ill enough to need treatment in hospital. Clearly measles is worth preventing. 1969 would have been a measles year but the vaccination scheme was beginning to take effect and only 52 cases were notified. It is sad to report that notifications rose again in 1970 to a figure of 352. There are roughly 13½ thousand children under 15 years of age in Chelmsford. By the end of 1970 a total of 3,178 had been vaccinated. I calculate that roughly another 8,000 have had measles and that there are approximately 2,500 children susceptible to the disease living in the Borough. 1,000 of them will be under one year of age but the remaining 1,500 susceptible children should be vaccinated. Parents can obtain the vaccine without difficulty by arrangement with general practitioners or at any of the Essex County Health Service clinics listed later in the report.

Notifications of infectious disease other than measles continued to be few in number during the year.

Medicals During the year 122 employees were given medical examinations for Superannuation. In addition 20 blood tests were carried out on Water Department staff, whose work on water mains brings them into close association with the town's water supplies.

In concluding this brief report I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for his support throughout the year and to Mr. Hudson for the willing help which he and his department have given me.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. SLATTERY

Medical Officer of Health

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Total all Ages</i>	<i>Under One Year</i>	<i>1-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45-64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	2	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	30	—	—	—	—	—	11	19
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	12	—	—	—	—	1	9	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Leukaemia ...	4	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	27	—	—	1	—	2	8	16
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Diabetes Mellitus ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Anaemias ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mental Disorders ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Multiple Sclerosis ...	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	9	—	—	1	1	—	2	5
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Hypertensive Disease ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	11
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	102	—	—	—	—	—	34	68

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA (in acres)	4,772
POPULATION, 1970	57,840 (Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year) Census, 1963—49,810)
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1970) according to Rate Books	
	19,213
RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1970)	£3,691,883
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (year ending 31st March, 1970)	
	£14,871

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

CHELMSFORD				ENGLAND & WALES
	Males	Females	Totals	
Live Births	538	522	1,060	784,482
Stillbirths	6	4	10	10,341
Total live and stillbirths	544	526	1,070	794,823
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	6	6	12	14,269
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	5	4	9	9,663
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age	5	3	8	8,328
Deaths at all ages	250	210	460	575,208
LIVE BIRTH RATES				
Live births per 1,000 home population			18.3	16.0
Area Comparability factor ... ..			.91	
Local adjusted birth rate			16.7	
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate ...			1.04	
INFANT MORTALITY RATES				
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births			11	18
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births			8	12
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births			8	11
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE				
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week			17	23
combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths				
DEATH RATES ALL AGES				
Deaths per 1,000 home population			8.0	11.7
Area comparability factor			1.21	
Local adjusted rate			9.7	
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate ...			.83	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY (*see page 3*).

The following Personal Health services are provided within the Borough by the Essex County Council:—

Child Health Centres

Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coval Lane, Chelmsford	Thursdays at 2 p.m.
Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Road	1st and 3rd Mondays at 2 p.m.
St. John's Hall, Vicarage Road, Chelmsford	Mondays at 2 p.m.
Chelmsford Free Church, Pentland Avenue, Chelmsford (Woodhall Estate)	2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
Essex County Health Services Clinic, ... Springfield	Thursdays at 2 p.m. and 2nd and 4th Mondays p.m.
Essex County Health Services Clinic, Moulsham Lodge Estate, Chelmsford	Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
Church Hall, Forest Drive, Chelmsford ...	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Essex County Health Services Clinic, Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	Every Friday at 2 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, London Road, Chelmsford	Tuesdays at 2.15 p.m.
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Cervical Cytology Clinic

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	Thursday mornings (By appointment)
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Ante-Natal Relaxation Classes

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	Friday and Wednesday afternoons (By arrangement only)
Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons
Moulsham Lodge, Chelmsford	Friday afternoons
Springfield Green, Chelmsford	Wednesday afternoons

Chest Clinic

Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford	Mondays and Wednesdays 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. Thursdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. B.C.G. Clinic—1st Thursday in every month (By appointment)
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School Clinics

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	2nd and 4th Mondays 10 a.m.
Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	2nd Tuesday 10 a.m.
Moulsham Lodge, Chelmsford	...	...	4th Thursday afternoons.

