Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year



DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone: Devizes 701.

The Public Health Department, Browfort, DEVIZES, Wiltshire.

To the Chairman and Members of the Devizes Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health of the district during the Year, 1958.

I wish to thank the Council's Officers, particularly the Clerk of the Council and the Senior Public Health Inspector, for advice during the year, and to thank the Council and Committee Chairmen for their ready appreciation of difficulties on Public Health and Housing matters.

> 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.).

Senior Public Health Inspector:

G.E. WILLIAMS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (Also Surveyor and Water Engineer).

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

 V.C.S. ROBEY, M.A.P.H.I. - Resigned 30th September, 1958, owing to ill health. (Also Deputy Surveyor and Deputy Water Engineer).
 A.A. WHITING, A.I.A.S., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., - Commenced 1st December, 1958. (Also Deputy Surveyor and Deputy Water Engineer).

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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres			
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	 	 ••	 15,860
Number of Inhabited Houses	 	 	 3,999
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1958	 	 	 £111,207
Product of 1d. rate	 	 	 £450:12:9d.

<u>VITAL STATISTICS</u> Birth and Death Rates Compared with other Areas (Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

				Birth Rate	Death Rate
Devizes Rural Distric	t.		 	18.94	7.14
England and Wales			 	16.4	11.7
Wiltshire	• •	••	 	18.67	10.45
Devizes Borough			 	14.71	6.28

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		Illeg	Total	
A MARCINE AN AREA PEND	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Live Births Still Births Deaths under 1 year Deaths under 4 weeks	116 5 1 1	102 4 2 2	2 - -	1 - -	221 9 3 3

Infantile Mortality

The infantile mortality rate is the number of deaths in infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered live births. There were three deathsamong infants under one year of age to 221 live births in the area. This is too small a figure to calculate an accurate infantile mortality rate but it compares very favourably with the national rate of 22.5 deaths in infants under one year of age per thousand live births, and the Wiltshire rate of 22.57.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

There were no deaths from notifiable infectious diseases during the year. The number of cases notified were:-

Measles		 	242
Scarlet Fever	• •	 	26
Dysentery.		 	11
Tuberculosis		 	6

Diphtheria

No cases of this disease occurred. The following children were immunised for the first time:-

			<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Aged less than one year		 	 129	114
Aged one to four years		 	 45	30
Aged five to nine years	•	 	 24	7

The following number of children received boosting injections:-

		<u>1957</u>	1958
Aged one to four years .	 	 12	42
Aged five to nine years .	 	 123	110
Aged ten to fourteen years	 	 18	8

Diphtheria is still with us, for example, 25 cases were notified in England and Wales in one week in October. Seven of these occurred in Essex where an outbreak began in a class of 35 children in an infants school. Experience shows that in schools where immunisation rates are low, diphtheria, once introduced, will spread rapidly.

Whooping Cough

No cases of Whooping Cough were notified. The Wiltshire County Council and family doctors offer a combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough vaccine which is 80% effective in preventing the disease. This vaccine is improved greatly since its first introduction. It is well worth using, because the disease is not easily controlled by antibiotics and is very infectious for young children. The following number of children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough for the first time:-

....

	1957	1958
Aged less than one year	122	112
Aged one to four years	39	26

-3-



Smallpox Vaccination during 1958

Age Group	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccination	113	3	5	12	5
Re-vaccination		1	_	15	23

Tuberculosis

Six notifications of this disease were received during the year. Several authorities are co-operating to control this distressing disease. The area was declared a Tuberculosis eradication area for cattle on 1st March, 1958, and only Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk may be sold. This milk is sampled regularly.

The Letting Committee are well aware of bad housing and overcrowding as a means of spreading the infection.

If their parents consent, the County Council vaccinate 13 year old children with B.C.G. vaccine. This is being done by most school health authorities on the assumption that the older school child will probably come into contact with Tuberculosis during the five years after leaving school. The measure is a popular one but has not received the publicity it deserves. The vaccination procedure is quick and simple and may prevent years of unhappiness.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of this disease were notified. Vaccination continued during the year. Some children were offered third doses and the upper age limit for registration for vaccination was extended to 25 years. The national incidence of poliomyelitis in 1958 was lower than expected so that it is to be hoped the vaccination campaign is already proving its worth.

