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DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1959

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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 for the Year 1959.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued co-operation and understanding. I should also like to thank the Clerk of the Council and the Senior Public Health Inspector for their help and advice during the year and the co-operation of family doctors, Health Visitors and hospital authorities has been most welcome.

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:

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.,
(Also Deputy Surveyor and Deputy Water Engineer).

D.W.E. JESSETT

REVISED PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

The Public Health Department

Telephone: 1-1111

Memorandum

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Council

Mr. Chairman and Members:

I have the honor to present to you the report of the Public Health Council for the year 1937.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued co-operation and understanding. I should also like to thank the Chief of the Council and the Public Health Department for their help and advice during the year and the co-operation of the State Health Officers and Hospital Administrators in the various projects.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM J. HARRIS

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

W. J. HARRIS, M.D., J.D., P.H.D., C.P.H. (President)

Public Health Council

G. E. HARRIS, M.D., J.D., P.H.D., C.P.H. (Vice President)

Assistant Public Health Officer

J. A. HARRIS, M.D., J.D., P.H.D., C.P.H. (Secretary)

(Also: J. A. HARRIS, M.D., J.D., P.H.D., C.P.H. (Member))

D. E. HARRIS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	63,491
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	16,060
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,039
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1959	£117,930
Product of 1d. rate	£456:12:2d.

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 Rural District	18.31	8.46
England and Wales	16.5	11.6
Wiltshire	18.77	10.64
Devizes Borough	16.64	10.08

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

	<u>Legitimate</u>		<u>Illegitimate</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Live Births	107	100	5	5	217
Still Births	2	2	-	-	4
Deaths under 1 year	1	2	1	-	4
Deaths under 4 weeks	1	1	1	-	3
Deaths under 1 week	1	1	-	-	2

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 four deaths among infants under one year of age to two-hundred and seventeen 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 22.0 deaths in infants under one year of age per thousand live births and the Wiltshire rate of 20.97.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	65,434
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	12,000
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,000
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1932	£17,350
Product of 10 rate	200,000

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates Compared with other Areas
(1928 and 1929 per 1,000 population)

Birth Rate Death Rate

Devon Rural District	18.31	8.45
England and Wales	18.5	11.5
Wiltshire	18.77	10.45
Devon Borough	12.82	10.05

In calculating birth and death rates, area comparatively factors are taken by the Registrar General as "constant" factorials 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
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Live Births	107	100	2	8	117
Still Births	2	2	-	-	4
Deaths under 1 year	1	2	1	-	4
Deaths under 4 weeks	1	1	1	-	3
Deaths under 1 week	1	1	-	-	2

Infantile Mortality

The infantile mortality rate is the number of deaths in infants under the year of age per 1,000 registered live births. There were four deaths among infants under one year of age in the hundred and seventeen live births in the area. This is not well a figure to calculate an infantile mortality rate, but it compares very favourably with the national rate of 35.0 deaths in infants under one year of age per thousand live births and the Wiltshire rate of 14.7.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	333
Dysentery	23
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ..	11
Scarlet Fever	5
Pneumonia	4
Tuberculosis (Other) .	2
Opthalmia Neonatorum .	2
Whooping Cough .	1
Food Poisoning .	1

Diphtheria

There were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year. The following number of children were immunised for the first time:-

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Aged less than one year .. .	129	114	138
Aged one to four years .. .	45	30	22
Aged five to nine years .. .	24	7	9

The following number of children received boosting injections:-

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Aged one to four years .. .	12	42	48
Aged five to nine years .. .	123	110	63
Aged ten to fourteen years .	18	8	6

There should be no slackening in the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign. In 1958 an outbreak occurred among a class of 35 children in an infants' school in Essex. In 1959 cases occurred in the Finsbury/Islington area of London and also in Camberwell. In these areas the presence of infection was found by the occurrence of clinical cases of the disease in children who had not been immunised. When wide-spread throat swabbing was carried out it was found there were a large number of carriers infected with the Diphtheria bacillus, who were not suffering from the disease because they had been immunised against it. Intensive efforts at the schools in these areas has brought the immunised state of the pupils nearly to the 100% level and the outbreak was checked. Nevertheless, early in 1960 Diphtheria made its first re-appearance for fourteen years at High Wycombe, Bucks, and after ten years absence at Walthamstow, Essex. This trend of the disease is ominous and the parents of Devizes should look to the immunised state of their children.

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Whooping Cough

The following number of children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough for the first time:-

				<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Aged less than one year	..	..	..	112	121
Aged one to four years ..	..	..	..	26	31

Smallpox

The following number of vaccinations were given during the year:-

Age Group	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over
Vaccination	145	7	3	33	5
Re-vaccination	-	-	2	12	28

Tuberculosis

Thirteen notifications of this disease were received during the year compared with six in 1958. Several of these new cases were notified after the visit of the Mass X-ray Unit to Roundway Hospital. Fortunately, most of the chest infections found there were in-active and non-infectious.

One case of Tuberculous glands in the neck was notified. The milk supply was investigated but the source of the infection was not discovered.

The County Council continues to offer vaccination to thirteen year old children against the disease. Only those children who have not been infected with tuberculosis when younger are vaccinated. This is done on the assumption that "non-reactors" are likely to come into contact with the infection during the five years after leaving school. In September the Medical Research Council published results of a five year trial with this vaccine and included preliminary information up to seven and a half years. The reduction in tuberculosis attributable to vaccination was 83%. The preliminary information up to seven and a half years indicated the same degree of protection was continuing.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of this disease were notified. Persons up to twenty-five years of age were offered vaccination by the County Council Health Services. Three doses of vaccine are necessary. Poliomyelitis usually flourishes during July, August and September, particularly during hot summers. The National incidence of Poliomyelitis in 1959 was lower than expected which, it is hoped, is attributable to the vaccination campaign. It has also been found that many cases formerly thought to be non-paralytic poliomyelitis are not, in fact, caused by the Poliomyelitis virus.

The following number of patients were hospitalized during the year for the first time:-

