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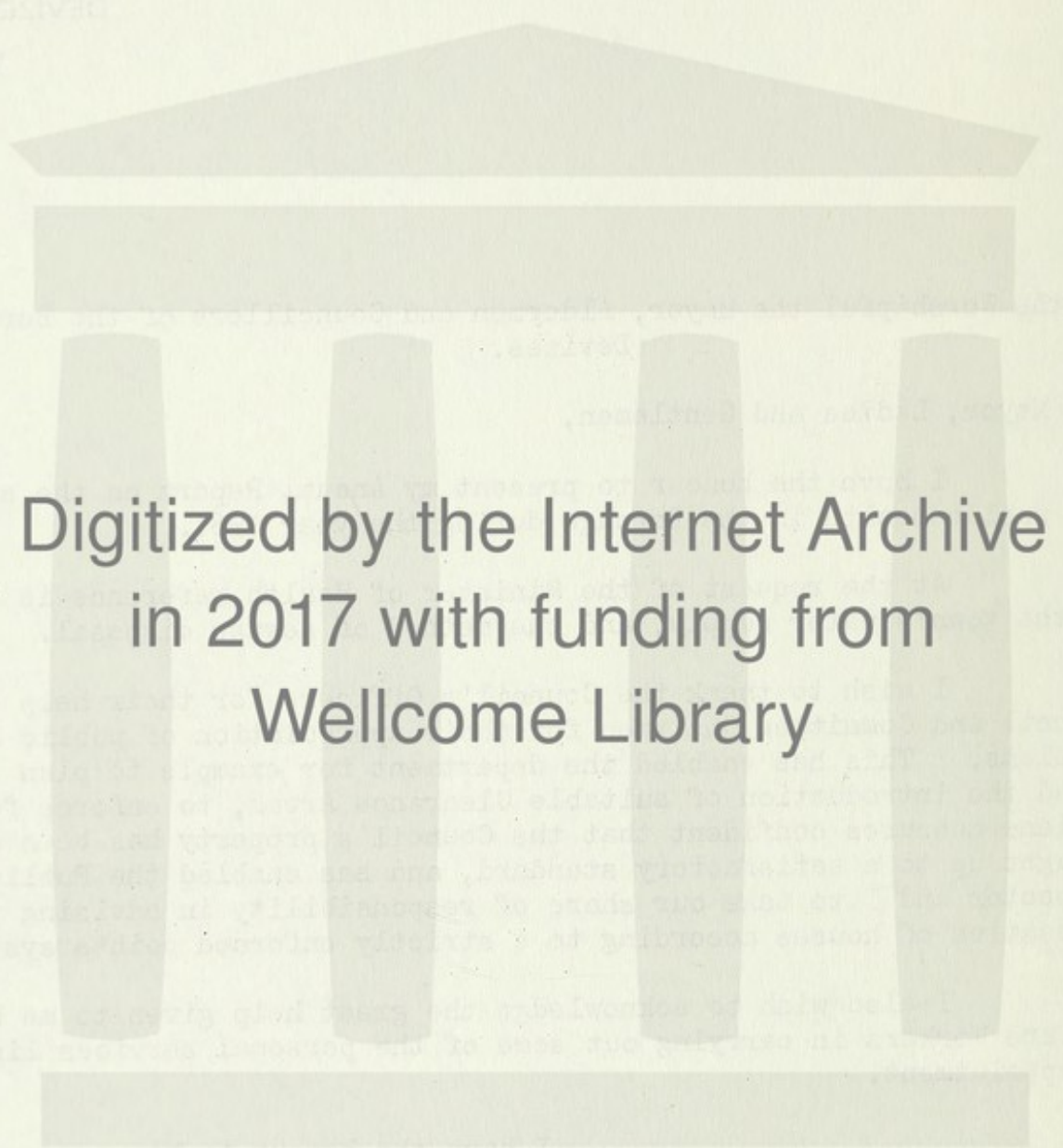
BOROUGH OF DEVIZES



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and of the  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1961.



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## BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
NORTHGATE HOUSE,  
DEVIZES,  
WILTSHIRE

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Devizes.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of  
the public health in the Borough during the year 1961.

At the request of the Minister of Health reference is again made  
to the town's water supply, and the method of sewage disposal.

I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their help and the  
Council and Committee Chairmen for their appreciation of public health  
problems. This has enabled the department for example to plan well  
ahead the introduction of suitable Clearance Areas, to enforce food  
hygiene measures confident that the Council's property has been or will be  
brought up to a satisfactory standard, and has enabled the Public Health  
Inspector and I to take our share of responsibility in advising the proper  
allocation of houses according to a strictly enforced points system.