Head Lice

This is not a notifiable disease but is found all too commonly in a small proportion of Devizes school children. I hasten to add that this matter is not peculiar to Devizes as the National figure for 1957 is 4%. Despite regular inspections it seems difficult to eradicate this insect.

If confidential advice is needed, the School Nurses are easily contacted by telephone and it behaves mothers to look regularly at their children's hair as the condition is now easily controlled by D.D.T. preparations. Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29159507

Brucellosis

This disease was made notifiable for a period of three years from the 1st December, 1958. This step was taken because of difficulty in isolating the causative bacteria from routine milk samples - the notification of an actual case being contributory evidence to the possible infection of a milk supply. For the last three years strenuous efforts by the Public Health Inspectors and co-operation from the farmers have brought about a position where all known cows producing infected milk have been withdrawn from local herds. This situation has necessitated individual sampling and sometimes quarter sampling of the suspect animals.

I am pleased to say that no cases of Brucellosis or Undulant Fever have so far been notified.

Measles

An epidemic of Measles began in July and in Devizes spread rapidly through August, despite schools being closed for the summer holidays. The number of notifications continued to be well above average to the end of the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Before the coming of antibiotics and modern understanding of the spread of infection, death frequently came in violent epidemics and drew attention to itself by force of numbers and lack of respect for age or class. Now-a-days death comes in more subtle ways and public attention has to be focused upon it by some artificial means.

Road Accidents

In Great Britain an average of 15 people die every day and 750 are injured as a result of road traffic accidents yet much enforceable legislation could be made to control this "epidemic".

In 1958, 717 children under the age of 15 years were killed in Road Accidents in Great Britain and 49,146 were injured. This is an increase since 1957 of 88 deaths and over 4,000 injuries. Road Accidents are one of our biggest public health problems. It has been suggested that public complacency about road accidents is in itself a phenomenon which deserves study, but the answer lies partly in the National Health Service - a service which repairs broken bodies free of immediate charge. If called upon to provide payment for medical services, the cost of insurance premiums for motor vehicles would have to be greatly increased.

Deaths by Social Class

Until the 1951 Census, mortality increased with the descending order of social class. This is not now so. Certain diseases increase in incidence the higher up the social scale, among these are coronary disease, suicide and brain haemorrhage.



Coronary Disease

Coronary disease is one of the principal sources of ill-health and premature death in middle-age. It has a rising incidence and accounted for 27 deaths in your area. This disease is associated with physical inactivity. It is more common among the professional and executive classes but also occurs among those having a sedentary occupation. These persons should make a point of taking moderate exercise, such as walking to work.

Lung Cancer

Five deaths were caused by Cancer of the Lung in this area during the year. Education about the association between lung cancer and smoking is of little value as most persons, except school children, are well aware of it. The difficulty is in accepting that smoking is merely one of many carcinogenic stimuli in everyday life and the summation of these may cause cancer in a susceptible individual. If you are a susceptible, smoking may be merely "the last straw which breaks the camel's back."

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

							Male	Female
Cancer:	Stomach						1	1
	LUNG						4	1
	Uterus						-	1
	Blood						1	_
	Other						11	10
Heart:		DISEASE		••	••		19	8
near v.		od Pressu		••	••	•••	12	1
		EMORRHAGE		••	••	•••	9	16
			••	••	••	••		26
Other Cinculater Die	Other	•• ••	••	• •	••	••	19	
Other Circulatory Dis			• •	••	••	••	8	5
Respiratory Disease:	Influenz		••	••	••	••	1	-
	Pneumoni		••	••	• •	••	1	1
	Bronchit	is	• •				2	-
Diabetes							-	2
Duodenal and Gastric	Ulcer				••		1	1
Nephritis							-	1
Enlarged prostate .							2	-
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDEN	TS						3	-
Other Accidents .							1	-
Suicide							1	-
Other defined and ill		diseases					6	28
					Т	otal	90	102



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Many visits were made to old persons living alone but in no case was it necessary to use Statutory powers to enforce their removal to hospital.