Audiology Clinic

Springfield Health Services Clinic, Springfield Green, Chelmsford	2nd and 4th Wednesdays p.m.
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Ophthalmic Clinic

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	Tuesdays a.m. and Wednesdays all day (By appointment). Fridays a.m.
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Dental Clinics

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (By appointment)
Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	...	...	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (By appointment)
Moulsham Lodge, Chelmsford	...	...	Tuesdays and Thursdays (By appointment)
Springfield Green, Chelmsford	Wednesdays all day (By appointment)

Child Guidance Clinic

146 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford	By appointment
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Chiropody Clinics

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday morning 9 a.m. to 12 noon
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Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	Wednesday mornings and afternoons (By appointment)
Moulsham Lodge Health Services Clinic, Chelmsford	...	...	Thursday mornings (by appointment)
Springfield Health Services Clinic, Springfield Green, Chelmsford	...	...	Monday mornings (by appointment)

Speech Therapy Clinics

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	...	...	Tuesdays all day and Fridays p.m. (By appointment)
Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	...	...	Mondays and Fridays a.m. (By appointment)

Immunisation Clinics

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	...	...	1st Monday 2 p.m.
Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	...	...	4th Friday 2 p.m.
Springfield Green, Chelmsford	...	...	3rd Friday mornings

F.P.A. Clinics

Coval Lane, Chelmsford	...	...	For appointment phone between 6.30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday only. Chelmsford 51671
Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford	...	...	For appointment phone between 9.30 and 11 a.m. Friday only. Chelmsford 56430
Springfield Green, Chelmsford	...	...	For appointment phone between 9.30 and 11 a.m. Tuesday only. Chelmsford 59474

Health Visitors

There are four Health Visitors based at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coval Lane, Chelmsford (telephone 51671), one at Melbourne Clinic (telephone 56430), two at Springfield Green Clinic (telephone 59474) and four at the Health Services Clinic, Moulsham Lodge Estate (telephone 55394). These ladies are Public Health Nurses whose duties consist in attending at various County Council Clinics and Child Welfare Centres, where they give advice as Health teachers, with an expert knowledge of the care of young children. They also carry out health work in the schools as School Nurses. The most important part of a Health Visitor's work, however, consists in

visiting the homes of the people, where she gives advice on health matters concerning the family as a whole. She can also form a most important connecting link between the family and the facilities provided by the Local Health Authority and the General Practitioner Services under the National Health Service Act.

HOME NURSE/MIDWIVES

The following is a list of Home Nurses and Midwives who are working in the Borough:—

Home Nurses

- Mrs. J. Allen (Part-time), 47 Ongar Road, Writtle.
Tel. Gt. Oxney 509
- Mrs. M. L. Blackburn (Part-time), 46 Pennine Road, Chelmsford.
Tel. 4663
- Mrs. V. E. Davies, 43 Gilmore Way, Gt. Baddow. Tel. 71895
- Mrs. G. Drury, 19 Bouverie Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 52780
- Mrs. N. K. Griffiths (Part-time), 2 Daws Close, Writtle.
Tel. Writtle 298
- Mr. J. D. Howell, 9 West Lawn, Galleywood.
Tel. Chelmsford 71710
- Mrs. B. Marshall, 1 Norfolk Drive, Chelmsford. Tel. 53000
- Mrs. B. Owen (Part-time), 132 Watchouse Road, Galleywood.
Tel. Chelmsford 72421
- Mrs. M. B. Palmer, 127 Springfield Park Avenue, Chelmsford.
Tel. 52354
- Mrs. R. Pullan (Part-time), 7 Bells Chase, Gt. Baddow. Tel. 72031
- Mrs. E. Stonebank, 9 Barnard Road, Galleywood.
Tel. Chelmsford 72302
- Mrs. M. K. Thurgood, 12 Tylers Close, Chelmsford. Tel. 56943
- Mrs. E. B. Tripp, 31 Crescent Road, Gt. Baddow.
Tel. Chelmsford 72180
- Mrs. E. J. Young, 132 Long Brandocks, Writtle. Tel. Writtle 228

Midwives

- Mrs. J. A. Brooks, Police House, Boreham. Tel. Boreham 730
- Mrs. J. H. J. Brough (Part-time), Warden's House, Mildmay Hall,
Rainsford Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 55017
- Mrs. A. W. Burrows, 1 Kirkman Road, Galleywood.
Tel. Chelmsford 71414
- Miss M. F. Crisp, 19 St. John's Green, Writtle.
Tel. Writtle 567
- Miss E. A. Martin, 1 Epping Close, Chelmsford. Tel. 54132
- Mrs. B. A. Munsey, 41 Park View Crescent, Gt. Baddow.
Tel. Chelmsford 71215
- Mrs. D. Nayler, 24 Larch Grove, Chelmsford. Tel. 51181

Mrs. M. B. O'Dwyer, 159 Barnard Road, Galleywood.