I also wish to acknowledge the great help given to me by Social  
Welfare Workers in carrying out some of the personal services linked with  
my appointment.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH J. ADAMS.

Medical Officer of Health



## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### Medical Officer of Health :-

K.J. ADAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Univ. Lond.)

### Public Health Inspector :-

K. WILDEY, M.P.H.I.A., C.R.S.I., C.G.L.I. (San.Eng.)  
Royal Sanitary Institute Certificates for Meat  
and other foods inspection, and for Sanitary  
Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

### Rodent Operative :-

F.W. BARRETT (Part-time, being shared with Devizes Rural  
District Council).

### Health Office Clerks :-

MRS. E.E. NOAKES  
MRS. Y.F. STOREY

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## GENERAL STATISTICS

|   |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Area in Acres   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1,419.87 |
| Population (Registrar General's Estimate)                         | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8,490    |
| Number of dwellings (including shops with dwelling accommodation) | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2,798    |
| Rateable Value  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £114,919 |
| Estimated Product of 1d Rate                                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £460     |

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Birth and Death Rates compared with other Areas. (Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

|                        |      |      |      |      | <u>Birth Rate</u> | <u>Death Rate</u> |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Devizes Borough        | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17.15             | 9.33              |
| England and Wales      | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17.40             | 12.00             |
| Wiltshire              | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18.72             | 10.55             |
| Devizes Rural District | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18.33             | 8.56              |

In calculating Birth and Death Rates, area comparability factors are issued by the Registrar General to "correct" irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population, and also to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions.



### Births and Infantile Deaths

|                      | Legitimate |        | Illegitimate |        | Total |
|----------------------|------------|--------|--------------|--------|-------|
|                      | Male       | Female | Male         | Female |       |
| Live Births          | 69         | 68     | 1            | 2      | 140   |
| Still Births         | -          | 3      | -            | -      | 3     |
| Deaths under 1 year  | 1          | -      | -            | -      | 1     |
| Deaths under 4 weeks | -          | -      | -            | -      | -     |
| Deaths under 1 week  | -          | -      | -            | -      | -     |

### Infantile Mortality Rate

The infantile mortality rate is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age divided by the number of related live births expressed per thousand. It is a rate which is falling steadily in this country and is a useful index of the standard of medical and maternal care of the very young child.

It is most unfortunate that our figures in the Borough are too small to calculate an accurate infantile mortality rate annually, but it occurred to me that it would be interesting to take our small figures over the last decade and calculate an average infantile mortality rate over this period. In interpreting such figures it must be remembered that during this same ten years the national mortality rate has correspondingly fallen. The result is set out in the tables below and reflects great credit to our mothers and local medical services.

### Infantile Mortality Rates

|                 | 1921                     | 1931  | 1941      | 1951  | 1961  |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| England & Wales | 83                       | 66    | not known | 29.6  | 21.4  |
| Wiltshire       | 56.1                     | 50.59 | 46.68     | 23.41 | 19.36 |
| Devizes Borough | Average IMR 1952 to 1961 |       |           |       | 20.75 |

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year :-

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Measles .....                    | 209 |
| Scarlet Fever .....              | 9   |
| Whooping Cough .....             | 8   |
| Tuberculosis (respiratory) ..... | 4   |
| Tuberculosis (other).....        | 1   |
| Erysipelas .....                 | 1   |
| Food Poisoning.....              | 1   |



## Measles

1961 was a measles year and many children suffered from this lowering disease. There are some who feel a measles vaccine would be worth while, but although measles is easily diagnosed by its characteristic rash, there are many occasions in a child's life when he is just as ill as if he has measles but without the rash. A measles vaccine does not mean that the last serious infectious disease of childhood would be prevented. There must be many more serious virus diseases of childhood which have only general symptoms and produce no characteristic signs.

## Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria were notified. A table showing notifications received nationally is set out below for the year 1961 :-

| Notifications of confirmed diphtheria for England and Wales 1961. |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|   | 1st qtr. | 2nd qtr. | 3rd qtr. | 4th qtr. |
| Devon   | -        | -        | -        | 1        |
| Derby   | 2        | -        | -        | -        |
| Kent  | -        | 1        | -        | -        |
| Lancashire  | -        | -        | -        | 1        |
| London  | 14       | 11       | 3        | -        |
| Middlesex   | 1        | -        | -        | -        |
| Soke of Peterborough  | -        | 1        | -        | -        |
| Shropshire  | -        | -        | 1        | -        |
| Staffs.   | 3        | -        | 1        | -        |
| Worcestershire  | 2        | -        | -        | -        |
| West Sussex   | -        | 2        | -        | -        |
| Glamorganshire  | 2        | 1        | -        | 4        |
| Monmouthshire   | -        | -        | 1        | -        |
| Total notifications   | 24       | 16       | 6        | 6        |