RADIATION HAZARD AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Radiation hazard is today a topical subject. If small amounts of accidental fall out radiation were to occur a warning system to the Council through the police is arranged. Faced with such a situation it would be necessary to find whether the increased background radiation creates a health hazard and whether the fall out is likely to be concentrated on any particular tract of land or in any food (including milk and crops) or in any organ of the body. At Windscale where accidental release of radioiodine took place, and in the Borough of Wishaw where children gained access to luminous paint, the local police and the Health Departments were immediately involved.

The Medical Officer of Health must keep himself informed of anything in his district which may impair community health. This precept is difficult to adhere to in the case of Radiation Hazard, as the monitoring of natural and fall out radiation in the Rural District is barely a practical proposition for this Health Department. One reason for this is that the apparatus is so costly. Routine monitoring is at present done by the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, but if the public when in trouble turn to their local health departments there is a case for the larger local authorities to be prepared to undertake this work. There is also much to be said for the registration of industrial users of radioisotopes with local authorities.

In stencilling and binding this report Miss Bridget Cox, my clerk, has overcome the delaying effects of a printing strike and has produced for the sum of approximately £5:10:0d., an article which formerly cost £29:17:6d. It gives me pleasure to acknowledge her assistance and skill.



REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Devizes Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the Year 1958.

The Council can take a justifiable pride in the fact that it has over the last few years come right in the top rank of progressive rural authorities in Wiltshire and indeed in a wider sphere, so far as the provision of piped water supply and sewerage schemes is concerned.

It is a matter of regret that the improvements to provide modern facilities in the Council's pre-War houses is a half-hearted effort, and in my opinion it will be necessary within a short time to carry out further improvements to these houses in order to bring them into line with the generally accepted standards of today.

The Council have adopted a generous and progressive policy in regard to the administration of the Discretionary Improvement Grant Scheme, although the number of schemes carried out during the year was not nearly as high as it might have been had there been sufficient staff to cope with the work. The improvement of twenty houses makes but a slight impression where the number of houses which could be improved runs into hundreds. The schemes carried out were thorough and sound and mean that at least a few more people have the inestimable boon of a convenient and healthy dwelling, a prerequisite of a happy and successful family life, a basic essential for a civilised society.

The Department worked under a heavy handicap during the year owing to prolonged illness amongst the staff. My Deputy, Mr. V.C.S. Robey, retired after an illness extending over two years and long absences from duty. Mr. Robey gave loyal and excellent service over a period of nine years. Many people have spoken to me of his helpfulness and painstaking co-operation in assisting them with difficulties which are connected with our housing and other activities. Records meticulously compiled by him will serve the Department well for many years to come.

Also the long and continuing illness suffered by your Foreman and some illness amongst the Clerical Staff threw a great deal of extra work on a Department already understaffed; this was not without repercussions and the irritability and harrassment which follows when too few people have to cope with too much work.

It was my intention in this Report to give a comprehensive review of the whole of your water schemes now that they have been in operation for a complete year. Such reviews are necessary periodically, in order that the Council may arrive at an informed apprisal as to the correctness or otherwise of their policies and so that future policy - in so far as it lies in their hands may be considered. In Water Supply as in all Public Utilities, it is necessary to think at least ten years ahead. To proceed on a hand to mouth basis is to



court trouble, and public censure, when calamities overtake. It might be possible to tackle such a review during 1960 unless in the meanwhile the mooted Water Board has materialised.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking your Medical Officer of Health for his guidance and advice on several matters, and all members of the excellent staff of the Department for the efficient and patient way in which they have carried out their duties under trying circumstances.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.E. WILLIAMS

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Very slow progress was made in regard to the demolition of properties under the Council's Five Year Slum Clearance programme. This was due to the reluctance of the Council to rehouse occupants from properties which have been intended for demolition in many cases for as long as 20 years.

Until this question of rehousing people who are often aged and have very limited means is faced squarely, slum clearance will proceed at a very slow rate. The Government's intentions in these matters have been made clear and were emphasied by the restriction of housing subsidies to dwellings which replace those dealt with under Slum Clearance and to one bedroom bungalows.

The following is a copy of a **ret**urn made to the County Medical Officer of Health respecting housing matters and shows, amongst other things, the progress made in regard to slum clearance.