Tel. Chelmsford 72528

Mrs. D. G. Sherrington, 14 Pembroke Place, Chelmsford.

Tel. 51387

Mrs. C. Taylor, 542 Galleywood Road, Chelmsford. Tel. 56413

Miss P. Wells, 67 School Lane, Broomfield. Tel. Broomfield 519

Mrs. S. H. Whiddett, 5 Pertwee Drive, Gt. Baddow. Tel. 72900

Part-time District Auxiliaries

Mrs. M. Bird, 95 Longmead Avenue, Gt. Baddow. Tel. 73984

Mrs. E. E. Collicot, 145 Avon Road, Chelmsford.

Mrs. D. J. Dare, 50 Sixth Avenue, Chelmsford.

Mrs. M. R. Hickman, 15 Westbourne Grove, Chelmsford.

Tel. 59906

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

This service is provided by the Essex County Council and operates from Coval Lane, Chelmsford. Telephone No. 54801.

DAY NURSERY, Waterloo Lane, Chelmsford

A forty-place Day Nursery is provided, and admission is by application to the Matron.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Laboratory Services are provided by the Essex County Council at the Public Health Laboratories, Chelmsford & Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford, and the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment is available at Chelmsford & Essex Hospital, London Road, Chelmsford on Wednesday afternoons 3.30-6 p.m. and Friday mornings 9.30-11.30 a.m.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

The Essex Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped is now operating from 90 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford (Telephone No. Chelmsford 57309), where application can be made by physically handicapped persons requiring assistance.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The quality of the water has at all times been of a satisfactory nature for public supply purposes.

During the past year the quantity of water available has been sufficient to meet the needs of the Borough.

Bacteriological examinations are made daily of the treated water as it leaves the Sandford Mill Pumping Station and frequent analyses are made of the raw water. Daily samples are also taken from the Service Reservoir and at certain points on the distribution system. These have in all cases proved satisfactory.

The water has a slight plumbo-solvency action which laboratory tests show to be approximately 10% of the limit recommended by the World Health Organisation. However, lead is not used in the water services in the area of supply and the water contains less than 2% of the above limit.

Pollution of the River Chelmer on 21st January, 1970, from the Felsted Sewage Works passed through Chelmsford on the 22nd. The Sandford Mill Waterworks intake was closed for the period of 5 hours thus preventing ingress of polluted water.

All properties within the area of supply have mains supply direct to the house.

Supply by means of standpipes—Nil.

SWIMMING POOLS, WATERLOO LANE, CHELMSFORD

Swimming pools have often been blamed, in most cases unfairly, for outbreaks of infection. Samples of the water in Chelmsford's pools taken during the year have shown entirely adequate chlorination. In such well-maintained pools there is no risk whatever of acquiring a serious infection from swimming. The possibility of minor skin and throat infections being picked up in the pool or its surroundings cannot be eliminated, but the risks are trivial compared with the benefits of swimming. Even though the water is chlorinated nobody should use the pools when suffering from a discharging ear or nose, or while suffering from a wound or localised infection of the skin. The reason is not primarily because of the risks of the infection, which are difficult to assess, but because such disorders, if obvious to other swimmers, will be objectionable to them.

Occasionally, the pool attendants, acting in the interests of the pool users, are obliged to turn away intending swimmers who appear to be in an unwholesome condition. This unpleasant but necessary duty would be exercised even less frequently if all bathers (or their parents) adopted a responsible and unselfish attitude. Similarly, plaster dressings should not be worn in the water. It is the experience of the pools staff that prolonged immersion will detach even waterproof plasters. Loose plasters are drawn into the recirculating system and become jammed in the filters.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1970

By the Chelmsford Borough Council:

Watchouse Road Estate: 3 bedroomed houses ...	...	...	19
1 bedroomed flats ...	...	...	8
2 bedroomed flats ...	...	...	16
Cramphorn Walk: 3 bedroomed houses ...	...	...	43
Total ...			<hr/> 86

By private development:

Holdings Farm Estate ...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Brownings Meadow Estate ...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Miscellaneous areas ...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Total ...						<hr/> 273

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There has been no alteration in the method of refuse collection during the year.