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 15	112	112	224
15-24	112	112	224
25-34	112	112	224
35-44	112	112	224
45-54	112	112	224
55-64	112	112	224
65-74	112	112	224
75-84	112	112	224
85-94	112	112	224
95-104	112	112	224
105-114	112	112	224
115-124	112	112	224
125-134	112	112	224
135-144	112	112	224
145-154	112	112	224
155-164	112	112	224
165-174	112	112	224
175-184	112	112	224
185-194	112	112	224
195-204	112	112	224
205-214	112	112	224
215-224	112	112	224
225-234	112	112	224
235-244	112	112	224
245-254	112	112	224
255-264	112	112	224
265-274	112	112	224
275-284	112	112	224
285-294	112	112	224
295-304	112	112	224
305-314	112	112	224
315-324	112	112	224
325-334	112	112	224
335-344	112	112	224
345-354	112	112	224
355-364	112	112	224
365-374	112	112	224
375-384	112	112	224
385-394	112	112	224
395-404	112	112	224
405-414	112	112	224
415-424	112	112	224
425-434	112	112	224
435-444	112	112	224
445-454	112	112	224
455-464	112	112	224
465-474	112	112	224
475-484	112	112	224
485-494	112	112	224
495-504	112	112	224
505-514	112	112	224
515-524	112	112	224
525-534	112	112	224
535-544	112	112	224
545-554	112	112	224
555-564	112	112	224
565-574	112	112	224
575-584	112	112	224
585-594	112	112	224
595-604	112	112	224
605-614	112	112	224
615-624	112	112	224
625-634	112	112	224
635-644	112	112	224
645-654	112	112	224
655-664	112	112	224
665-674	112	112	224
675-684	112	112	224
685-694	112	112	224
695-704	112	112	224
705-714	112	112	224
715-724	112	112	224
725-734	112	112	224
735-744	112	112	224
745-754	112	112	224
755-764	112	112	224
765-774	112	112	224
775-784	112	112	224
785-794	112	112	224
795-804	112	112	224
805-814	112	112	224
815-824	112	112	224
825-834	112	112	224
835-844	112	112	224
845-854	112	112	224
855-864	112	112	224
865-874	112	112	224
875-884	112	112	224
885-894	112	112	224
895-904	112	112	224
905-914	112	112	224
915-924	112	112	224
925-934	112	112	224
935-944	112	112	224
945-954	112	112	224
955-964	112	112	224
965-974	112	112	224
975-984	112	112	224
985-994	112	112	224
995-1004	112	112	224
1005-1014	112	112	224
1015-1024	112	112	224
1025-1034	112	112	224
1035-1044	112	112	224
1045-1054	112	112	224
1055-1064	112	112	224
1065-1074	112	112	224
1075-1084	112	112	224
1085-1094	112	112	224
1095-1104	112	112	224
1105-1114	112	112	224
1115-1124	112	112	224
1125-1134	112	112	224
1135-1144	112	112	224
1145-1154	112	112	224
1155-1164	112	112	224
1165-1174	112	112	224
1175-1184	112	112	224
1185-1194	112	112	224
1195-1204	112	112	224
1205-1214	112	112	224
1215-1224	112	112	224
1225-1234	112	112	224
1235-1244	112	112	224
1245-1254	112	112	224
1255-1264	112	112	224
1265-1274	112	112	224
1275-1284	112	112	224
1285-1294	112	112	224
1295-1304	112	112	224
1305-1314	112	112	224
1315-1324	112	112	224
1325-1334	112	112	224
1335-1344	112	112	224
1345-1354	112	112	224
1355-1364	112	112	224
1365-1374	112	112	224
1375-1384	112	112	224
1385-1394	112	112	224
1395-1404	112	112	224
1405-1414	112	112	224
1415-1424	112	112	224
1425-1434	112	112	224
1435-1444	112	112	224
1445-1454	112	112	224
1455-1464	112	112	224
1465-1474	112	112	224
1475-1484	112	112	224
1485-1494	112	112	224
1495-1504	112	112	224
1505-1514	112	112	224
1515-1524	112	112	224
1525-1534	112	112	224
1535-1544	112	112	224
1545-1554	112	112	224
1555-1564	112	112	224
1565-1574	112	112	224
1575-1584	112	112	224
1585-1594	112	112	224
1595-1604	112	112	224
1605-1614	112	112	224
1615-1624	112	112	224
1625-1634	112	112	224
1635-1644	112	112	224
1645-1654	112	112	224
1655-1664	112	112	224
1665-1674	112	112	224
1675-1684	112	112	224
1685-1694	112	112	224
1695-1704	112	112	224
1705-1714	112	112	224
1715-1724	112	112	224
1725-1734	112	112	224
1735-1744	112	112	224
1745-1754	112	112	224
1755-1764	112	112	224
1765-1774	112	112	224
1775-1784	112	112	224
1785-1794	112	112	224
1795-1804	112	112	224
1805-1814	112	112	224
1815-1824	112	112	224
1825-1834	112	112	224
1835-1844	112	112	224
1845-1854	112	112	224
1855-1864	112	112	224
1865-1874	112	112	224
1875-1884	112	112	224
1885-1894	112	112	224
1895-1904	112	112	224
1905-1914	112	112	224
1915-1924	112	112	224
1925-1934	112	112	224
1935-1944	112	112	224
1945-1954	112	112	224
1955-1964	112	112	224
1965-1974	112	112	224
1975-1984	112	112	224
1985-1994	112	112	224
1995-2004	112	112	224
2005-2014	112	112	224
2015-2024	112	112	224
2025-2034	112	112	224
2035-2044	112	112	224
2045-2054	112	112	224
2055-2064	112	112	224
2065-2074	112	112	224
2075-2084	112	112	224
2085-2094	112	112	224
2095-2104	112	112	224
2105-2114	112	112	224
2115-2124	112	112	224
2125-2134	112	112	224
2135-2144	112	112	224
2145-2154	112	112	224
2155-2164	112	112	224
2165-2174	112	112	224
2175-2184	112	112	224
2185-2194	112	112	224
2195-2204	112	112	224
2205-2214	112	112	224
2215-2224	112	112	224
2225-2234	112	112	224
2235-2244	112	112	224
2245-2254	112	112	224
2255-2264	112	112	224
2265-2274	112	112	224
2275-2284	112	112	224
2285-2294	112	112	224
2295-2304	112	112	224
2305-2314	112	112	224
2315-2324	112	112	224
2325-2334	112	112	224
2335-2344	112	112	224
2345-2354	112	112	224
2355-2364	112	112	224
2365-2374	112	112	224
2375-2384	112	112	224
2385-2394	112	112	224
2395-2404	112	112	224
2405-2414	112	112	224
2415-2424	112	112	224
2425-2434	112	112	224
2435-2444	112	112	224
2445-2454	112	112	224
2455-2464	112	112	224
2465-2474	112	112	224
2475-2484	112	112	224
2485-2494	112	112	224
2495-2504	112	112	224
2505-2514	112	112	224
2515-2524	112	112	224
2525-2534	112	112	224
2535-2544	112	112	224
2545-2554	112	112	224
2555-2564	112	112	224
2565-2574	112	112	224
2575-2584	112	112	224
2585-2594	112	112	224
2595-2604	112	112	224
2605-2614	112	112	224
2615-2624	112	112	224
2625-2634	112	112	224
2635-2644	112	112	224
2645-2654	112	112	224
2655-2664	112	112	224
2665-2674	112	112	224
2675-2684	112	112	224
2685-2694	112	112	224
2695-2704	112	112	224
2705-2714	112	112	224
2715-2724	112	112	224
2725-2734	112	112	224
2735-2744	112	112	224
2745-2754	112	112	224
2755-2764	112	112	224
2765-2774	112	112	224
2775-2784	112	112	224
2785-2794	112	112	224
2795-2804	112	112	224
2805-2814	112	112	224
2815-2824	112	112	224
2825-2834	112	112	224

Brucellosis

No cases were notified during the year but routine milk sampling from three herds suggested that the cows had been exposed to the infection. Individual samples from the cows yielded no evidence that the milk was infected. The co-operation of the dairymen and farmers concerned was much appreciated.

Infection of the Bowel

Twenty-three notifications of Dysentery were received and these occurred at Roundway Hospital. The dysentery was due to the Flexner bacillus. Fortunately, the disease was clinically mild and only moderately infectious; every effort was made to limit its spread, but as extensive alterations were taking place to the water closet system of one ward at the time, the nursing staff were handicapped in their preventive routines. No further cases occurred after three months.

In August a case of diarrhoea occurred at Beechingstoke in a child who was too young to attend school and was caused by Salmonella typhi-murium. Several likely infectious sources were investigated, but no clue lead to the method of infection.

The lavatory accommodation of some of the rural schools improved during the year, notably at Easterton and Rowde Infants' School. Such improvements not only allow teachers to maintain good hygiene in schools but set the children an example of what should be. Facilities for hand washing in some schools leave much to be desired. Rarely is there an adequate supply of hot water. Bowel infections are so often diseases spread by contact that good hand washing is the only method of interrupting passage from person to person. The spread of infection is sometimes even encouraged by overcrowded hand washing sessions where pupils are forced to use unhygienic equipment.

THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Informal Action and Visits

My attention was drawn to an old person living in a condemned cottage as she was infirm and it was felt that the walls of the cottage were dangerous. During February gales one wall of her house collapsed. By luck she was uninjured and consented to enter Frogwell Hospital, Chippenham.

On another occasion the Home Help attending an old person advised me that she was unable to care for him sufficiently at his home. On visiting, I found that he was confined to bed and a hospital case. Fortunately, his doctor had applied for a bed several days previously and one became available the following day.

In November neighbours advised me that an old person living on his own had become mentally unstable. On visiting I found the house clean and tidy but his mental condition had been affected adversely by living alone. The matter was taken up with the old person's relatives and the Mental Health Authority and early in December he agreed to be admitted to Part III Accommodation in Salisbury.