1.	Number of permanent dwellings in district at end of year		3,999
2.	Number of permanent dwellings in district owned by local authority		871
3.	Number of applications for Council houses at end of year		244
4.	Inspection of dwellings during year (i) Inspected for housing defects under Public Health		
	1-1		35
	(ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts		361
	(iii) Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation		8
	(iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respective reasonably fit for habitation	ts 	14



5.	Number of action .	dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal		85
6.		dwellings connected to main sewerage in addition improved under 5		111
7.	Action une	der Statutory Powers		
		dings under sections 9, 10, 12 Housing Act, 1957. Number of dwellings where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		Nil
	(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	••	II.L.L
		 (a) By owners	::	Nil Nil
	B. Proceed (i)	-		Nil
	(ii)		•	NIL
	(11)	notices		
		 (a) By owners	••	Nil Nil
	C. Proceed	dings under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957.		
	(i)		••	9
	(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of demolition Orders		16
	(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted		Nil
	(iv)	Number of undertakings completed		Nil
	D. Proceed (i)	dings under Sections 42,43,46,48, Housing Act, 1957. Number of houses in clearance areas upon which demolition Orders were made		Nil
	(ii)			Nil
	(iii)	Number of houses in clearance areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation		Nil
	E. Procee	dings under Sections 17,18,27, Housing Act, 1957. Number of dwellings where closing Orders were made		4
	(ii)	Number of dwellings closed as result of closing Orders or undertakings by owners		2
	(iii)	Number of dwellings where closing Orders were cancell in consequence of premises being made fit		Nil
	F. Procee (i)	dings under Section 76, Housing Act, 1957. Number of cases of overcrowding at end of year		Nil
	(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year	r	1
	(iii)	Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year		1



Houses erected or converted during year:

1.1.58	Houses during		<u>Gained</u> from conversion of large houses	Lost from conversion of two or more
to 31.12.58	For slum clearance	For other purposes	into flats or dwellings	houses into one
Local Authority	10	45	_	
Private Enterprise	-	23	5 (including 1 chapel 1 shop)	-

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts, 1949-1957

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:-

	Rece	Received		roved	Rejected		Under con- sideration		Withdrawn	
	Aps.	No.of h'ses		No.of h'ses	Aps.	No.of h'ses		No.of h'ses	-	No.of h'ses
1.1.58 to 31.12.58	14	20	14	20	-	-	-	-	1	1

	No. of grants made by Local Authority		No. of houses completed including new houses brought into use by conversion				
1.1.58 to 31.12.58	19	£6,835	36 (inc. 34 approved in 1957 and 1 approved in 1956)				

Number of applications in respect of owner occupiers	6
Average cost per dwelling approved	£1,070:5:0d.
Average Weekly Rent fixed	-
Average amount of grant payable by Local Authority	33.6%



WATER SUPPLY

Having regard to the size of the area, the low density of the population (approximately 0.25 persons per acre), the water supply coverage, with the exception of two matters referred to later, is remarkably good. A public piped water supply is at present available to approximately 97 per cent of the population.

The inadequacy of the source at Great Cheverell has for many years been a source of misgiving to those responsible for the day-to-day administration of the supply. Measures were initiated over 8 years ago to augment this source and the fact that a period of about 4 to 5 years has been taken up in trying to negotiate with the War Department for a new source costing only £7,000 caused much exasperation and frustration.

Tied to the acquisition of this War Department source is the provision of a public water supply to those parts of the Parish of West Lavington which are not already provided.

1958	Great Chev'll	Fair- way	Nur- steed	North Eastn.	North Westn.	South Eastn.	Erle- stoke	Round- way	Round- way Park	Total
Jan. Feb. Mar. Apl. May June July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec.	2,899 2,733 2,908 2,819 2,951 3,102 3,088 3,014 3,008 3,077 2,851 3,005	90 82 93 93 93 94 105 101 113 107 105 101	456771785643	726 634 842 772 826 834 702 769 574 738 754 723	3,590 3,655 3,964 3,803 3,785 3,838 4,161 3,976 3,736 3,869 3,893 3,959	2,022 1,950 2,349 2,286 2,302 2,376 2,328 2,328 2,134 2,299 2,533 2,511 2,670	129 194 240 258 255 280 179 126 112 138 133 140	22 19 23 22 18 21 23 28 22 20 22 19		9,482 9,272 10,425 10,060 10,237 10,546 10,593 10,162 9,883 10,508 10,305 10,687
200.	35,455		63	8,894	46,229	27,760	2,184	259	139	122,160

TABLE I

The amount of water supplied in 1958 from Great Cheverell, Chirton, Erlestoke, Devizes Borough and Calne and Chippenham R.D.C. Sources, expressed in thousands of Gallons per month:-

			-	1920	1927
Daily average consumption	 	 		334,682	289,482

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The statistics overleaf show an increased consumption during 1958 of 16,499,000 gallons compared with 1957. This is a rise of 15.61%.



