### [Report 1967] / Medical Officer of Health, Devizes R.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

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DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

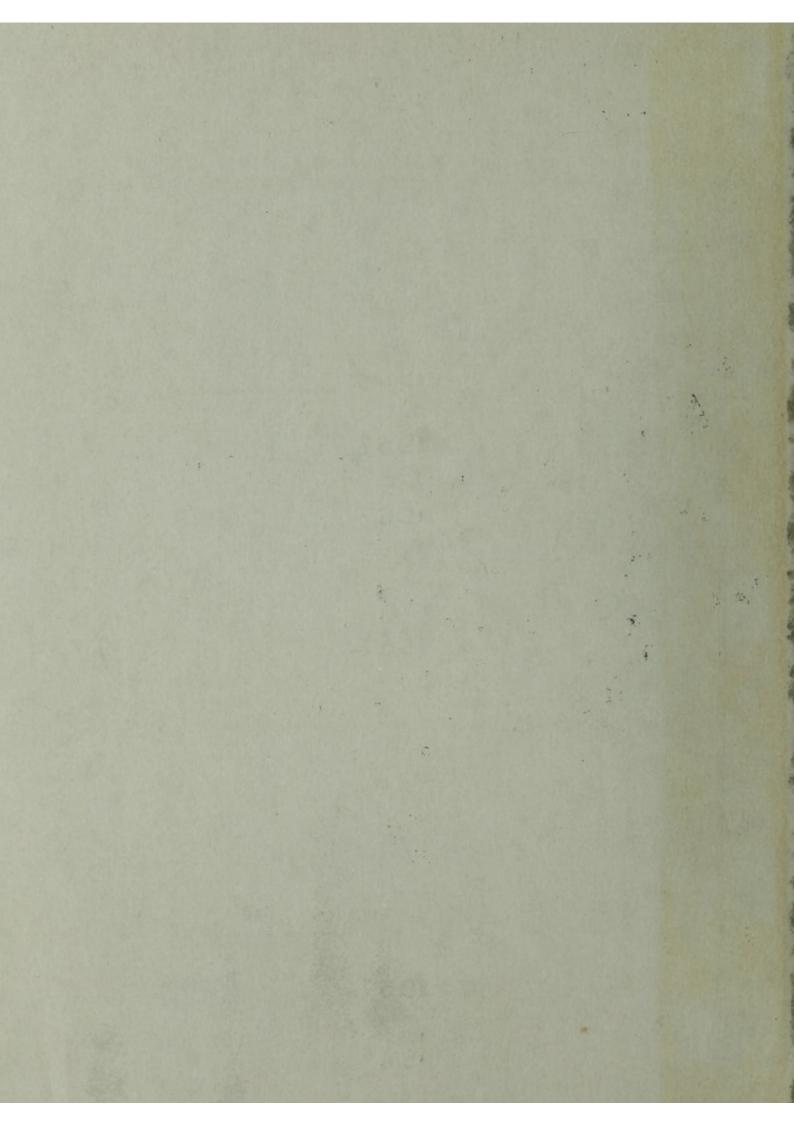
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the year

1967



#### DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1967

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## DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL (As at 31st December 1967)

## CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

John W. Nosworthy J.P.

## VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Harold G. Angell

## CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

John Spencer, D.P.A. (Lond.) A.C.C.S.

- 000 -

## HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Chairman - George L.C. Brown

Vice-Chairman - Mrs. Catherine T.W. Young

Mrs. Kathleen N. Allen

Vivian G. Amor

Harold G. Angell

Ralph Cary J.P.

Sir Charles Chitham C.I.E., J.P.

Major General Basil A. Coad C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Edgar S. Cross

Miss Gladys W. English

Robert H. Hampton

John R. Horton

Michael W. Lesley

Captain Douglas Mann

Frank J. Oatridge

Edward F. Ransted

Lt. Colonel Ronald F. Welsh

Henry G.J. Wiltshire

## STAFF OF SURVEYOR'S/PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

G.E. WILLIAMS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

## Additional Public Health Inspectors

D.W.E. JESSETT, M.A.P.H.I. (Also Deputy Surveyor)

E.W. WRIGHT, M.A.P.H.I.

## Pupil Public Health Inspector

C. BLANCHETT

## Rodent Operative

F.W. BARRETT

### Clerical Staff

J. WELLS

MRS. T. CLIFFORD

MRS. P. AMOR (Part-time additional shorthand-typist)

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### DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Public Health Department,
Browfort,

DEVIZES,

Wiltshire.