This table demonstrates how widely in England and Wales the few cases are occurring. There is no doubt there must be diphtheria carriers in Wiltshire which only an intensive immunisation campaign keeps at bay.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following figures :-

| Year of Birth                               | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1952-56 | 1946-51 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|---------|---------|
| Primary Immunisations completed during 1961 | 47   | 80   | 10   | 7    | 4    | 30      | 6       |
| Reinf. injections administered during 1961  | -    | 6    | 13   | 4    | 4    | 136     | 9       |



### Whooping Cough

The 8 cases notified are those children who had the disease severely enough for it to be diagnosed. Many more must have contracted the infection in mild form, the mild nature being due to previous vaccination. Of these notified cases, 4 children were aged 2 years or under, only serving to demonstrate the importance of getting the vaccination done as early as possible, and pointing out to parents that infection usually takes place at home. WHOOPING COUGH DOES NOT WAIT TO BE SPREAD IN SCHOOL - MOST CHILDREN HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFECTED BEFORE SCHOOL AGE.

Under the Wiltshire County Council Scheme the following vaccinations against Whooping Cough took place :-

| Year of Birth                                | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1952-56 | 1946-51 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|---------|---------|
| Primary Immunisations completed during 1961. | 47   | 80   | 9    | 5    | 2    | 8       | 1       |
| Reinf. injections administered during 1961   | -    | 5    | 11   | 4    | -    | 28      | 6       |

### Scarlet Fever

Nine cases of scarlet fever were notified; seven were children of school age. At present the infection is mild, but it can be spread by contamination of food stuffs, particularly milk. Visits are made to the homes of scarlet fever cases to find whether home contacts are food handlers, when each case is judged on its merits.

### Tuberculosis

Four cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified and the fifth case of non-respiratory tuberculosis is likely to have occurred from an infectious chest case in the same household.

It is rare now to obtain infection from milk, as herds are free of tuberculosis and constant checks are made upon milk supplies.

### Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified. I am sure many cases occur but the patients often do not bother to seek treatment. On this occasion, the patient was admitted to hospital, so severe was the illness, but from the public health point of view, we had no help as all investigations were negative.



## KEEPING WELL

One of the anomalies of an efficient Health Service when National Health Insurance rates are similar for everyone, is that there is no vested interest in keeping well. Young men speed on motor-cycles, confident that the State will repair their broken bodies "free of charge".

The British Housewife does not steer towards the cleanest food shops to avoid family illness through eating dirty food. Rarely does she complain when the baker hands her a dirty loaf or the grocer man-handles her cut bacon with bare hands. Not so her sisters in the countries where payment of medical bills demands good hygiene. Public Health Inspectors do their best to maintain good standards of food hygiene but if this country falls below standards acceptable in some Western Countries the British Housewife gets the standard of food hygiene her uncritical purchasing deserves.

Perhaps there is a case for a "no claim bonus" in National Insurance rates.

### SUMMARY OF DEATHS

|  |                      |      |      |      | Male | Female |
|--|----------------------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| Infectious Diseases:                   | Influenza            | .... | .... | .... | 5    | 1      |
|  | Syphilis             | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
|  | Tuberculosis         |      | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
|  | Other                | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 0      |
| Respiratory disease:                   | Pneumonia            | .... | .... | .... | 4    | 3      |
|  | Bronchitis           | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 0      |
|  | Other                | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 0      |
| Cancer:                                | Stomach              | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 1      |
|  | Lung                 | .... | .... | .... | 4    | 0      |
|  | Breast               | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 3      |
|  | Uterus               | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
|  | Blood                | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 0      |
|  | Other                | .... | .... | .... | 4    | 5      |
| Heart:                                 | Coronary disease     |      | .... | .... | 28   | 17     |
|  | Cerebral Haemorrhage | .... |      | .... | 5    | 5      |
|  | High Blood Pressure  | .... |      | .... | 0    | 1      |
|  | Other                | .... | .... | .... | 6    | 7      |
| Diabetes                               | ....                 | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 0      |
| Nephritis                              | ....                 | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 0      |
| Gastric or Duodenal Ulcer              |                      | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate                | ....                 | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 0      |
| Gastritis and Enteritis                | ....                 | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
| Homicide and Operations of War         |                      | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents                | ....                 | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 1      |
| All other Accidents                    | ....                 | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
| Suicide                                | ....                 | .... | .... | .... | 0    | 0      |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases |                      | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 9      |
| Total                                  |                      |      |      |      | 67   | 53     |



## CAUSES OF DEATH

We all must die one day, but some of us die before our time owing to accidents and preventable disease.