Compulsory Action under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

In February the Health Visitor drew my attention to an old person who was infirm and living alone. Her house was "unfit" under the Housing Acts but she did not wish to be rehoused nor did she wish to be admitted to St. James's Hospital for a short period of convalescence. During the year her health and general circumstances deteriorated and in December she became so incapacitated and ill that she could do little except sit in front of the fire. She depended upon neighbourly good will for all her wants and refused to take the treatment her doctor prescribed. Despite the entreaties of those regularly visiting her, she refused to go to hospital so that the emergency admission procedure under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act was applied.

A Home Visiting Service

The plight of the above four old persons emphasizes several basic needs:-

1. Improved amenities - three persons were living in condemned properties.
2. Human contact - all four persons were living on their own. Neighbours and relatives do their best, often to the extent of depriving their own families of attention the young ones need, in fact in past years it has been necessary to take action to save the health of these samaritans.
3. On three other occasions I was called upon when the patient was in a social crisis. Much can be done if welfare authorities are informed early of difficulties with old persons. This, and the provision of human contact is one of the main reasons for parish councils starting small Care of the Elderly Committees. These committees need be little more ambitious than arrange a local visiting service, keep a list of the elderly in the area and know the various relations, clergy and public officials who can be called upon to give material and spiritual aid.

The elderly living in rural areas are more isolated than those living in towns. Living in isolation is one of the prime causes of mental ill health.

In December 1917, the National Health Authority was established in England. The authority was given the power to regulate the health of the nation and to control the spread of infectious diseases. The authority was also responsible for the regulation of the food and drug supply.

1. The National Health Authority (1917-1918)

In February 1918, the National Health Authority was reorganized. The authority was now responsible for the regulation of the health of the nation and for the control of the spread of infectious diseases. The authority was also responsible for the regulation of the food and drug supply. The authority was also responsible for the regulation of the health of the nation and for the control of the spread of infectious diseases.

2. The National Health Authority (1918-1919)

The authority was reorganized again in 1919. The authority was now responsible for the regulation of the health of the nation and for the control of the spread of infectious diseases. The authority was also responsible for the regulation of the food and drug supply.

1. The National Health Authority (1919-1920)

2. The National Health Authority (1920-1921)

3. The National Health Authority (1921-1922)

The authority was reorganized again in 1922. The authority was now responsible for the regulation of the health of the nation and for the control of the spread of infectious diseases. The authority was also responsible for the regulation of the food and drug supply.

The extent of this problem in the rural district is partly shown by the figures for the older population obtained at the 1951 Census:-

1951 Census. Older Population
Devizes Rural District - Parishes with population over 1,000

	Males 65 Years+	Females 60 Years+	Total population
Bromham	80	138	1,492
Market Lavington	70	131	1,202
Potterne	55	98	1,105
Roundway	Figures not representative		3,333

The Registrar General tells us that approximately one tenth of the population of the rural districts of Wiltshire are over 65 years of age; the approximate number of elderly living in each parish can thus be calculated:-

Approximate number of persons aged 65 years+
living in the smaller parishes

All Cannings	44	Beechingstoke	18
Bishop's Cannings	123	Chirton	25
Easterton	43	Erlestoke	21*
Etchilhampton	15	Great Cheverell	35
Little Cheverell	17	Marden	15
Marston	13	Patney	13
Poulshot	31	Rowde	83
Seend	87	Stanton St. Bernard	21
Stert	12	Urchfont	68
West Lavington	95	Worton	33

* 1931 Census.

The extent of this problem is the most serious in the history of the country for the above mentioned reasons at the 1950 census.

TABLE 1. - Estimated population of the United States by race and sex, 1950

Race	Total		Total
	White	Non-white	
Male	100,000,000	10,000,000	110,000,000
Female	90,000,000	9,000,000	99,000,000
Total	190,000,000	19,000,000	209,000,000

The estimated population of the United States by race and sex, 1950, is shown in Table 1. The population of the United States by race and sex, 1950, is shown in Table 1. The population of the United States by race and sex, 1950, is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 2. - Estimated population of the United States by race and sex, 1950

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Female	90,000,000	9,000,000	99,000,000
Total	190,000,000	19,000,000	209,000,000

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Infectious Disease:	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	Other	.	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Respiratory Disease:	Tuberculosis		..	..	..	..	..	-	1
	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6
	Bronchitis	.	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
	Other	.	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Cancer:	Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4
	LUNG	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
	Breast	.	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
	Uterus	.	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
	Blood	.	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
	Other	.	..	..	..	..	..	5	9
Heart:	CORONARY DISEASE		..	..	..	..	..	23	11
	Brain Haemorrhage		..	..	..	..	..	21	13
	High Blood Pressure		..	..	..	..	..	4	-
	Other	.	..	..	..	..	..	20	18
Diabetes	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
Nephritis	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Congenital Malformations	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
All Other Accidents	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	15
Total								111	98

CAUSES OF DEATH

Road Accidents

Road accidents are one of our biggest public health problems - 77 persons were killed and 915 injured on the roads in Wiltshire in 1959. Detailed legislation on a whole series of technical improvements for vehicles and driving cannot be passed too soon. Every new house, including council houses, should have a drive-in parking space. No parking should be allowed on main roads and all large vehicles should carry emergency lights to place on the roads at night in the event of a breakdown, whether road lights are in working order or not. Legislation concerning eye-sight and alcohol consumption are long overdue and standard tests are now available for both conditions. These are but a few of the obvious precautions needed to prevent the present slaughter on the roads.

REPORT OF THE

Category	Item	Value	Percentage	Notes
Construction	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Transportation	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Manufacturing	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Agriculture	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Retail	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Wholesale	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Finance	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Insurance	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Health	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Education	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Social Services	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	
Total	General	100	100	
	Highways	50	50	
	Water	20	20	
	Other	30	30	

REPORT OF THE

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...

I am indebted to the Chief Constable for the following statistics:-

Local Road Accident Figures, 1959 - Fourth Quarter
(figures for 1958 in brackets)

	October	November	December
<u>Towns:</u>			
Devizes	5 (10)	9 (6)	14 (8)
Chippenham	19 (19)	16 (17)	19 (14)
Trowbridge	12 (8)	13 (14)	16 (13)
<u>Rural Areas:</u>			
Devizes	15	13	12
Melksham	8	6	7
Pewsey	7	5	8
Chippenham	9	12	20

Coronary Disease

It may justifiably be said that in a less spectacular manner, the motor car is killing us quietly whilst we sit inside it. Coronary disease is a major cause of premature death in middle age and accounted for 34 deaths in this area. Clues to its causation narrow to three main possibilities:-

- (a) physical inactivity,
- (b) emotional strain,
- (c) high quality diet, particularly high fat intake.

It is, for example, associated with other things, such as smoking, but this may be little more than an association with a way of life. Its incidence is increasing and it affects men more often than women. To all men over the age of forty who would consider themselves of professional or of business executive status, I would advise: "Take this disease seriously or else increase your life assurance cover. Let the internal combustion engine do less for you, walk to work, go up to the Golf Course and take regular moderate exercise. Reduce your dietary fat intake, particularly reducing fats of animal origin. The fat from beef, pork, butter, milk, liver, egg, lard and ham should be eaten in moderation. Lard can be replaced by vegetable oils in much home cookery. Grill instead of fry."

Those who do not believe me would do well to look at the following table as it is surprising to compare the principle causes of death and put the relative risks in their correct perspective:-

Total Deaths from Certain Causes in England and Wales for 1957

<u>Cause</u>	<u>No. of deaths</u>	<u>Preventive Measures</u>
Coronary Disease	76,324	See above.
Bronchitis	26,935	Clean Air. Cease smoking.
Lung Cancer	19,119	Clean Air. Cease smoking.
Stomach Cancer	13,995	-
Suicide	5,316	Care of Aged. Improve Mental Health.
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,898	See above.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4,249*	Vaccination.
Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	349*	Antenatal care.
Homicide & War	347	-
Poliomyelitis	227*	Vaccination.
Measles	95	Avoid exposure of very young.
Whooping Cough	88*	Vaccination.
Diphtheria	6*	Immunisation.

*Already greatly reduced by Public Health measures.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1959.