SEWERAGE

The arrangements for the sewerage of the Borough are reasonably adequate. At present the sewage disposal facilities are overloaded, but work has recently started on a major extension of the sewage disposal works which will overcome this inadequacy.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1970

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Chelmsford Borough Council*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the following report on work carried out during 1970.

Although more time is devoted to certain aspects of the work than others, it is nevertheless true that each duty is of importance in the constant effort to maintain and improve the health of the community. The various duties performed by members of my staff contribute towards this effort. The meat inspection service is provided to ensure that all meat leaving the slaughterhouses is free from disease, the inspections of offices and shops are aimed at improving the conditions under which more than 9,000 people work, the destruction of rats and mice and insect pests ensures more comfort, freedom from damage and risks from diseases which many rodents and pests are capable of carrying. The administration necessary in connection with these and the many other duties performed by the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the staff ensures the smooth running of the service.

In highlighting some of the activities of the year, housing is one particular field in which considerable interest has been shown. Owners of houses have made 118 applications for Qualification Certificates and the overall effect of these and applications for Improvement Grants result in better housing conditions for the occupiers. During the year a survey has been carried out of houses in Crompton Street, Waterhouse Street and parts of Waterhouse Lane and Writtle Road with a view to the area being declared a General Improvement Area.

A number of houses in the town are known to be in multiple occupation. Conditions under these circumstances are rarely ideal for the people involved and awareness of such houses usually comes to light following complaints of unsatisfactory conditions. Where necessary, requests for improved standards are made to owners and recommendations for improved means of escape in case of fire are made by the Fire Brigade.

Complaints of noise continue to increase and 121 visits and investigations were made during the year. The types of noise vary and have been industrial and domestic in character. In most cases co-operation has achieved reduction in noise levels.

Food hygiene and the control of the quality and cleanliness of food has played a large part in the work of the department. It will be seen that most of the samples of foods purchased for analysis and bacteriological ex-

amination have shown satisfactory results. Many traders are quick to comply with the various requests to remedy contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. However, it is with some concern that I have to report a continuing increase in the number of complaints following the purchase of unsatisfactory foods. Each complaint is thoroughly investigated and where mouldy food is concerned a fault is usually found in the stock rotation system.

A number of talks have again been given to local organisations on food hygiene and other aspects of the duties of a Public Health Inspector.

In concluding my report I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and encouragement, to Dr. Slattery and my fellow Officers for their assistance and ready co-operation. Lastly, I am appreciative of a loyal, hard working staff.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

N. T. HUDSON

Chief Public Health Inspector

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

The figures set out below include the number of inspections and the amount of work carried out at dwelling houses. Inspections are made for several different purposes and include inspections for defects following complaints, for consideration for clearance area and demolition order procedures, inspections following applications for qualification certificates and improvement grants. Inspections are also made of houses in multiple occupation and following requests for advice from owner/occupiers.

It is due to the ready co-operation of many owners that a considerable amount of work is completed without the necessity to proceed by way of Statutory powers.

1 INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- (1) (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects:—

Public Health Act	85	}	712
Housing Act	627		

- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose:—

Public Health Act	218	}	1,221
Housing Act	1,003		

- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation

35

- (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation or in a state of disrepair:—

Public Health Act	36	}	46
Housing Act	10		

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit or repaired in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority's Officers:—

Public Health Act	18	}	25
Housing Act	7		

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under Section 9, 10, 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Demolition orders issued | 1 |
| (2) Demolition orders complied with | — |

(3) Houses closed	4
Parts of Buildings Closed—Houses	1
(4) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted in lieu of orders	—
(5) Houses demolished following undertakings in lieu of orders	—
(6) Houses made fit following undertakings in lieu of demolition orders	—
(7) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(8) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By the Local Authority in default of owners	—

*Summary of Inspections Made and Work Carried Out
as a Result of Notices Served or Recommendations made*

Housing Act, 1957

Informal Notices issued	10
„ „ complied with	7
Statutory Notices issued	—
„ „ complied with	—

Public Health Act, 1936

Informal Notices issued	36
„ „ complied with	18
Statutory notices issued	1
„ „ complied with	—

Inspections Made and Recorded

Houses	1,638
Tents, Vans and Sheds	4
Water Supplies	23
Infectious Disease	71
Ponds, Ditches and Watercourses	29
Dirty and/or Verminous Houses	33
Public Conveniences	7
Places of Entertainment	4

Inspections Made and Recorded (Cont.)

Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Drainage Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	367
Accumulations of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Insect Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Nuisances on land	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Noise Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Clean Air Act:—								
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection of Installations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Work Carried Out

Ceilings provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Internal wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Staircase repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	42
Internal walls rendered with impervious material	...	...	...	...	...	11
Eaves Gutters and Fallpipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
W.C.'s repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yards/Paths repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Provided with Horizontal D.P.C.	...	...	...	...	...	4
Suitable Lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Services repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.'s repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Petrol Tanks made safe	...	...	...	...	...	2
Smoke Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Door and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rainwater Fallpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Noise Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Additional underfloor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	2

Clearance Areas

Progress with the four-year clearance area programme commenced in 1967 and deferred pending the coming into operation of the Housing Act 1969 has continued. Details are set out below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Properties</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
1967	59, 60 and 61 Moulsham Street; 308, 310 and 312 Springfield Road; 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 Maltese Road; 1 and 2 Sycamore Cottages; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 Railway Street; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Railway Square	Demolished
1968	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 Rochford Road	Demolished
	237 Broomfield Road; 1, 3, 5 and 7 Patching Hall Lane	Demolished informally
	27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 Townfield Street	Clearance Order modified excl. No. 27
	14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 Lower Anchor Street	Clearance Order confirmed
1969	66, 68, 70, 72 and 74 Widford Road ...	Clearance Order confirmed
	15, 17, 19 and 21 Springfield Green ...	Demolished after Demolition Orders
	140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154 and 156 Baddow Road	Improved and made fit
	178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194 and 196 Springfield Road	Clearance Order confirmed
1970	42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64 and 66 Arbour Lane	Clearance Area declared
	111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137 and 139 Broomfield Road	Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed
	9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 Primrose Hill	Clearance Order confirmed
	28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 St. John's Road	Clearance Area declared

Housing Act, 1969—Qualification Certificates

The following details relate to applications for certificates received and refer to houses having controlled tenancies:—

Applications for Qualification Certificates received	...	...	105
Qualification Certificates granted	...	...	97
Qualification Certificates refused	...	...	7
Application withdrawn	...	...	1
Applications for Certificates of Provisional Approval received	...	...	13
Certificates of Provisional Approval granted	...	...	13
Certificates of Provisional Approval refused	...	...	—

Safeguarding of Food Supplies

A considerable amount of time is spent by the Public Health Inspectors and the Authorised Meat Inspectors in carrying out **their duties under this** section of the work of the department. The figures given on this and following pages are merely statistics which do not give a true and complete picture

of the constant efforts to ensure that all food during its storage, preparation and sale is clean, safe to eat and of a satisfactory quality.

All plans submitted in connection with proposed new premises and alterations to existing premises are inspected in detail and occupiers are encouraged to seek advice. During inspections at food premises and food stalls no effort is spared to bring about improvements and it is pleasing to be able to record that all of the work carried out was achieved by informal approach.

The number and types of food premises are given below. At many of these premises several types of business are carried on but the main trade only is mentioned and, therefore, the number of premises can be ascertained and compared with the number of inspections carried out. The number of food stalls is not recorded because a number of these include food vehicles coming into the district from other areas. Frequent inspections are made of the stalls at the Chelmsford Retail Market.

Number of Premises and Inspections made.