LUNG CANCER, which caused four deaths is a case in point. There is a definite statistical association between the incidence of lung cancer and cigarette smoking which is foolish to ignore, especially as the national death rate from this disease is rising in an alarming fashion.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH, which accounted for three deaths in the Borough is again, to a certain extent, preventable by proper planning of the home and work-shop, and by giving greater thought to road safety.

CORONARY DISEASE, causing forty-five deaths, is another disease associated with a way of life - the Western way of life. It seems to go hand-in-hand with absence of regular exercise and a high quality diet. Why drive when you can walk? Why use lard and butter in cooking when it seems that the unsaturated fats of vegetable origin are less harmful?

The interesting point about modern disease prevention is that to take advice does not necessarily touch the pocket. On the contrary, to avoid Lung Cancer and Coronary disease, you will actually save money.

## HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT

On 31st March, 1962, the Council had on their waiting list 277 applicants living or working in Devizes. Only about half of this number desired two or three-bedroomed houses. As always, the list of applicants does not truly reflect the demand for dwellings, as some persons living in houses ripe for slum-clearance have not applied to be re-housed, but more important still, 63 persons at present living in three-bedroomed houses, could live in smaller accommodation. Overall, therefore, the true demand for the smaller dwellings is high and exceeds that for three-bedroomed houses.

The conversion of the Eastleigh Road flats will in each case gain a three-bedroomed house in exchange for two flats. These conversions, while most welcome will temporarily render the shortage of small dwellings more acute until the second stage of building at Caen Hill eases the demand again.

In the allocation of houses it is very difficult to compromise between the public health need to eliminate slums and the mental harm done to young couples whose only way of starting married life is in the homes of their parents. By March 1962, we had dealt with 286 slum properties out of approximately 400 considered unfit - quite some task. In fact, since 1954, approximately one-tenth of the dwellings in the town have been vacated and the occupants re-housed.



## SLUM CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT

Large areas of New Park Street, Remains Yard and the old Gas Works were demolished during the year. New Park Street, for a long collection of terraced houses, back-to-back houses and yards, belonging to an era best forgotten, is beginning to take on a new guise - the leading stylists being private enterprise !

At Avon Terrace work commenced on 40 one-bedroomed flats and at the close of the year the first of these became available for letting. Three bungalows at Bricksteed Avenue built from funds bequeathed by the late Mr. S.H. Ward, were opened officially in May and it was decided that three more bungalows should be similarly built at Sedgefield Gardens.

Plans for the advance preparation of the Council's Housing site at Caen Hill were prepared and the work was advertised in December. It was decided that as a first stage, 56 three-bedroomed houses and 36 lock-up garages should be erected.

The new Junior School at Nursteed was completed by the County Council in August and opened at the commencement of the Autumn Term. Parents are most appreciative of this magnificent building, its possibilities for work and play, its provision for meals and the amount of care taken with Road Safety planning.

## WATER SUPPLIES

Analyses of water and a description of the supply are to be found in my Annual Report for 1960. No chemical analyses were made, but samples taken during the year continue to be satisfactory bacteriologically. There is ample water for the town's present needs.

## THE SWIMMING POOL

A description of the swimming pool was given in my Report of 1960. The pool was sampled on four occasions in 1961 - all samples were satisfactory.

The Council felt that a learners' pool would be of great benefit to younger children and plans for this were drawn up. The pool was to have a length of 21 feet, a breadth of 10 feet and a maximum depth of 1 foot 9 inches. The filtration and chlorination plant of the main pool was to be used for the new one. It was decided to proceed with this scheme in the new year.

## SEWERAGE

Sewage from the town is treated at two Sewage Works. The Nursteed area joins a Works shared with Roundway Hospital and the remainder of the Town, including Roundway Park and the Barracks, drains to the main Sewage Works at Bath Road.



One of the principal functions of a Sewage Works, apart from removing visible impurities and solid matter, is to reduce the oxygen demand of the effluent. This allows natural livestock and plant life to continue in the rivers where the effluent discharges. If the oxygen demand is too great, all living things die and the stream bed is poisoned. By 1960, the Roundway Hospital Sewage Works was overloaded. In April of that year and in January, 1961, the oxygen demand of the effluent was 100 and 80 parts per million respectively, when a good effluent should demand less than 20 parts per million. Extensions to these Works were completed in 1961 and it is interesting to see the result. In June, 1961 the oxygen demand in a sample taken by the Bristol Avon River Board, showed an oxygen demand of 17 parts per million, and later, in October this was reduced to 6 parts per million.