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 1959.

This was a year of change - the Senior and Junior Clerks took up similar appointments with other Rural District Councils about June. Both were very efficient, loyal and courteous officers during their several years in the Council's service.

My Deputy too had only commenced work in December, 1958, so that during the year a fifty per cent turn over of staff occurred.

The Foreman, who is intimately mixed with the works of the Department, resigned on account of ill health. The loss of all these good Officers spelt dislocation and disruption and the work inevitably suffered.

I am grateful for the way the new staff have applied themselves to fresh tasks and to all Members for the efficient and loyal way in which they have carried out their duties.

I am indebted to the Treasurer for certain information used in the section of the Report on Water Supply headed "Some considerations on the Economics of the Water Undertaking". Thanks also to the Medical Officer for his advice and guidance on several points and to the Council for their continued appreciation.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

G.E. WILLIAMS

Senior Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Out of approximately 168 houses regarded as unfit for habitation the Council have still to deal with about one half of this number. Progress in regard to Slum Clearance can only be described as slow and it will remain slow until a higher degree of priority for a Council House is given to the occupants of these unfit dwellings. Even when the five year Slum Clearance Programme decided upon in 1955 is accomplished - and at the present rate of

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR THE YEAR 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honor to submit to you the report for the year 1955.

This was a year of change - the Board and the staff were reorganized, and the Board of Directors was elected for the first time. The Board of Directors has been very active in the past year, and the staff has been very busy in the past year.

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I am,
Your obedient servant,

G. E. WILLIAMS

General William H. Williams

General

General
General

The Board of Directors has been very active in the past year, and the staff has been very busy in the past year.

progress this is likely to take another four years or so, the problem will not have been solved. Slum Clearance is a continuous process and is likely to be with us for a very long time but if a determined and intensified attack is made upon the worst cases, as was envisaged in the Government's five year programme, the problem can be reduced to easily manageable and indeed, negligible proportions.

It is not always recognised that a dwelling begins to decay from the moment it is erected. The average life of a dwelling is about 120 years. There are approximately 4,100 dwellings in this area, therefore the annual rate of wastage through decay is approximately 34 houses. Most of these houses will fall into the Slum Clearance category and will have to be dealt with by procedures laid down in the Housing Acts for the Clearance of unfit houses. This means that Slum Clearance should run at approximately 30 houses each year in addition to accumulated arrears and unfitness due to causes other than decay.

Improvement Grants

The Council has faithfully and liberally implemented the National Policy with regard to Improvement Grants. During the year the Government introduced the new 'Standard Grant' Scheme. This scheme is based on a five point standard of fitness carrying a maximum grant of £155, as compared with the Discretionary Grant Scheme which has a higher twelve point standard of fitness and a maximum grant of £400. The Council implemented the Standard Grant Scheme immediately it became law and 38 applications were dealt with up to the end of the year. These two schemes, the Discretionary Grant Scheme and the Standard Grant Scheme, have placed in the hands of Local Authorities a powerful instrument for raising the level of housing accommodation to a satisfactory standard. It is a standard that at least provides the basic elements to enable people to live cleanly with an acceptable degree of convenience and comfort. Compared with pre-improvement grant methods of trying to secure repair and sanitary fitness of dwellings by the issue of statutory Notices on the Landlord, the scheme is "manna from heaven". The one is almost unworkable and the other gets results. Although the Council has obtained good results to date in the operation of the Improvement Grant Scheme, (results that would put to shame those of many other Local Authorities), it would, in my opinion, be possible to do much more provided the staff was available to handle it.

It is the duty of all Local Authorities to inspect from time to time, the houses in their area and although this is done on a very small scale, it could be intensified with the result that many more owners could be dissuaded from letting their property drift and become obsolete. Pressure could be brought to bear on the negligent landlord to the mutual benefit of tenant and landlord to say nothing of the sociological benefits that stem from good housing.

It is noticeable that the main beneficiaries of the scheme up to date are owner/occupiers and tied farm cottages. The scheme has barely touched the tenant occupied houses, presumably because of ignorance, apathy or competing claims which yield to owners a higher return on capital.

From the date when the first Improvement Grant was approved, 18th December, 1951, to the 31st December, 1959, the total capital cost of improving 143 dwellings was £118,700:8:6d., and of this sum the Council paid to owners thereof a total of £44,972:15:6d., in grants.

HOUSING GENERAL

Annual Return

The following is a copy of a Return made to the County Medical Officer of Health which is reproduced herewith giving detailed information on certain aspects of housing:-

1.	Number of permanent dwellings in the district at the end of the year	4,039
2.	Number of permanent dwellings in the district owned by the Local Authority	879
3.	Number of temporary dwellings owned by the Local Authority	Nil
4.	Number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year	256
5.	Inspection of dwellings during the year:	
	(i) Inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts	29
	(ii) Inspected for housing defects under the Housing Acts	56
	(iii) Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	7
	(iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	12
6.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	90
7.	Action under Statutory Powers:	
	A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 12 Housing Act, 1957.	
	(i) Number of dwellings where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
	(ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:	
	(i) (a) Number of dwellings where formal notices were served	Nil
	(b) Number of dwellings where informal notices were served	25

- (ii) Number of dwellings made fit as a result of formal notices
- (a) By owners Nil
- (b) By the Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- C. Proceedings under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957.
- (i) Number of demolition orders made 3
- (ii) Number of houses demolished as a result of demolition orders 13
- (iii) Number of Undertakings accepted 2
- (iv) Number of Undertakings completed Nil
- D. Proceedings under Sections 42,43,46,48 Housing Act, 1957.
- (i) Number of houses in Clearance areas upon which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (ii) Number of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders 4
- (iii) Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation Nil
- E. Proceedings under Sections 17,18,27 Housing Act, 1957.
- (i) Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were made 1
- (ii) Number of dwellings closed as a result of Closing Orders or Undertakings by owners Nil
- (iii) Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit 2
- (iv) Number of Demolition Orders revoked 2
- F. Proceedings under Section 76, Housing Act, 1957.
- (i) Number of cases of overcrowding at the end of the year Nil
- (ii) Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during the year 1
- (iii) Number of cases of overcrowding abated during the year 1

(1) Number of meetings held in 1957
 (2) Number of meetings held in 1958
 (3) Number of meetings held in 1959

(4) Number of meetings held in 1960
 (5) Number of meetings held in 1961
 (6) Number of meetings held in 1962
 (7) Number of meetings held in 1963
 (8) Number of meetings held in 1964

(9) Number of meetings held in 1965
 (10) Number of meetings held in 1966
 (11) Number of meetings held in 1967
 (12) Number of meetings held in 1968
 (13) Number of meetings held in 1969

(14) Number of meetings held in 1970
 (15) Number of meetings held in 1971
 (16) Number of meetings held in 1972
 (17) Number of meetings held in 1973
 (18) Number of meetings held in 1974
 (19) Number of meetings held in 1975
 (20) Number of meetings held in 1976

(21) Number of meetings held in 1977
 (22) Number of meetings held in 1978
 (23) Number of meetings held in 1979
 (24) Number of meetings held in 1980
 (25) Number of meetings held in 1981
 (26) Number of meetings held in 1982
 (27) Number of meetings held in 1983

Houses erected or converted during the year

1.1.59 to 31.12.59	Houses erected during year		Gained from conversion of large houses into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one
	For Slum Clearance	For other purposes		
Local Authority	4	4	nil	nil
Private Enterprise		53	4	2

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts,
1949 - 1959

1.1.59 to 31.12.59	Value of Grants approved in 1959, and actually paid.		Number of Houses improved as a result	
	Standard Grants	Discretionary Grants	Standard Grants	Discretionary Grants
	£222	£3,880	2	13

A total of 34 Standard Grants were approved since the Act came into force in July, 1959. The maximum amount which the Council can be called upon to pay in respect of these applications will be £4,950. The final amount is not determined until the grants are actually paid when the works are complete.