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	6	37
Butchers	30	168
Cafes & Restaurants	43	225
Dairies & Milk Shops	7	35
Fishmongers & Poulterers	3	18
Food Preparing Premises	10	10
Fried Fish Shops	10	78
Grocers	59	254
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	21	29
Ice cream premises/Confectioners	53	89
Licensed Premises	81	82
School Canteens	41	92
Factory Canteens, Warehouses, stores and other miscellaneous premises	88	228
Food Stalls	—	137
Informal Notices Issued		34
„ „ complied with		50

Work Carried Out

Articles and/or equipment repaired	12
Articles and/or equipment cleaned	14
Containers provided for waste food	1
Cupboards or cloakrooms provided for outdoor clothing	2

Food protected from risk of contamination ...	...	...	...	4
Floors cleansed ...	...	...	...	9
First Aid materials provided ...	...	...	...	2
Hand washing notices displayed ...	...	...	...	13
Name and address displayed at stalls ...	...	...	...	2
Food rooms suitably ventilated ...	...	...	...	3
Food rooms suitably lighted ...	...	...	...	1
Persons refrained from using tobacco ...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary conveniences cleansed or put in order ...	...	...	...	7
Sanitary conveniences lighted and/or ventilated ...	...	...	...	3
Suitable constant water supply provided for hand washing ...	...	...	...	3
Soap, towel and/or nail brush provided ...	...	...	...	4
Suitable facilities provided for washing equipment ...	...	...	...	2
Stalls cleansed ...	...	...	...	2
Stalls repaired ...	...	...	...	1
Rooms cleansed and/or decorated ...	...	...	...	16
Wash hand basins provided ...	...	...	...	1
Wash hand basins cleansed or repaired ...	...	...	...	1
Walls and floors repaired ...	...	...	...	1

Registrations

Premises registered for sale of ice cream ...	...	...	...	154
Persons registered as Vendors of ice cream ...	...	...	...	180
Premises registered for manufacture of ice cream ...	...	...	...	4
Persons registered for manufacture of ice cream ...	...	...	...	4
Premises registered for manufacture of cooked meats etc. ...	...	...	...	57

The following unsound food has been surrendered as unfit. It has been collected and destroyed (where salvage is impracticable):

	<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat at slaughterhouses ...	50	4	89
Meat at wholesale premises/retail shops ...	2	4	19
Cooked meat and meat products ...			37
Canned meats ...		7	74
Other canned foods ...	4	3	25
Other foods ...	1	1	14
Fruit juices ...			166 gallons

Included are frozen foods collected from storage units which have suffered power or mechanical failure.

Bacteriological Examination

The following are details of samples of food and food equipment submitted for bacteriological examination:—

	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Ice cream/Ice cream lollies ...	135	133	2
Cream ...	4	4	—
Milk ...	173	171	2
Meat Products ...	75	75	—
Milk Churn Rinses ...	7	7	—
Milk Bottles ...	2	2	—
Frozen Egg ...	1	1	—
Orange Juice ...	1	1	—
Bakers confectionery ...	12	12	—
Yoghurt ...	1	1	—
Papadum ...	1	1	—
Chile Powder ...	1	1	—
Prawn Vinuilu ...	1	1	—

The two unsatisfactory samples of ice cream were both from the same retailer. The ice cream was loose and, with attention to equipment cleaning, follow-up samples proved satisfactory. In the case of the two unsatisfactory samples of milk these were both purchased from retail shops and indicated bad stock rotation.

Analysis of Food

Details of samples tested or submitted for analysis by the Public Analysts for the Chelmsford Borough are given below:—

	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>
Milks ...	72	72	—
Ice cream ...	18	18	—
Sausages & other meat products ...	38	34	4
Butter, Cheese and other fats ...	14	14	—
Cordials/Minerals ...	5	5	—
Soups and sauces ...	6	6	—
Bakers Confectionery ...	6	4	2
Bread ...	6	5	1
Salad Cream ...	3	3	—
Tinned Milks & creams ...	12	12	—
Wines/Spirits ...	10	10	—
Medicines/Health Foods ...	7	7	—
Fish/Fish Products ...	3	3	—
Other Miscellaneous Foods ...	28	28	—

The Statutory Standard for Milk is 8.5% solids non-fat and 4% butter fat in the case of Channel Islands Milk and 3% butter fat in the case of other milk. The average solids non-fat was 9.2% and in the case of 28 samples of Channel Islands milk the average butter fat was 4.8%. In the case of the other 44 milk samples the average butter fat was 3.9%.

Two of the samples of meat products found not to be genuine were steak and kidney pies with very poor kidney content. In each case the manufacturers' attention was drawn to the defect and either the mix was improved to give a greater kidney content or the pies were described as meat pies, the total meat content being completely satisfactory.

The two other samples of meat products found not to be genuine were samples of sausage meat deficient in meat content required by The Sausage and Other Meat Products Regulations 1967. This matter was taken up with the Manufacturers.