	1958	8	1957		
Supplied from Great Cheverell Borehole	35,455,000	(29.02%)	29,800,000	(28.20%)	
Supplied from Chirton Borehole	27,760,000	(22.73%)	17,486,000	(16.55%)	
Supplied from Erlestoke Village Source	2,184,000	(1.79%)	1,979,000	(1.88%)	
Supplied from Devizes Borough (a) North Eastern Scheme (b) Other Schemes	8,894,000 1,638,000	(7.28%) (1.34%)	6,339,000 9,112,000	(6.00%) (8.62%)	
Supplied from Calne and Chippenham	46,229,000	(37.84%)	40,945,000	(38.75%)	
	122,160,000		105,661,000		

TABLE II

Results of Bacteriological Examination of Public Water Supplies after Chlorination.

Date	Result
SOUTH EASTERN SCHEME	
10/2/58 13/5/58 13/8/58 4/9/58 13/9/58 29/10/58 16/12/58	Satisfactory Satisfactory Fair Fair Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory
<u>NORTH EASTERN SCHEME</u> 13/8/58 4/9/58 16/12/58 24/12/58 24/12/58	Fai r Satisfactory Unsatisfactory Unsatisfactory
29/12/58 <u>NORTH WESTERN SCHEME</u> 13/5/58 13/8/58 4/9/58 26/11/58 27/11/58 16/12/58	Satisfactory Satisfactory Fair Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory



Date	Result			
GREAT CHEVERELL SCHEME 13/5/58 13/8/58 4/9/58 9/9/58 10/9/58 28/10/58 26/11/58 24/12/58 30/12/58	Satisfactory Fair Unsatisfactory Fair Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory			
ERLESTOKE VILLAGE SCHEME 30/12/58	Satisfactory			

It is very difficult to account for some pollution experienced in the Council's sources in August and early September. This was a period of heavy rainfall and that could be a contributory cause. On the other hand shortage of water-works personnel, owing to illnesses etc. made it difficult to give sufficient attention to flushing the mains and other precautionary measures.

TABLE III

Water Consumption Statistics

1.	Total number of premises supplied	3,224
2.	Estimated population supplied	10,234
3.	Total number of metered connections	592
4.	Total number of domestic connections	2,606
5.	Total number of other connections, e.g. Halls, etc	26
6.	Total overall consumption	122,160,000 glns.
7.	Estimated total metered consumption	48,864,000 glns.
8.	Estimated total domestic consumption	81,420,900 glns.
9.	Estimated average domestic consumption per head of	
	population per diem	21.25 glns.
10.	Estimated average overall consumption per head of	
	population per diem	32.70 glns.

It should be noted that Nos. 7 - 10 above are estimated figures. It is not possible to give precise figures, as the water which is recorded by most service meters, e.g. farms, is used for both domestic and non-domestic purposes. Again, an estimate of the population is used in arriving at the above figures as a physical count is not practicable. Notwithstanding these assumptions the figures may be taken as reasonably reliable.

The domestic consumption per head of population per day, viz. 21.25 gallons, shows an increase of approximately 5.66% over the figure for 1957.



The corresponding figures for recent years are:-

1954	22.45	g.p.d.
1955	21.62	
1956	22.44	
1957	20.11	**

General Statistics

The Council's Water Undertaking comprises the following: -

Main Sources

Chirton	Two boreholes			gallons gallons			
Great Cheverell	Three boreholes	One Two		gallons gallons	-		
Erlestoke Village Supply	Spring		20,000	gallons	per	day	
Bulk Supply from Chippenham boreholes via. Calne and Ch mains - maximum		* .	180,000	gallons	per	day	
Bulk Supply from Devizes Bo at Bourton - maximum	orough boreholes		82,000	gallons	per	day	
Also small bulk supplies an Nursteed and Roundway.	t The Fairway,						

Reservoirs

There are six reservoirs, having a total capacity of 625,000 gallons.