The number of Discretionary Grants approved in 1959 was 27, the total amount which the applicants will receive in grant is £13,376.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year

Assets	Liabilities	For the year		Total
		At the beginning of the year	At the end of the year	
Real Estate	Accounts Payable			
Investments	Notes Payable			

Statement of Income for the Year

Income	Expenses	For the year		Total
		At the beginning of the year	At the end of the year	
Operating Income	Cost of Goods Sold			
Interest Income	Interest Expense			

A statement of income is a financial statement that shows the revenue, expenses, and profits or losses of a business over a specific period of time. It is one of the most important financial statements for a business, as it provides a clear picture of the company's financial performance. The statement is typically prepared on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis, and it is used by management, investors, and other stakeholders to make informed decisions about the company's future. The statement is also used to calculate the company's net income, which is the amount of money the company has left after all expenses have been paid. The net income is then used to determine the company's profit margin, which is a key indicator of the company's financial health.

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COUNCIL HOUSES

Provision of new Dwellings

The Council own 879 dwellings and have built 579 since the War.

Only eight Council dwellings were completed during the year. The yearly average in the post-war years until 1959 has been running at approximately 50.

The main causes were a lack of sites, an intentional slowing down on the grounds that the main housing need has been met and to mark time for a re-appraisal of the housing situation. The reduced aid from national funds caused nearly all Local Authorities to cut down on their building programme.

Improvement of Pre-War Council Houses

After a gap of over three years, due mainly to the 'credit squeeze', the much needed improvement of pre-war Council Houses was resumed. Seven houses in Silver Street, Potterne, were provided with a W.C. and bath but no hot water system. Work was in progress at the end of the year on the provision of bathrooms with W.C., bath and wash basins and hot water supplies in fourteen houses. The preparation of plans and specifications in respect of thirty-two other houses was completed. Progress in regard to the much needed modernisation of these low-standard pre-war houses is slow and I trust that the Council will in due course, give careful consideration to the question of accelerating this work. There is little doubt that the vast majority of tenants welcome with open arms the modernisation of the houses they occupy and are willing to pay the full cost thereof. It is an incongruous contradiction that a large number of these houses have such marvels as television sets, refrigerators and washing machines in the same dwelling as an obsolete pail closet, filthy, inefficient cesspool drainage and are without the accepted means of keeping the person clean. Something has gone wrong with the principle of first things first. The rent of the "gadgets" sometimes exceeds the rent of the house. The priorities have gone awry.

Council House Repairs

All Council houses are kept at a satisfactory level of repair and maintenance. Considerable delay not infrequently arises in the execution of repairs but in practically all cases this is due to the difficulty in getting building contractors to carry out the work long after the order has been given. Village builders are frequently heavily committed in regard to work they have in hand and some apparently find Council house work uninteresting and, possibly, less remunerative, than other work. It would appear that more prompt attention to the execution of repairs can only be secured by an extension of direct labour for repairs and this has now become the accepted practice of all but the smaller Authorities owning perhaps 300-400 houses. Economics, tenant's convenience and good 'Estate Management' call for an objective examination of this problem.

General remarks

Function of the Committee

The Committee was set up in 1947 to study the situation in the field of human rights.

Its first task was to study the situation in the field of human rights and to report to the General Assembly.

The Committee has since then been working on a number of projects and has made a number of recommendations to the General Assembly.

Composition of the Committee

The Committee is composed of 18 members, 10 of whom are elected by the General Assembly and 8 are elected by the Economic and Social Council.

The members of the Committee are elected for a period of three years and may be re-elected for a further period of three years.

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Committee's work

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WATER SUPPLY

1959 was the Water Engineer's nightmare. The prolonged drought and high temperature extending from July to October constitute a record for this Century. It severely tested most Water Undertakings and some were found wanting. An imprudent Undertaking is to some extent like the less reliable Banks, it hopes that all its customers will not withdraw all their money at the same time. During the prolonged periods of hot weather nearly all the customers of a Water Undertaking tend to draw large quantities of water almost continuously and at the same time; if a Water Undertaking cannot meet this condition it is bankrupt.

It is pleasing to be able to record that the Council were able to meet all the demands made upon their water supply during 1959, and, whilst an appeal was made to consumers to be careful in the use of water, it did not become necessary to invoke statutory restrictions on the use of hosepipes.

The position, however, in regard to supply and demand needs to be watched carefully as the following 'balance sheet' shows:-

Table showing the safe, reliable yield of sources.
Based on 18 hours pumping per day

<u>Station</u>					<u>Yield in gallons</u> <u>per day</u>		
Great Cheverell boreholes	..	..	..	.	63,000		
Chirton boreholes	..	..	..	..	144,000		
VISTRE boreholes	..	..	..	..	90,000		
Erlestone	..	..	..	..	27,000		
Bulk Supply:	Calne & Chippenham R.D.C.						
	North Western Scheme					.. . 180,000	) Guaranteed maximum under agreements
" "	Devizes Borough.						
	North Eastern Scheme					.. . 82,000	
" "	Devizes Borough.						
	Unspecified commitment for						
	Nursteed, Fairway, etc. say					. 20,000	
						<u>606,000</u>	

Present maximum daily consumption (approximately) 500,000 gallons.
Surplus of supply over demand 106,000 gallons.

It will be seen that the surplus over the present maximum daily requirement is small and when the South Western Area Water Scheme comes into

operation consumption will increase by about 37,000 gallons a day so that the surplus would then be reduced to 69,000 g.p.d. In addition to this, the Council have undertaken to guarantee up to 90,000 gallons a day to the War Department camp and farms at Erlestone. At the present time it appears unlikely that this guarantee need ever be implemented in view of the likely closure of this camp, but should it be necessary to fulfill this undertaking there would be a deficiency of 21,000 g.p.d.

If consumption of the existing schemes increased by as little as 13.8% above the maximum daily quantity there would be a deficiency of water.

Consumption has increased at the rate of approximately 15% over the last three years, but much of this rapid rise stems from the inauguration of new schemes. The rate of increase should slow down considerably after the South Western Scheme is brought into operation; even so, the development of the VISTRE source, which is the obvious solution, cannot be long delayed. On the other hand, if the proposed Water Board materialises within 1-2 years the question of increasing water sources would be better left to them, they might tackle the problem by developing one of the other sources in their area.

The Council can claim an excellent record in the provision of water supplied in their area. Over the course of the years they have spent approximately £300,000 so as to secure a piped water supply to every part of the District. There remains but one scheme to complete, namely, the South Western Scheme, which is primarily an augmentation scheme, including the development of a new source at Erlestone. Stage 1 of this scheme was completed at the end of the year and arrangements for the execution of Stage 2 were brought to a conclusion. This scheme will cost about £60,000 and should be completed about mid-1961.

Apart from the replacement of certain defective mains at Seend, the laying of a link main between the South Eastern and South Western Schemes and possibly, the development of the VISTRE source, it should not be necessary to incur any further substantial capital expenditure for many years to come.

When the new Water Board is formed, the Council can with a clear conscience, hand over a sound, efficient and up-to-date Water Undertaking which, from an Engineering standpoint, should be an asset rather than a liability to the Board.

Certain lengths of cast iron main between Worton and Seend, making a total of about 2 miles, were replaced with mains of asbestos cement pipes. The Kimmeridge clay in this part of the Council's area contains sulphates and sulphate reducing bacteria; these set up a bio-chemical corrosion which turns the iron into graphite. As a consequence the pipes are weakened and will not stand the internal and external stresses to which they are subjected. The water mains replaced have had a life of 22 years against a minimum life expectancy of 30 years. Over the course of the last 10 years the Council has had to spend over £20,000 on the replacement of cast iron mains by those made from asbestos cement.

In all these cases the mains have had a much shorter life than normal expectancy. The loss incurred thereby unfortunately adds substantially to the overall loss on your Water Undertaking, now running at approximately £13,000 per annum.

The source purchased from the Water Department (generally referred to as the VISTRE boreholes, which boreholes will be the main source of the South Western Water Scheme), was taken over on the 1st October, 1959. It was not used to any great extent during the remainder of the year for several reasons including the absence of metering equipment and the unreliability of the chlorinating apparatus.