Two samples of Bakers Confectionery found not to be genuine referred to the filling in Coloured Ice cream Slices. In each case the matter of displaying notices describing use of imitation cream as cake filling was taken up with the Retailer concerned.

The fibre content of a loaf of bread indicated that the loaf was mis-described as 'Wholemeal Brown Bread'. Details of the Analyst's Report were given to the Manufacturer to ensure correct description of bread.

Food Complaints

I set out below a list of all customer food complaints received during the year:—

<i>No. of Complaints</i>				<i>No. of Complaints</i>			
Insects in food	...	...	13	Discoloured savoury mince	...	...	1
Miscellaneous foreign matter	...	...	...	Abnormal taste in rhubarb	...	...	1
in food	...	...	9	"Fizzling" tinned peas	...	...	1
Unfit meat	...	...	8	Dirty milk bottle	...	...	2
Mouldy bread	...	...	8	Tobacco in bread	...	...	2
Mouldy meat pies	...	...	7	Abnormal taste in eggs	...	...	2
Mouldy cakes and pastry	...	...	5	Abnormal odour in meat	...	...	2
Mouldy meat	...	...	3	Abnormal taste in ice-cream	...	...	2
Mouldy fishfingers	...	...	1	Wood in bacon	...	...	1
Mouldy cheese	...	...	1	Abnormal taste in cheese	...	...	...
Muslin in ham	...	...	1	spread	...	...	1
Metal in blackberry and	...	...	...	Cardboard in bun	...	...	1
apple pie	...	...	1	Abnormal taste in orange	...	...	...
Abnormal taste in cakes	...	...	1	drink	...	...	1
Unfit potatoes	...	...	1	Nut and bolt in bread	...	...	1
String in bread	...	...	1	Abnormal taste in Yoghurt	...	...	1
Paper in bread	...	...	1	Discoloured steak and kidney	...	...	...
Screw in bread	...	...	1	pie	...	...	1

		No. of Complaints			No. of Complaints
Nail in Herring roe ...	...	1	Abnormal taste in fish ...	...	1
Snail in blackcurrant tart ...	...	1	Abnormal taste and odour of		
Stale gateau ...	...	1	fish ...	...	2
Screw in Cornish pasty ...	...	1			

Each complaint is thoroughly investigated and in many cases a definite improvement in methods of manufacture, preparation and storage is achieved.

Legal Proceedings

It became necessary to institute legal proceedings during the year and the following are the details:—

Food & Drugs Act—Section 8. A retailer was found guilty of selling a packet of cooked shoulder pork slices which were unfit for human consumption. A fine of £50 plus £20 costs was imposed.

Food & Drugs Act—Section 2. A manufacturer was found guilty of making a Cornish Pasty containing a screw and was fined £25 plus £10 costs.

A manufacturer was found guilty of baking a loaf of bread containing a cockroach and was fined £20 plus £25 costs.

A manufacturer was fined £20 plus £2 2s. 0d. costs for making a blackberry and apple pie containing a piece of metal.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations. A stallholder was fined £7 plus £1 costs for smoking whilst handling open food and for not displaying his name and address on the stall.

Meat Inspection

There are three privately owned slaughterhouses in the Borough, the largest being modern in construction and was completed in 1966. There are two Authorised Meat Inspectors and it will be seen that 66,690 animals were killed compared with 57,567 last year. The carcasses and organs of all slaughtered animals were inspected.

The times of slaughter are reasonable and there has been no necessity to apply any form of control.

The reasons for complete rejection of pig carcasses were due to Pyaemia (12), Septicaemia (10), Emaciation (2), Moribund (2), Multiple Abscesses (12), Septic Pleurisy (4), Septic Peritonitis (4), Septic Arthritis (5), Septic Pneumonia (3), Oedema (2), Uraemia (1), Fever (1), Tuberculosis (1).

The number of cases of cysticercus bovis increased from 15 to 22. Carcase freezing was carried out in each case.

All unfit meat was disposed of in the manner required by the appropriate Regulations.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND REJECTED

	Cows	Bullocks Heifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	92	11,537	118	18,557	36,386
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcasses rejected ...	2	4	8	2	59
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected ...	9	3,625	4	1,667	7,052
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	11.9	31.4	10.2	8.9	19.0
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcasses rejected ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected ...	2	5	—	—	727
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.17	.04	—	—	1.99
Cysticercosis— Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected ...	—	22	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	22	—	—	—
Generalised and totally rejected ...	—	—	—	—	—

The weight of meat rejected amounted to 50 tons, 4 cwts., 89 lbs.