The Bath Road Sewage Works is working to maximum capacity. The oxygen demand varies depending upon the flow between 15 and 40 parts per million and the concentration of suspended solids is also slightly higher than recommended standards, as only part of the effluent can pass through the humus tanks. The final effluent is irrigated over 80 acres of agricultural land in the Whistley Road area.

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In the sections dealing with Planning, Housing, Water Sewerage and the Public Swimming Pool, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. J.E. Hopkins, then Housing Officer, and Mr. R.E. Paget, Borough Surveyor.





## BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
NORTHGATE HOUSE,  
DEVIZES,  
WILTSHIRE

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 1961

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 13th Annual Report.

The tables and particulars in the Report are in accordance with the requirements of the various Ministerial Departments.

112 complaints were received and dealt with promptly. These included 74 notifications in connection with pest infestation.

#### HOUSING

Twenty-two individual unfit houses were reported upon; 16 houses have been closed and 4 demolished by Orders; 2 have been made fit.

Statistical records show that for the past seven years the Council have dealt with 269 unfit dwelling houses out of a total of 413 which they programmed to clear away. Approximately 144 remain for action. Subsequently a further survey will be necessary to decide which houses are beyond repair at a reasonable expense and which are capable of being repaired and improved to make them reasonably fit, preferably to modern standards with the aid of improvement grants where the owner and tenant will co-operate. So far, however, the response of owners to improve rented houses with the aid of an improvement grant has been disappointing. The film "New Grants for Better Homes" has been shown to social groups on two occasions.

All housing applications referred to this Department by the Housing Officer were visited for the purpose of awarding substandard points, if merited, under the Council's Points Scheme.



Progress Returns forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government

|  | <u>Displaced<br/>Persons</u> | <u>Displaced<br/>Families</u> |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Number of Houses demolished :-</u>  |                              |                               |
| <u>In Clearance Areas</u>  |                              |                               |
| 1. Houses unfit for human habitation ..... 20  | 4                            | 1                             |
| 2. Houses included by reason of bad<br>arrangements etc. .... -                                      | -                            | -                             |
| 3. Houses on land acquired under<br>Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 ..... 6                         | -                            | -                             |
| <u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>  |                              |                               |
| 4. As a result of formal or informal<br>procedure under Section 17 (1)<br>Housing Act, 1957 ..... 10 | -                            | -                             |
| 5. Local Authority owned houses<br>certified unfit by the Medical<br>Officer of Health ..... -       | 2                            | 1                             |
| 6. Houses unfit for human habitation<br>where action has been taken under<br>local Acts ..... -      | -                            | -                             |
| 7. Unfit houses included in Unfitness<br>Orders ..... -  | -                            | -                             |
| <u>Number of Unfit Houses Closed :-</u>  |                              |                               |
| 8. Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and<br>35 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ..... 7                               | 8                            | 2                             |
| 9. Under Sections 17(3) and 26<br>Housing Act, 1957 ..... -  | -                            | -                             |
| 10. Parts of buildings closed under<br>Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 ..... -                          | -                            | -                             |



| UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED   |                  |   |
|---|------------------|---|
|   | By Owner         | By Local Authority                                |
| 11. After informal action by local authority .....  | 2                | -   |
| 12. After formal notice under   |                  |   |
| (a) Public Health Acts.....   | 6                | -   |
| (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957 .....   | 1                | -   |
| 13. Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957   | -                | -   |
| UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)   |                  |   |
|   | Number of Houses | Number of Separate Dwellings contained in Col.(1) |
|   | (1)              | (2)   |
| 14. Retained for temporary accommodation  |                  |   |
| (a) Under Section 48  | -                | -   |
| (b) Under Section 17(2)   | -                | -   |
| (c) Under Section 46  | -                | -   |
| 15. Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 .....   | -                | -   |
| PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT   |                  |   |
|   | Number of Houses | Number of occupants of houses in Col.(1)          |
|   | (1)              | (2)   |
| 16. Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year..... | -                | -   |



House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959  
Improvement Grants

During the year 2 Discretionary Grant schemes were completed. The total cost of the work was £966 and the total amount of grants paid £433. Four standard grant schemes were also completed; the cost of the works was £1,008 and the total paid in grants was £467. In addition to these, 12 Council Houses have been improved at Deramore Row.

Disrepair Certificates

No applications for disrepair certificates were received during the year.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging houses in the Borough.