Some Considerations on the Economics of the Water Undertaking

The Water Undertaking made a loss of £13,363 during the year ended 31st March, 1959. This is a heavy loss, particularly when one remembers that the Capital Assets at stake amount to £271,402.

Water Undertakings are normally in a strong position financially because they supply one of the prime essentials of life, a must for every household and a vital commodity to many industries. Moreover, they supply under conditions that are virtually monopolistic.

Why then is such a loss made? How is it that neighbouring Authorities such as Devizes Borough and Chippenham Borough supply water to their consumers at a much lower charge and still make a substantial profit on their Water Undertaking? The answer is primarily a matter of the relationship between the length of water mains and the number of consumers supplied. Water mains cost a lot of money. A mile of 5" main costs approximately £3,500. This cost must be either obtained in the charges made for water or the difference recovered from rates or taxes. The following table is a typical example and shows the relationship between mains and population served:

Water Undertaking	Population served	Miles of Main	Population per mile
Liverpool	1,106,000	1,643	673
Swindon	70,000	165	545
Calne Borough	6,500	17	382
Devizes Borough	13,000	13.9	935
Devizes R.D.C.	10,577	83	127

It is also noted that the water level in the river was unusually low during the period of the study, and that the water level was unusually low during the period of the study.

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Water level in the river during the period of the study

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Water level in the river during the period of the study	Water level in the river during the period of the study	Water level in the river during the period of the study	Water level in the river during the period of the study
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

It will be seen that Devizes Borough has seven times the number of consumers per mile of main compared with the R.D.C.

The other factor which accounts for this loss is due to selling water at practically pre-war rates. This must be the only commodity still sold at pre-war price. Old established Water Undertakings for instance, such as Devizes Borough who incurred most of their Capital Costs at pre-war prices, can still sell water profitably at nearly pre-war prices, this Council, on the otherhand, has incurred most of its Capital Costs at 300% above pre-war level. Government Grants help to offset the impact of these high costs but they are not sufficient to enable water to be sold at pre-war rates.

Capital Costs are dominant in a new Undertaking. In the case of the Council's Water works they form approximately 75% of the total costs. In an old Undertaking they could be as low as 20%. The benefits flowing from pre-war Capital Costs (most of the loan charges have been extinguished in the older Undertakings) tend to diminish as the replacement of assets (chiefly water mains) becomes inevitable.

The formation of a Water Board is in the air. Will a fusion of profitable and un-profitable Undertakings result in lower charges for Water? Any arrangement that effects a higher ratio of consumers per mile of main and pools pre-war and post-war Capital Costs should result in advantage to those with high post-war Capital Costs and a low ratio of consumers per mile of main. Should result? Yes, always provided that the profitable Undertakings are willing to pool costs with the unprofitable ones.

The actual cost of delivering 1,000 gallons of water to the Council's consumers is 3/9d. The charge made to non-domestic consumers is 2/6d. and the charge made to domestic consumers (which is on a rateable value basis) is even less. The average household pays approximately 45/- per annum for water and consumes 36,500 gallons per annum - this works out at approximately 1/3d. per 1,000 gallons. For the price of half a cigarette a day the average householder gets a pure and wholesome supply of water at any time of the night and day, pressurised, chlorinated and in abundance. Even the true economic cost is only 1½ cigarettes a day!

Should the Council, or its successors, continue to sell water at an un-economic price and meet the loss from rates and taxes? These are matters of Policy at National and Local levels and involve considerations outside the scope of this Report.

General Statistics

The Council's Water Undertaking comprises the following:-

Main sources:	Chirton	Two boreholes	One:	10,000	gallons per hour
			One:	8,000	" " "
	VISTRE	Two boreholes	Each:	5,000	" " "
	Great Cheverell	One "		3,000	" " "
		Two "	Each:	2,000	" " "

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Erlestone

Village supply	Spring	1,500 gallons per hour
Bulk supply from Chippenham Borough Council boreholes via. Calne and Chippenham R.D.C.'s mains)	180,000 gallons per day (Maximum)
Bulk supply from Devizes Borough Boreholes at Bourton	)	82,000 gallons per day (Maximum)
Bulk supply from Devizes Borough for The Fairway, Roundway village, Roundway Park and Trading Estate	)	For an unspecified (but limited) commitment.

Reservoirs: There are six reservoirs in the district having a total capacity of 625,000 gallons.

Water Mains: There are 83.00 miles of water mains.

Water Consumption statistics

1.	Total number of premises supplied	..	..	..	3,362	
2.	Estimated population supplied	..	..	..	10,577*	
3.	Total number of metered connections	..	..	..	632	
4.	Total number of domestic connections	..	..	..	2,704	
5.	Total number of other connections	..	..	..	26	
6.	Total overall consumption	..	..	..	145,291,000	gallons
7.	Estimated total metered consumption	..	..	..	52,165,000	gallons
8.	Estimated total domestic consumption	..	..	..	96,861,000	gallons
9.	Estimated average daily consumption per head of population per diem				25.09	gallons
10.	Estimated average overall consumption per head of population per diem				37.66	gallons

*The population of the Council's area is 16,060. A proportion of this population (for which no figures are available) reside in the War Department barracks and the Mental Hospital. These establishments are supplied partly by the Devizes Borough and partly from private sources. It is estimated that a public piped water supply is at present available (or will be in the near future) to approximately 97 per cent of the population.

It should be noted that numbers 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 estimated population is used in arriving at these 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 the population per day, viz: 25.09 gallons, shows an increase of approximately 18% over the figure for 1958.

The corresponding figures for recent years are:-

1954	22.45 gallons per day	1957	20.11 gallons per day
1955	21.62 gallons per day	1958	21.25 gallons per day
1956	22.44 gallons per day		

Erlestone

11/10/1914

11/10/1914

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Table 1

The amount of water supplied in 1959 from Great Cheverell, Chirton, Erlestone, Devizes Borough, Calne & Chippenham R.D.C., etc. sources, expressed in thousands of gallons per month

1959	Great Cheverell	Fairway	Nursted	North Eastn.	North Westn.	South Eastn.	Erlestone	Roundway	Park Roundway	Garden Trading Estate	VISTRE	Total
Jan.	3186	109	3	773	4256	2695	132	18	41			11213
Feb.	2192	176	1	763	3812	2572	124	12	37			9689
March	3053	170	3	802	3996	2724	125	11	58			10942
April	2960	110	3	814	4252	2264	143	13	78			10637
May	3099	122	3	914	4665	2706	140	16	93	92		11850
June	3257	648	3	1023	5629	3173	166	12	88	70		14069
July	2230	1222	20	984	5529	3173	153	17	96	266		13690
Aug.	2010	1095	18	992	4857	2695	158	15	114	266		12220
Sept.	2354	1095	19	913	5490	2946	253	13	116	181		13380
Oct.	3636	751	21	1008	4844	2843	170	17	150	203	218	13861
Nov.	3386	104	15	691	3738	2605	156	13	139	175	168	11190
Dec.	4105	110	15	866	4055	2679	148	14	192	210	156	12550
Total	35468	5712	124	10543	55123	33075	1868	171	1202	1463	542	145291

Daily Average Consumption .. 289,482 334,682 398,057

1957 1958 1959

The statistics below, which are expressed in gallons per annum, show an increased consumption during 1959 of 23,131,000 gallons compared with 1958. This is a rise of 18.94%. The percentages shown in brackets are of the total consumption for the year under which they appear.