Swimming Baths and Pools

In addition to the Council owned swimming bath and pool there are 5 school swimming pools. Frequent visits were made to ensure that satisfactory sterilisation of the water was being carried out and 4 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Advice is readily given in order to ensure that the water in the pools remains suitable for use by the school children.

Pest Control

The Outside Assistant spends much of his time on pest control work. He is provided with a light van in which to carry his equipment. The Council's free service to householders continues and members of the public co-operate in reporting infestations. It is the reporting of these infestations which assists with the prevention of spread of rats, mice and other pests. No formal action had to be taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. The Council's sewers were treated once during the year necessitating the placing of bait in manholes.

Rodent Control

Properties inspected for rats and mice	627
Properties found to be infested by rats	384
Properties found to be infested by mice	196
Number of visits made	2,876

Difficulties continue to be experienced in the control of mice. Treatment by use of "Warfarin" has very little effect and the use of Alpha Chloros where the temperatures are high is limited in success. Zinc Phosphide is used as an alternative bait. I am of the opinion that many problems arise following unsuccessful attempts by householders when Warfarin has been purchased from the various shops.

Insect Pests

Members of the public are becoming increasingly aware of the services provided by the department. Pests dealt with were crickets, carpet beetles, cockroaches, flies, fleas, wood boring beetles and it is of interest to note that 330 wasps nests were destroyed.

Petroleum Acts

98 premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum spirits. Each underground storage tank is subject to a periodic ullage test and newly installed tanks are pressure tested after installation. During the year 45 tanks were tested and 407 visits were made to stores and installations to ensure compliance with the Licensing Conditions. 24 informal requests were made for improvements and 37 requests had been complied with at the end of the year which involved requirements from the previous year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961**Inspections**

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	5	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	181	149	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	22	39	7	—
TOTAL	209	193	13	—

Defects

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	7	5	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	14	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	16	21	1	—	—

Outworkers

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel { Making etc.,	12	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and Furniture hangings ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	20	—	—	—	—	—

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Summary of Registrations, Inspections, Contraventions and Work carried out during the Year ended 31st December, 1970

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Premises Registered during the year</i>	<i>Total Registered Premises at end of year</i>	<i>No. of Registered Premises receiving one or more general inspections during 1970</i>
Offices	30	328	76
Retail Shops	23	417	85
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	8	56	12
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens ...	3	85	23
Fuel storage Depots	—	2	—
	64	888	196

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered premises under the Act 1,044

<i>Persons employed in registered premises</i>						<i>No. of Persons</i>
Offices						4,193
Retail Shops						3,813
Wholesale departments, warehouses						508
Catering Establishments open to the public						629
Canteens						47
Fuel Storage Depots						15
Total Males	4,487	Total Females	4,718			9,205

Analysis of Contraventions and work carried out

<i>Detail</i>	<i>Contraventions Found Remedied</i>		<i>Detail</i>	<i>Contraventions Found Remedied</i>	
Cleanliness	—	—	Floors, passages & stairs	9	6
Overcrowding	—	1	Fencing exposed machinery	10	6
Temperature	7	10	Provision of Thermometers	26	33
Ventilation	5	1	Notices	41	49
Lighting	7	8	First Aid General Provision	11	15
Sanitary Conveniences	4	4			
Washing facilities	7	4			
Drinking Vessels	—	—			
Eating facilities	—	—			
The remedial work mentioned above relates to contraventions found during 1969/70				127	137

Accidents

During the year there were 19 non-fatal accidents reported.

The Act requires the occupier of any premises to notify forthwith any accident occurring on the premises which :—

- (a) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises, or
- (b) disables any such person for more than three days from doing his usual work.

The causes of accidents were classified as follows :—

<i>No. of Accidents</i>	<i>Cause classification</i>
5	Use of hand tools
4	Handling goods
2	Falls of persons on the same level
2	Falls of persons on or from fixed stairs
2	Not specified
1	Striking against object
1	Vehicle—Stationary
1	Non-power driven machinery (Food slicer)
1	Power driven machinery (Bandsaw)