Water Mains

There are 81.41 miles of water main.

SEWERAGE

Progress on the provision of village sewerage schemes has continued during the year. The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Easterton, Market Lavington and West Lavington

The Scheme for Easterton and Market Lavington was in operation during the year but the majority of West Lavington is still without a sewerage system. This was due to the restriction on capital expenditure which obtained when this scheme was under consideration. It is hoped that work on the West Lavington Scheme will commence during 1959.

Stanton St. Bernard and Wedhampton

Progress on these schemes has been slow. Work commenced in November, 1957



but neither was complete at the end of 1958. It is expected that they will be finished in the early months of 1959.

Urchfont

Work commenced in January and it is anticipated that the scheme will be in operation in the first months of 1959.

Seend

Work should commence in 1959 on this scheme. Progress has been held up by the "credit squeeze".

Etchilhampton

Tenders have been invited and work should start in 1959.

Bromham

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has approved the Scheme in principle but work has not yet commenced.

Great Cheverell and Little Cheverell

A scheme for these parishes has been approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and to the Wiltshire County Council.

Poulshot, Worton and Marston

The Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to proceed with the preparation of a scheme for these parishes.

FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses

There are three licensed slaughterhouses, one of which has during the year almost fallen into complete disuse, and it is not anticipated that an application for renewal will be made next year. The other two slaughterhouses are in regular use two or three times a week. The occupiers have carried out minor improvements and in some instances, installed new equipment.

The introduction of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, together with the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958, and the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, are designed to provide adequate slaughtering facilities in each district and aid in production of uncontaminated, wholesome food and to minimise cruelty to animals awaiting and being slaughtered. Only certain matters contained in this legislation came into force on 1st Janaury 1958, others are not applicable until 1960 and later. Every Council, during 1959/60, must carry out a review of their existing slaughterhouses and future



requirements and after consultations with other interested bodies, submit a report to the Minister. This review and report will entail considerable work on the Public Health Department Staff.

All carcases have been inspected and except for emergency slaughtering and seasonal killings, the inspections have been carried out during normal office hours. The percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis has been gradually falling during the past three years and with the total eradication scheme now in force, condemnations for tuberculosis in cattle should in future, be negligible. Twenty to thirty years ago a high percentage of meat inspected was condemned because of the prevalence of tuberculosis in cattle and pigs; a wonderful revolution has taken place here.

Meat Inspection

The number of carcases inspected and condemned was as follows :-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	624	192	83	745	1,804
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	4	-	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	8	-	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	1.44%	4.17%	4.82%		0.51%
TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	9	-	-	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.64%	4.69%	-	-	0.66%
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generally and totally condemned	_	-	-	-	-


Disposal of Condemned Food

All condemned meat at the Slaughterhouses is first stained and then removed by a hide and skin company to Bristol for manufacture into fertilisers.

Food Premises

Food premises have received as much attention as possible during the year.

A number of premises carried out relatively costly improvement schemes as a result of advice and encouragement from your officers. The continued installation of refrigerators for the storage of meat, meat products and fats, and the provision of deep freeze cabinets, are to be highly commended.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

General Retail Food Shops	Licensed Premises	Butchers' Shops	Bake- houses	Fried Fish Shops	Hospitals, Schools, Institutions	Cafes
50	42	7	6	2	26	2

Number and types of Food Premises

ICE-CREAM

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream is now 33 and there is every indication that there will be a continued rise in numbers during the coming year.

Most of the villages now have at least one ice-cream retailer in addition to mobile vans. The following are the results of ice-cream samples taken during the year :-

		PROVISIONAL GRADES OF CLEANLIN						
		I	II	.III	.IV	Total		
Manufacture	A	7	3	.1	-	11		
Manufacture	В	6	2	2	-	10		
Manufacture	C	5	2	2	1	10		
Manufacture	D	3	1	-	-	4		
		21	8	5	1	35		

(Also three samples of ice lollies were taken, the Ph value was satisfactory).

The results of these samples show that heat treatment has been properly carried out and that adequate hygiene precautions in handling and storage have been taken.