	1957	1958	1959
Supplied from Great Cheverell	35,468,000 (24.41%)	35,455,000 (29.02%)	29,800,000 (28.2%)
Supplied from Chirton	33,075,000 (22.76%)	27,760,000 (22.73%)	17,486,000 (16.55%)
Supplied from Erlestone Village	1,868,000 (1.29%)	2,184,000 (1.79%)	1,979,000 (1.88%)
Supplied from VISTRE	542,000 (.37%)		
Supplied from Devizes Borough			
(a) North Eastern	10,543,000 (7.26%)	8,894,000 (7.28%)	6,339,000 (6.00%)
(b) Others	8,672,000 (5.97%)	1,638,000 (1.34%)	9,112,000 (8.62%)
Supplied from Calne & Chippenham R.D.C.	55,123,000 (37.94%)	46,229,000 (37.84%)	40,945,000 (38.75%)
Total	145,291,000	122,160,000	105,661,000

Results of Bacteriological Examination of Public Water Supplies
after chlorination

Date	Result	Date	Result
<u>South Eastern Scheme</u>		<u>North Eastern Scheme</u>	
6.1.59	Satisfactory	6.1.59	Satisfactory
27.1.59	"	27.1.59	"
27.1.59	Slight pollution	26.5.59	"
26.5.59	Satisfactory	14.7.59	"
14.7.59	"	6.10.59	"
6.10.59	"	9.12.59	"
11.11.59	"		
30.11.59	"		
<u>North Western Scheme</u>		<u>Great Cheverell</u>	
6.1.59	Satisfactory	10.2.59	Satisfactory
27.1.59	"	4.7.59	"
26.5.59	"	7.7.59	Slight pollution
14.7.59	"	1.8.59	Satisfactory
6.10.59	"	6.10.59	"
9.12.59	"	11.11.59	"
<u>Devizes Borough Source</u>		<u>South Western Scheme</u>	
1.12.59	Slight Pollution	11.11.59	Slight Pollution
11.12.59	Satisfactory	30.11.59	" "
		1.12.59	Satisfactory

SEWERAGE

Progress in the provision of village sewerage schemes has continued apace during the year. The position at 31st December, 1959 being:-

<u>Stanton St. Bernard</u>	This scheme came into operation on the 20th August, 1959.
<u>Wedhampton</u>	This scheme came into operation on the 20th August, 1959.
<u>Urchfont</u>	This scheme came into operation on the 20th August, 1959.
<u>Etchilhampton</u>	This scheme came into operation on the 30th November, 1959.

Seend

The Contract commenced on the 9th February, 1959, and most of the work had been completed at the end of the year. It is expected that the scheme will be in use in the first months of 1960.

Bromham

The starting date for this scheme was the 25th November, 1959, with a Contract period of eighteen months.

West Lavington

This scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and the invitation of Tenders authorised.

Poulshot, Worton & Marston

The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a scheme for these three Parishes.

Great Cheverell & Little Cheverell

A local investigation into this Scheme was held in October.

Five sewerage schemes practically completed, work commenced on another scheme and Ministry investigations into two proposed schemes, all in one year! This is progress on a scale undreamt of a few years ago. The Council has broken the back of the problem and complete sewerage of the district is in sight. A notable achievement. Coupled with the works carried out in previous years, the Council has spent approximately £250,000 on Sewerage Schemes. Residents in the Devizes R.D.C. area will not need to leave the countryside for the towns because the Local Authority has failed to provide the basic public services.

SHOPS

The general village shop still remains an essential part of village life in spite of an ever growing number of travelling shops operated from neighbouring towns.

It has been noticed that shopkeepers, during the last few years, have endeavoured to make their premises more attractive to the public and willingly carry out structural improvements where the volume of business permits.

FACTORIES

The advent of the Garden Trading Estate at Roundway has brought a few new light industrial factories of various types to the district.

The village garage still constitutes the largest percentage of Registered premises. It has not been found necessary for any action to be taken, apart from verbal requests to occupiers.

MILK SUPPLIES

The number of retailers of milk has now fallen to six, of which two only are producer/retailers.

The large dairy combines appear to be gaining favour even in this Rural District, both in the eyes of the consumer to whom they supply direct, and also the dealer, who previously purchased and bottled on his own premises and who now receives pasteurised milk ready bottled which he purveys to his customers.

Sampling for statutory and biological examination has been carried out regularly and the Department extends its thanks and appreciation to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Salisbury General Infirmary for its close co-operation.

Details and results of sampling:

	Passed	Failed	Total
Methylene Blue Test (for keeping quality) Tuberculin tested milk	16	4	20
Phosphatase Test (for efficient pasteurisation)	6	-	6
Biological Test (for presence of Tubercule bacilli)	20	-	20

All samples submitted for biological examination were subjected to a test for the presence of *Brucella abortus* organisms. No routine samples were found to be so affected with *Brucella abortus*.

ICE CREAM

There are now forty premises registered for the sale of ice cream of proprietary brands, there being no manufacturers in the District. All ice cream is sold pre-packed and the premises have been found to reach an entirely satisfactory standard.

Results of sampling are as follows:

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the results of the investigation conducted by the author.

The investigation was conducted in order to determine the effect of the treatment on the growth of the plants. The results of the investigation are as follows:

The results of the investigation show that the treatment had a significant effect on the growth of the plants. The plants treated with the treatment showed a significant increase in growth compared to the control group.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Treatment	Control	Results
1. Control	10	10
2. Treatment	10	15
3. Treatment	10	20
4. Treatment	10	25
5. Treatment	10	30

The results of the investigation show that the treatment had a significant effect on the growth of the plants. The plants treated with the treatment showed a significant increase in growth compared to the control group.

CONCLUSION

The results of the investigation show that the treatment had a significant effect on the growth of the plants. The plants treated with the treatment showed a significant increase in growth compared to the control group.

The results of the investigation show that the treatment had a significant effect on the growth of the plants.

Provisional Grades of Cleanliness

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>Total</u>
Manufacturer A	13	1	-	-	14
" B	6	-	-	-	6
" C	13	-	-	-	13
" D	4	-	-	-	4
	36	1	-	-	37

The Public Health Laboratory service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grades I or II, no more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV. On this basis it will be seen that ice cream supplied in the area can be regarded as satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

The department during the year concentrated mostly on sub-standard premises, endeavouring to bring them into line with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Good co-operation has generally been encountered and it is felt that the District's food premises are improving year by year.

The number of premises registered for the Manufacture of sausages under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is 3.

Number and types of food premises

General Retail Food shops	Licensed Premises	Butchers' Shops	Bake- houses	Fried Fish Shops	Hospitals Schools & Institutes	Cafes and Licensed premises serving full meals
45	42	7	5	2	25	4

FOOD INSPECTION

The two slaughterhouses in regular use have been visited at frequent intervals and all animals slaughtered inspected.

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1958, together with the Regulations made thereunder, have given rise to some speculation by the Slaughterhouse owners

as to the amount of works required to their existing premises to meet the new requirements. They have been advised informally of the modifications required and two owners have intimated their intention of fully complying with the new statutes.

During the coming year it is intended to enter into consultation with all interested parties connected with the meat trade to ascertain their views on the existing and probable slaughterhouse requirements and a Report on Slaughterhouses has to be submitted to the Minister by November, 1960.

The percentage of animals affected with disease has fallen considerably and, apart from the almost total eradication of tuberculosis in cattle, it is due to the high quality of animals slaughtered for local butchers.

MEAT INSPECTION

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

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	489	92	37	867	1855
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	1	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .	3	-	1	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis	0.818%	-	5.43%	-	0.269%

as to the amount of work reported to their existing services in 1900 the
 has been very small. It has been very small in the case of the
 and the same has been the case in the case of the other services.

During the year 1900 it is estimated to have been 100,000 tons
 of material and 100,000 tons of material. It is estimated that the
 on the existing and proposed improvements and a large
 on the existing and proposed improvements and a large

The percentage of material which is not in the
 and, and the material which is not in the
 is due to the high quality of material which is not in the

TABLE I

The number of persons employed and the amount of work done in 1900

Year	Persons employed	Amount of work done
1900	100	100,000 tons
1901	100	100,000 tons
1902	100	100,000 tons
1903	100	100,000 tons
1904	100	100,000 tons
1905	100	100,000 tons
1906	100	100,000 tons
1907	100	100,000 tons
1908	100	100,000 tons
1909	100	100,000 tons
1910	100	100,000 tons

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	1	-	-	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.409%	1.087%	-	-	0.325%
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generally and Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The number of premises licensed for the boiling of waste food remains constant at five. The processes were all properly conducted during the year and the plant maintained in efficient working order.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of individual licences for moveable dwellings issued during the year was 21 which is an increase of 1 on the previous year.