Public Health Administration

Work completed during the year.

Housing

|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |    |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|----|
| Roofs repaired   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6  |
| Chimney-stacks repaired  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2  |
| Chimney-stacks rebuilt   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2  |
| Gutters repaired or renewed                                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2  |
| Gutters cleansed   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6  |
| Rain-water pipes repaired or renewed                             | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3  |
| External walls repaired or repointed                             | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3  |
| Damp walls cured (due to absence of effective damp-proof course) |      |      |      |      |      |      | 5  |
| Windows repaired   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4  |
| Windows renewed  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2  |
| New windows provided (for light and ventilation)                 |      |      |      |      | .... | .... | 2  |
| Window sashes re-corded  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5  |
| Ceiling plaster repaired   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4  |
| Wall plaster repaired  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5  |
| Doors repaired or renewed  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2  |
| Floors repaired  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4  |
| Sinks provided   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3  |
| Food-stores provided   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3  |
| Yards paved  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1  |
| Drains/sewers repaired or reconstructed                          |      |      |      | ...  | .... | .... | 13 |
| Inspection chambers provided                                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4  |
| New bins provided  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3  |

Deposited plans received in the Borough Surveyor's Department relating to the construction or replanning of food premises, shops, factories, and other building with which the Public Health Department is concerned are examined for compliance with relative statutes administered by this Department.



## WATER SUPPLY

All dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from the town's mains. 41 houses are without an internal water supply and sink; drinking water is obtained from standpipes outside. 27 of these houses have either Demolition or Closing Orders on them or are ripe for such action soon. The owners of the other houses are being offered an Improvement Grant to modernise.

## MILK SUPPLY

Milksampling was continued throughout the year, although the responsibility for this service vested in the County Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960. On October 17th, 1961 District Councils agreed to accept delegation of duties from the County Council for Licensing Dealers and the sampling of milk. Licences were issued to 5 dealers, 249 milk samples were submitted to Salisbury Pathological Department for cleanliness tests and 67 of these were also submitted for biological tests.

The results were as follows :-

| <u>Heated Treated Milks: (Pasteurised)</u>   |                     |                       |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
|  | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> |
| Methylene Blue Test (For cleanliness and keeping quality) .....                    | 35                  | -                     |
| Phosphatase Test (For efficient Pasteurisation)                                    | 35                  | -                     |
| <u>Raw Milk</u>  |                     |                       |
| Methylene Blue Test  | 209                 | 5                     |
| Bacteriological test (For presence of Tubercle bacilli and Brucella abortus) ..... | 67                  | -                     |

\*4 Guinea pigs died of intercurrent infection.

18 Bottle washes were submitted for cleanliness tests. All of which were within the required standard.



## FOOD SUPPLIES

The number of food premises in the Borough is 162, excluding food traders in the open and covered markets.

Food premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960 are -

| <u>Fried Fish<br/>Shops</u> | <u>Meat Preparation<br/>Premises</u> | <u>Ice-cream<br/>Premises *</u> | <u>Dairies</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 4                           | 7                                    | 42                              | 5              |

\* Premises that deal in pre-wrapped ices.

341 visits were made to food premises under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. The number of deficiencies found and dealt with at shops, cafes, restaurants, kitchens, stalls etc. were :-

|  | <u>Premises</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| Dirty and untidy conditions  | 17              |
| Dirty kitchen equipment  | 1               |
| Structural disrepair   | 7               |
| Defective ceilings   | 6               |
| Defective wall plaster   | 3               |
| Defective window   | 1               |
| Defective floors   | 8               |
| Defective and insanitary sink drainer boards                             | 2               |
| Absence of wash-hand basin   | 6               |
| Broken wash-hand basin   | 1               |
| Absence of hot water over wash-hand basin                                | 3               |
| No nail-brushes provided   | 7               |
| Dirty towels   | 3               |
| Soap shortage  | 5               |
| Defaced hand-washing notices   | 10              |
| Dirty clothes  | 1               |
| Without first-aid equipment (Mainly Stalls -<br>Market and Fair Grounds) | 21              |
| Clothing and footwear accommodation provided                             | 2               |
| Food preparation table-top resurfaced with formica                       | 4               |
| Food cupboards repaired  | 1               |
| Kitchen utensils not properly stored - cupboards<br>provided.            | 2               |
| Lighting of Food preparation room improved                               | 2               |
| Ventilation of Food preparation room improved                            | 3               |
| W.C.'s disconnected from shop or food-room.                              | 3               |
| Defective W.C.'s.  | 3               |
| Dirty sanitary conveniences  | 17              |
| Food rooms redecorated.  | 3               |
| Choked sink waste pipe cleansed  | 1               |
| Accumulation of refuse removed   | 9               |
| Defective fridge renewed   | 1               |
| Unsatisfactory method of storage of wrapping papers                      | 4               |
| Protection for open food on display (i.e. glass and<br>screens)          | 6               |



Organised lectures on food hygiene were not given, although guidance on hygienic methods of handling food and improving premises and equipment has been effective. Informal talks on a friendly basis were given when the opportunity or need arose during routine inspection of the premises.