MILK SUPPLIES

The Milk (Special Designations)(Specified Areas) Order 1957, has caused the number of retailers of milk in the District to be reduced to seven, although a number of dairymen from the surrounding districts distribute in the Devizes R.D.C. area.

Sampling for statutory and biological examination has been carried out and generally the results have proved satisfactory.

Details and results of Sampling										
	Passed	Failed	Total							
Methylene Blue Test (for keeping quality) Tuberculin Tested Milk	31	8	39							
Phosphatase Test (for efficient pasteurisation)	9	-	9							
Biological Test (for presence of Tubercle Bacilli)	31	-	31							

Samples submitted for biological examination were also, as a routine measure, examined for the presence of Brucella abortus organisms. One producer retailer's milk was found to be so affected, but after a considerable number of further samples the two offending animals were isolated and their milk sent for heat treatment.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse is collected fortnightly with the exception of the Military Establishments in the area where it is collected twice per week.

Reference has been made in previous reports to complaints from people who find it difficult to carry their bins to the roadside and non-collection from the occupiers of premises which are not adjacent to publicly maintained highways. These complaints are becoming more frequent and the time is approaching when the Council should consider giving a better service than they now do.

A once weekly collection of refuse would be a valuable aid to combatting the increasing warfare which has to be conducted at the refuse tip to prevent fly nuisance. Flies will pupate and breed rapidly in refuse bins containing fermenting and decomposing refuse which may be up to two weeks old. Thus the refuse is often fly infested when it arrives at the tip.

The tractor and various appliances attached thereto has proved to be a most valuable and, indeed, an indispensable tool for the proper disposal of about 70 tons of refuse each week.

There is not the slightest doubt that the control of the tip would have



got out of hand and led to frightful nuisances without the aid of this appliance, together with the rigorous application of insecticides and the valuable contribution of the rodent operative.

When the purchase of the tractor was under consideration, I advised the Council that some part of the cost would be recovered from refuse salvage which, in turn, helps to ease the problem of disposal. A salvage scheme was commenced in July, 1958, and the value of the salvage collected during the half year was £98:0:0d. At this rate the capital cost of the tractor will be met by revenue obtained from the sale of salvage!

The total cost of collection and disposal of refuse for the year ended 31st March, 1958, was £5,929:8:8d., and the net cost after deducting income received (£1,472:15:0d.) was £4,456:13:8d. The approximate cost of the service per head of the population served was 5s.9d.

The costs of this service are outstandingly low. According to returns obtained by the Minister of Housing and Local Government from 58 R.D.C.'s., the average cost of the service per head of the population for the year 1956/57 was 9s.8¹/₂d.

FACTORIES

There are now 51 factories in the district; those which have been inspected have given no cause for complaint, apart from some lack of cleanliness in the matter of sanitary accommodation.

SHOPS

The shops in the district are practically all family concerns, and usually do not employ other persons.

The advent of the sewer to the larger villages enables shopkeepers to improve sanitary accommodation and washing facilities where only primitive means now exist.

RODENT CONTROL

The refuse tip and sewer ditches, etc. of the Council have received systematic attention. The Rodent Operative carried out surveys and necessary treatments in all parishes in an organised programme, which resulted in keeping complaints to a minimum. This very necessary work consequently proceeds in a quiet and unobstrusive manner by your competent Rodent Operative and is materially helping to keep the rat menace in check.

The tabular form of report required annually by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food set out overleaf, shows the amount of work carried out in connection with this duty.



		Type of Property						
		Non-Agricultural						
	(1) Local Auth- ority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (inc. business premises)	(4) Total of Cols.(1) (2)&(3)	(5) Agri- cult- ural			
I Number of properties in Local Authority's District	7	3,010	244	3,261	845			
II Number of properties inspected as result of:								
(a) Notification (b) Survey under the	1	26	5	32	5			
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other	7	1,136	52	1,195	75			
purpose)	-	-	-	-	-			
III Total inspections carried out - includ. re-inspections .	28	3,127	52	3,207	75			
IV Number of properties inspected (in Sec.II) which were found to	11216							
be infested by: (a) Rats - Major Minor (b) Mice - Major Minor	3 4 -	55 189 4 -	8 2 -	66 195 4 -	6 15 -			
V Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the Local Authority	7	248	10	265	21			



		Type of Property							
			Noi	n-Agricultur	al				
1000	121 minut Orien and per	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)			
VI	Total treatments carried out - including re- treatments	28	248	10	286	21			
VII	Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act: (a) Treatment (b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)		-	-	-	-			
VIII	Number of cases in which default action was taken following issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	-	_	-	_	-			
IX	Legal Proceedings	-	-	-		-			
Х	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	30							

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Although caravaning is not a problem in this area nevertheless there are twenty individual licences in force.