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

It is my honour to be able to present the Annual Report on the public health of the district during the year 1967. I am guided in its compilation by the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1 /68 as well as the relevant sections of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the help and assistance which I have received during the year from the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. G.E. Williams, and offer my thanks to those other members of the Surveyor's Department for their contribution, great or small, to the betterment of the health of the community.

In accordance with the usual custom the report incorporates that of Mr. Williams whose retirement next year, is anticipated. For that reason it is probable that his contribution, so long a feature of these reports, is circulated for the last time. This year he has provided some very helpful information regarding progress and development in the district during the 23 years in which he has held office. For this valuable contribution to the report I am extremely grateful.

It is my pleasure to mention in this introduction a few projects which reached fruition during the year and for which the Council might feel justly proud.

The first of these is St. Mary's House, Potterne, which consists of 24 flats intended to accommodate 28 elderly people. It was fully occupied by the end of the year.

The sewage disposal scheme for the Chirton, Patney and Marden areas was officially opened in May. This project marks a big advance in rural development.

Less favourable items which I consider worthy of mention at this juncture and in respect of which the influence of the Council might be used with a view to amelioration, are in connection with water supplies and the sale of meat intended for consumption by pets.

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I no constitute that the district during the journal for the constitution of the constitution of the constitution of the first during the constitution of the first during the constitution of the constitu description provided some very neighby laterestics regarding provided

Being a rural district there are naturally some private water supplies about which no effective action can be recommended in so far as increasing the fluoride content is concerned, but the North Wilts Water Board who are the water undertakers to the area, could fluoridate the water prior to its distribution and would presumably be willing to do so if pressure from local authorities was applied. It is my considered opinion that this Council would be well advised to take up this matter with the County Council with a view to fluoridation of the water supplied by the North Wilts Water Board.

A small outbreak of food poisoning of a serious nature occurred in a household which was attributed to the human consumption of food which had been contaminated by meat purchased and intended for consumption by pcts. This matter was reported to the Council at the time and underlines the necessity for changes in the law in so far as it affects the sale of pet meat.

An advance in preventive medicine was made towards the end of the year when the Council in its wisdom, approved of my suggestion that immunisation against influenza should be offered to officers and employees. It is disappointing to relate that despite the fact that this offer was made on a "no cost basis", the response left much to be desired. It appeared that had the route of administration been by mouth, more people would have been willing to accept the tablet or liquid as the case may be, but the thought of an injection rather separated the men from the boys! It is gratifying to report that perusal of the carses of absence from work by the staff revealed that no absence from work of a person who had been immunised, could be attributed to influenza.

P.C. BARRY.

Medical Officer of Health

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	• • • • •	63,491
Population (Registrar General's Estimate	)	15,300
Total Number of Inhabitable Dwellings		4,767
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1967		£361,775
Estimated Product of 1d Rate		£1,430

## VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates compared with other areas
(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)
Standardised\*

0.5	SERVICE CARROLL CARROLL CONTROLL CONTROL CO	Birth 1966	Rate 1967	Death 1966	1967
	Devizes Rural District	17.9	14.2	8.7	6.9
	England and Wales	17.7	17.2	11.7	6.9 11.2 10.2
	Wiltshire	18.7	17.8	10.4	10.2

Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

CENTRELL STATISTICS

Ares in Acros .... Garage 1 a Satisman 15,500
Population (Registers Genoral's Satisman) ... 15,500
Potal Muster of Industicable Declines ... 4,757
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1957 ... 251,775
Estimated Fromet of 1d Rate

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Compared the figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take auto secount the varying see/completes of the country. Shen applied to the local of the country. Shen applied to the local rates they allow a more shourable comparison to be made between different areas.

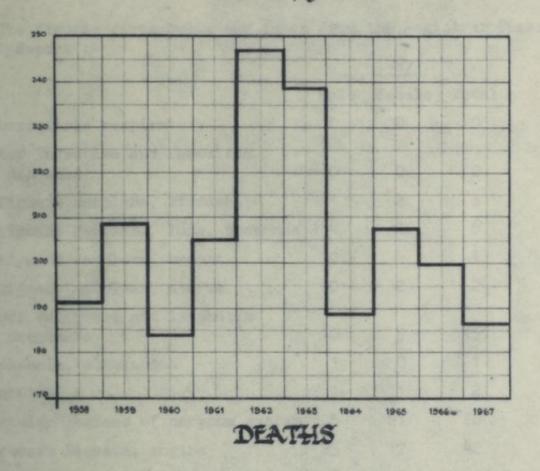
## Vital Statistics (Contd.)