### Fairs.

Two fairs were visited and detailed inspections carried out of 29 food stalls. These included 19 hot dog and hamburger stalls, 4 toffee apple stalls, 5 candy floss stalls and a barbecue van. 38 deficiencies were found. Stall-holders were advised to attend to them before again coming to Devizes.

### Food Inspections

Food examined and voluntarily surrendered by shop-keepers, stall-holders, canteens etc. as unfit for human consumption were -

|              | <u>Canned</u>  |                     | <u>Canned</u>  |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Meat         | 81             | Spaghetti           | 1              |
| Vegetables   | 109            | Creamed Rice        | 3              |
| Fruit        | 60             | Baby Creamed Cereal | 1              |
| Cream        | 8              | Semolina            | 1              |
| Milk         | 37             | Bournvita           | 1              |
| Soup         | 10             | Orange Juice        | 5              |
| Fish         | 13             | Celery Hearts       | 1              |
| Ham          | 14             | Prawns              | 1              |
|              | <u>Bottled</u> |                     | <u>Packets</u> |
| Gollicrush   | 7              | Jelly               | 1              |
| Mild Mustard | 1              | Ground Almond       | 96             |
|              |                | Assorted Mallows    | 83 lbs.        |

### CANAL POLLUTION

During the latter part of August complaints were received about the offensive condition of the water in the canal near London Road Bridge. Two cesspools at nearby properties were colour tested with negative results. Samples of canal water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis and the results of the reports were that there was "no trace of raw sewage pollution. It would seem that the main cause of the trouble is decaying vegetation, briefly aqueous weeds."

### THE DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957

There are two pig and poultry breeders in the Borough who collect small amounts of swill and boil on the farm. Regular inspections were made and no infringements found.



# RODENT CONTROL

Poison baiting was done periodically at the refuse tip, sewage works and in the sewers; infestations were kept within satisfactory limits.

The Devizes Rural District Council and the Devizes Borough Council continue to share the services of the Rodent Operative on alternative weeks.

|  | Type of Property          |   |   |  |                     |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------|
|  | Non- Agricultural         |   |   |  | (5)<br>Agricultural |
|  | (1)<br>Local<br>Authority | (2)<br>Dwelling<br>houses<br>inc. Council<br>Houses | (3)<br>All Other<br>(including<br>Business<br>Premises) | (4)<br>Total<br>of<br>Cols.<br>(1), (2)<br>& (3) |                     |
| I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District.             | 5                         | 2,755   | 324   | 3,084  | 15                  |
| II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:                 |                           |   |   |  |                     |
| (a) Notification   |                           | 68  | 6   | 74   |                     |
| (b) Survey under the Act   | 5                         | 505   | 110   | 622  |                     |
| (c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose. | -                         | -   | -   | -  | -                   |
| III. Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections.     | 20                        | 2,006   | 30  | 2,056  |                     |

(Table cont. overleaf)



|   | Type of Property          |  |   |  |                                |
|---|---------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
|   | Non- Agricultural         |  |   |  | (5)<br>Agri-<br>cult-<br>ural. |
|   | (1)<br>Local<br>Authority | (2)<br>Dwelling<br>houses<br>inc. Council<br>Houses. | (3)<br>All Other<br>(including<br>Business<br>Premises) | (4)<br>Total<br>of Cols.<br>(1),(2)<br>& (3) |                                |
| VI. Number of<br>properties<br>inspected(in<br>Sec. II) which<br>were found to be<br>infested by:                               |                           |  |   |  |                                |
| (a) Rats ( Major  | 2                         | 23   | 2   | 27   | -                              |
| ( Minor   | 3                         | 86   | 4   | 93   | -                              |
| (b) Mice ( Major  | -                         | 9  | -   | 9  | -                              |
| ( Minor   | -                         | -  | -   | -  | -                              |
| V. Number of infested<br>properties (in Sec.<br>IV) treated by the<br>L.A.  | 5                         | 118  | 6   | 129  |                                |
| VI. Total treatments<br>carried out -<br>including re-treat-<br>ments.  | 20                        | 157  | 8   | 185  | -                              |
| VII. Number of notices<br>served under Sec.<br>4 of the Act:  |                           |  |   |  |                                |
| (a) Treatment   | -                         | -  | -   | -  | -                              |
| (b) Structural<br>Work<br>(i.e.proofing)  | 1                         | -  | 1   | 2  | -                              |
| VIII. Number of cases in<br>which default action<br>was taken following<br>the issue of a notice<br>under Sec. 4 of the<br>Act. | -                         | -  | -   | -  | -                              |
| IX. Legal Proceedings   | -                         | -  | -   | -  | -                              |
| X. Number of "Block"<br>control schemes<br>carried out.   | 26                        |  |   |  |                                |



# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

|   |      |      |       |     |
|---|------|------|-------|-----|
| Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960         | .... | .... | ..... | 341 |
| Food Inspections                                | .... | .... | ..... | 249 |
| Foods and Drugs Act                             | .... | .... | ..... | 15  |
| Works in progress at food premises              | .... | .... | ..... | 11  |
| School Kitchens inspections                     | .... | .... | ..... | 12  |
| Meat Staining Regulations                       | .... | .... | ..... | 17  |
| Disease of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957      | .... | .... | ..... | 12  |
| Housing Inspections                             | .... | .... | ..... | 137 |
| Rent Act  | .... | .... | ..... | Nil |
| Improvement Grants                              | .... | .... | ..... | 15  |
| Overcrowding complaints                         | .... | .... | ..... | 2   |
| Caravan Sites - Control of Development Act 1960 | .... | .... | ..... | 19  |
| Caravan site report                             | .... | .... | ..... | 1   |
| Shops Act                                       | .... | .... | ..... | 12  |
| Pet Shop  | .... | .... | ..... | 2   |
| Office Inspections                              | .... | .... | ..... | 1   |
| Factory Inspections                             | .... | .... | ..... | 49  |
| Outworkers                                      | .... | .... | ..... | Nil |
| Rodent Control                                  | .... | .... | ..... | 54  |
| Pest Complaints                                 | .... | .... | ..... | 74  |
| Petroleum Acts                                  | .... | .... | ..... | 51  |
| Air pressure tests applied to petroleum tanks   | .... | .... | ..... | 4   |
| Canal Pollution - Water sampling                | .... | .... | ..... | 2   |
| Domestic water supply sampling                  | .... | .... | ..... | 2   |
| Drains: smoke tested                            | .... | .... | ..... | 5   |
| colour tested                                   | .... | .... | ..... | 3   |
| Water tested                                    | .... | .... | ..... | 26  |
| Public Health Nuisances                         | .... | .... | ..... | 27  |
| Public Health Nuisances abated                  | ...  | .... | ..... | 21  |
| Visits in connection with Infectious Disease    | .... | .... | ..... | 10  |
| Food Poisoning (Suspected)                      | .... | .... | ..... | 1   |
| Works in progress                               | .... | .... | ..... | 165 |
| Interviews with Builders/Owners/Representatives | .... | .... | ..... | 157 |
| General Complaints                              | .... | .... | ..... | 38  |
| Statutory Notices served                        | .... | .... | ..... | 3   |
| Miscellaneous visits                            | .... | .... | ..... | 195 |



1919-1920

Again I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, other Chief Officers and their staffs for their ready co-operation which is always so willingly given.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen.  
Your obedient Servant,

K. WILDEY

Public Health Inspector



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## Part I of the Act

| Premises<br>(1)  | Number<br>on<br>Register<br>(2) | Number of          |                           | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted<br>(5) |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  |                                 | Inspections<br>(3) | Written<br>Notices<br>(4) |                                |
| i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                          | 33                              | 35                 | 3                         | Nil                            |
| ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....                    | 62                              | 14                 | 1                         | Nil                            |
| iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..... | 1                               | -                  | Nil                       | Nil                            |
| TOTAL  | 96                              | 49                 | 4                         | Nil                            |

## Cases in which Defects were found

| Particulars   | No. of cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                   | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. |
|---|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
|   | Found                                    | Remedied | Referred          |                   |   |
|   |  |          | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |   |
| (1)   | (2)                                      | (3)      | (4)               | (5)               | (6)   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)   | 6  | 6        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| Overcrowding (S.2)  | -  | -        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....  | -  | -        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....  | -  | -        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....  | -  | -        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7)   |  |          |                   |                   |   |
| (a) Insufficient  | 1  | 1        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective.  | 7  | 7        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes.   | -  | -        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..... | -  | -        | -                 | -                 | -   |
| TOTAL   | 14                                       | 14       | -                 | -                 | -   |