During the year the owner of Sells Green Caravan Site, which formerly was licensed for 2 or 3 individual caravans, was advised that the licences would not be continued. After much negotiation, he submitted an application for a site licence. A detailed scheme for eight caravans comprising access roads, car park, drainage, W.C.'s, washing blocks, water standpipes, and hardstandings was submitted and approval given for a period of ten years. When the work is completed this should be a tidy site with good facilities and fulfil a local need.

The owner of the Fox and Hounds has also been requested to carry out a number of improvements in relation to W.C. accommodation, water supply and paths.

During the latter half of the year the three caravans stationed at the Olive Branch, Caen Hill, were removed, the occupiers of the site being persuaded

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				Mulber of "Stone"

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Lithiough correcting is not a problem in tells and reverticions there are to instally liberated in force.

Dictance in your the main of bills from fartyan bits, which formerly was financed for 2 or 5 bills distribut correspond that the iffences would co be continued. After such negotiation, he exhalted as application for a site licence. A detailed achieve for sight correspond contribute access reads, car put cretange, W.G.'r, meaning blocks, water standpices, and hardsrandings and subsi ind opproval sires for a period of tan yours. When the work is completed this should be a bit atta with good fadilities and for the toles had bardsrandings and the

The mean of the Nux and Humada has also been requested to carry out a D Improvements in relation to W.C. acceleradation, eater supply and gaths.

buring the latter bail of the year the three datavana staticard to the

not to permit the future stationing of caravans as the site renders proper drainage facilities impracticable.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The Council has now licensed five premises for the boiling of waste foods under the above Order and periodical visits have been made to ensure that all waste foods have been adequately sterilised before being used as animal feed.

Type of Complaint	Number	Remedied	Out- Standing	No Action Necessary
Housing (excluding Council Houses)	1	1		-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Insanitary Houses	12	9	1	2
Sewerage	4	3	-	1
Drainage	14	10	2	2
River Pollution		-		- 1 P
Water	2	1	1	-
Refuse	2	1	-	1
Keeping of Animals	4	2	-	2
Fly Infestation	1	1	-	-
Rodent Infestation	4	4	-	-
Footpaths	2	1	-	1
Miscellaneous	1	1	-	-
Totals	47	34	4	9

COMPLAINTS

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT AND BUILDING BYELAWS

342 applications were submitted for approval, 132 of which required approval under the Town and Country Planning Act. Three applications were rejected under Building Byelaws and twelve plans were rejected under the Town and County Planning Act.

The explanation of the complicated procedures in regard to the submission of plans and applications takes up a great deal of the time of your officers. In many cases applicants were not willing to engage professional assistance from persons who are acquainted with the complexities of the law governing these matters; this means that your Officers have to fulfil the role. not to permit the function stationing of carevans as the size renders property

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COMPACTNESS

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SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Housing									361
Nuisances									100
Drainage									558
Sewerage									552
Water Supply .									146
Water Samples		••	••	••	• •	••	• •	••	83
and the second se	••	• •	••	••	••		••	••	
Food Inspection	1	••	••		••	• •	••	••	235
Dairies									10
Food Shops				• •					97
Milk Sampling									95
Refuse									106
D 1 1						••			16
	••	••	••	••	••	••	••	••	
Workshops and H			••	c .	••	••	••	••	17
Petroleum Regul	ations	3							12
Council Houses									3
Rodent Control						• •			1,464
Town and Countr								2.2	141
			••	••	••	••	••		
Building	• •	••	••	••	• •	• •	• •	••	502
Ice-cream						• •			38
Diseases of Ani	imals (Waste	Food	is) 01	rder				24
Miscellaneous									128
Infectious Dise						5			140
THE COSTORD DIRE	abe		••	••	••	• •	••		140

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