These sites, which consist principally of single, good class caravans, are situated in screened positions, but with reasonable accesses and have given no cause for complaints. The owner of the Sells Green Caravan site has made good progress in meeting the Council's requirements and all works should be completed in the spring of 1960. The result should be a small but well laid out site with all amenities. The site carried with it a ten year licence.

Date	Place	Name	Age	Sex	Remarks
					First entry
					Second entry
					Third entry
					Fourth entry
					Fifth entry

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK DURING THE YEAR 1911

The report of the progress of the work during the year 1911 is presented in the following pages. The work has been carried on in accordance with the plan laid down in the previous year, and the results are as follows:

GENERAL RESULTS

The progress of the work during the year 1911 has been very satisfactory. The results are as follows:

First, the work has been carried on in accordance with the plan laid down in the previous year. The results are as follows:

Second, the work has been carried on in accordance with the plan laid down in the previous year. The results are as follows:

Third, the work has been carried on in accordance with the plan laid down in the previous year. The results are as follows:

Fourth, the work has been carried on in accordance with the plan laid down in the previous year. The results are as follows:

Fifth, the work has been carried on in accordance with the plan laid down in the previous year. The results are as follows:

The owners of the Fox & Hounds site have carried out a number of minor improvements which have proved beneficial to the tenants and the Landlord.

Proposed new legislation (The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Bill) will, if it becomes law, enable Local Authorities generally to exercise more rigid control of moveable dwellings, especially regarding pre-1947 sites, as the Bill contains retrospective Clauses.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS

Type of complaint	Number	Remedied	Outstanding	No action necessary
Housing (excluding Council housing)	2	-	-	2
Overcrowding	1	-	-	1
Insanitary houses	18	4	7	7
Sewerage	4	3	-	1
Drainage	6	3	-	1
River Pollution	1	-	-	1
Water	2	1	1	-
Refuse	2	2	-	-
Keeping of animals	2	1	-	1
Fly infestation	-	-	-	-
Rodent infestation	6	6	-	-
Footpaths	2	2	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Totals	46	22	8	14

The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of the various factors on the growth of the various species of fish. It is hoped that the results of this study will be of value to the various agencies concerned with the management of the fishery resources of the State.

TABLE I

Type of fish	Number of fish	Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)
Atlantic croaker	1	12	1.5
Atlantic croaker	1	14	2.0
Atlantic croaker	1	16	2.5
Atlantic croaker	1	18	3.0
Atlantic croaker	1	20	3.5
Atlantic croaker	1	22	4.0
Atlantic croaker	1	24	4.5
Atlantic croaker	1	26	5.0
Atlantic croaker	1	28	5.5
Atlantic croaker	1	30	6.0
Atlantic croaker	1	32	6.5
Atlantic croaker	1	34	7.0
Atlantic croaker	1	36	7.5

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The system of refuse collection and disposal has worked smoothly throughout the year, despite the hot summer there was no complaint of nuisance or fly infestation on the refuse tip. This was undoubtedly due to the purchase of a tractor with special appliances to handle and cover the refuse and to the employment of a full-time refuse tip attendant.

Refuse is collected fortnightly with the exception of the Military Establishments where it is collected twice a week. A kerbside method of collection is used. Although the system has, within its limitations, worked well - and this is tribute to the men engaged on this task - a number of complaints have been received to the effect that it is unreasonable in these days to expect people to store their household refuse - particularly in the summer - for two weeks, and also from people who find it difficult to carry their bins to the kerbside. The present system is a great advance on that which obtained in this type of Rural area 15-20 years ago and prior to that date there was probably no system at all. Service, is however, considerably below the standard which is given in quite small Urban areas and nowadays in many Rural Authorities.

A Salvage scheme is in operation for the collection of scrap metals, rags and a limited amount of waste paper. Salvage is collected at the same time as refuse but the amount of separation that can be done is limited by considerations of transport and labour. There is an optimum amount of salvage that can be collected without incurring additional costs and if this optimum is exceeded it involves the employment of additional labour and transport to collect the salvage and it then ceases to be an economic proposition. It would appear that some Authorities spend thousands of pounds in order to recover a hundred for salvage - this is surely unsound economics even though there may be indirect benefits, difficult to assess, such as the lessening of nuisance and conservation of tipping space.

The total quantity of salvage collected in 1959 was:-

	£	s	d.
Scrap metal	233	5	7
Rags	53	12	6
Paper	54	10	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	341	8	2

Twenty-five per cent of this sum is paid in the form of bonus to the refuse workers. It is well earned and a good investment as the extra cost of collecting the salvage is negligible.

The total cost of collection and disposal of refuse for the year ended 31st March, 1959, was £4,694:13:11d. and the nett cost after deducting income received, viz: £1,715:16:4d., was £2,978:17:7d. The sale of salvage produced £249:18:10d. The approximate cost of the service per head of population served was 3/9d.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK

The system of public collection and disposal has been maintained throughout the year, and the progress made in the collection of refuse is as follows:—

Refuse is collected weekly with the exception of one day when it is collected twice a week. The system has been maintained throughout the year, and the progress made in the collection of refuse is as follows:—

A system of public collection and disposal has been maintained throughout the year, and the progress made in the collection of refuse is as follows:—

The total quantity of refuse collected in 1900 was:

Refuse	1,234,567
Street refuse	1,234,567
Household refuse	1,234,567
Commercial refuse	1,234,567
Industrial refuse	1,234,567
Other refuse	1,234,567
Total	1,234,567

The total quantity of refuse collected in 1900 was:

The total quantity of refuse collected in 1900 was:

The cost of this service is outstandingly low. According to returns obtained by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government from 59 Rural Authorities, the average cost of the service per head of population for the year 1957/58 was 10/3d.

Negotiations were entered into for the purchase of additional tipping space but these were not finalised.

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT & BUILDING BYELAWS

This aspect of the Department continues to grow apace. Three-hundred and twenty-two applications were submitted to the Planning & Lighting Committee. Three applications were rejected under the Town & Country Planning Act.

A system of certificates requiring the applicant to declare his interest in the land, and in certain circumstances notifying owners of adjacent properties of certain developments, came into force in August.

The complicated Law governing building and the use of land is of great value in the Community in many ways. It is a valuable safeguard against the worst type of 'jerry building' and building malpractices; it helps to preserve and even improve the amenities of Town and Country; it makes the roads safer and it is an influence in fostering aesthetic appreciation. The applicant, impatient to get on with his particular project, very often fails to appreciate the value of these long term benefits, he is exasperated by the numerous questions, forms and drawings that must be submitted and he is frustrated by, what seems to him, to be inordinate delays in giving a decision. The official has often to educate and soothe the applicant and this is not the least part of his duties, which are generally carried out with much tact, patience and above all, a sense of humour.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	372
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	248
Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250
Water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Water samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Milk sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Food inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200
Food shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Workshops and Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Petroleum Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1542
Town & Country Planning	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	179
Building inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	569
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Diseases of animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

RODENT CONTROL

Regular and systematic inspection and treatment of premises has been carried out during the year. The following table summarises the visits made.

A proportion of the sewers in each Parish were test baited and the results showed that there was no infestation.

A short Refresher Course was held in Devizes by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (Infestation Division), which was attended by the Rodent Operator.

	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	3056	244	3307	845
II Number of properties inspected as result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	60	13	73	10
(b) Survey under the Act	7	1125	43	1175	63
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	-	-	-	-	-
III Total inspections carried out - includ. re-inspections ..	28	2897	56	2981	63

Table continued overleaf.

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agri- cul- tural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
IV Number of properties inspected (In Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats - Major	4	59	8	71	10
- Minor	3	259	6	268	26
(b) Mice - Major	-	6	1	7	-
- Minor	-	-	-	-	-
V Number of infested properties (In Sec. IV) treated by the Local Authority	7	324	15	346	36
VI Total treatments carried out including re-treatments .. .	28	322	15	365	36
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	-	-	-	-	-
X Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	26	-	-	-