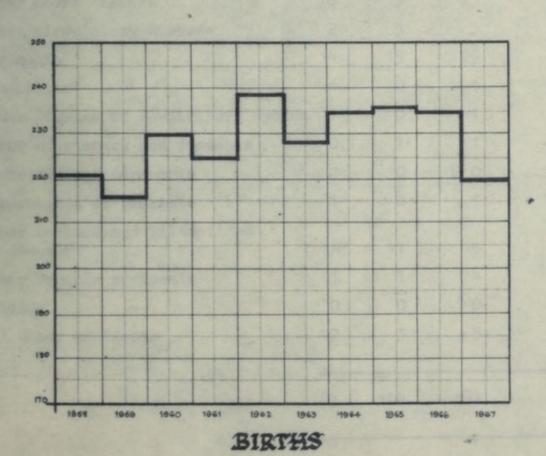
## MOTHERS AND INFANTS

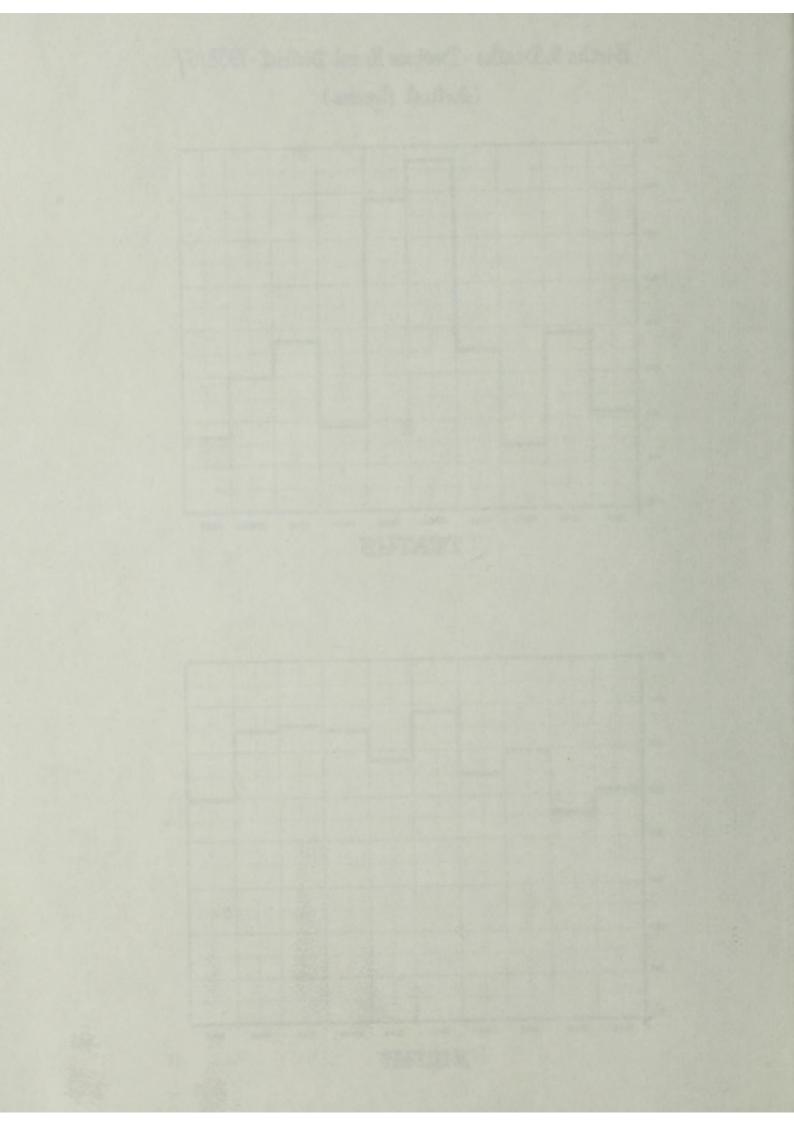
	1967	1966
Live Births		
Number Rate per 1,000 population	217	235
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	6.9	5.1
Stillbirths		
Number	3	0
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	13.6	0
Total Live and Still Births	220	235
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	1	2
Infant Mortality Rates		
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	4.6	8.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	4.9	8.9
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	4.6	8.5
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	4.6	4.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	18	4.3
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0	0
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# Births & Deaths - Devizes Rural District - 1958/67 (Actual figures)







## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1967

The figures given below are taken from the Registrar General's Annual Report:-

An	nual Report :-		1967		1966
		Male	Female	Total	Total
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	0	0	0	1
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic	0	0	•	
	diseases	0	0	0	1
	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3	0
	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2	6	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	5	15	19
15.	Luekaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1	0
16.	Diabetes	1	1	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	21	26	25
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	25	17	42	44
19.	Hypertensions with heart disease	0	1	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	8	15	23	24
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	3	5	5
23.	Pneumonia	14	15	29	34
24.	Bronchitis	1	0	1	2
25.	Other Disease of Respiratory System	m 1	0	1	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1	_ 1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined disease	4	11	15	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4	1
35.	Suicide	0	0	0	3
34.	All other accidents	2	3	5	10
	Total all causes	83	104	187	200

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## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

## Notifiable Disease

Set out below are tables A, B and C. Table A gives details of cases notified during the past 5 years, Table B the age incidence in cases notified in 1967 and Table C distribution by Parish.

TABLE A

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Scarlet Fever	20	11	49	8	10
Whooping Cough	2	6	1	0	4
Measles	116	166	332	136	64
Dysentery	0	6	0	0	1
Food Poisoning	1	0	0	0	4
Tuberculosis	1	3	4	0	1
Diptheria	0	0	1	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	1	0	0	2	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	1	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	0

TABLE B

Disease	0-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	6574	Age not known	All Ages
Scarlet Fever	2	8	0	0	0	0	10
Whooping Cough	1.	3	0	0	0	0	4
Measles	32	31	1	0	0	0	64
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Food Poisoning	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

#### COMMUNICABLE DISTANCE

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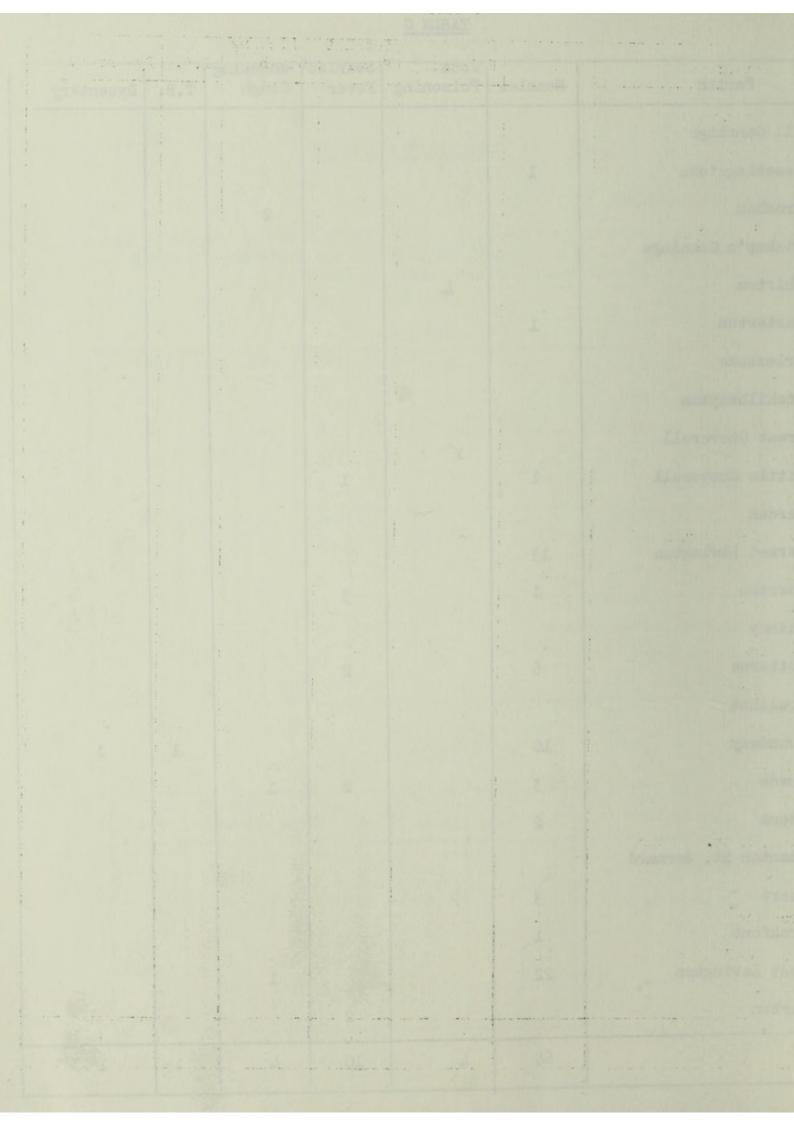
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			0	
	0.00			

## TABLE C

Parish	Measles	Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	т.в.	Dysentery
All Cannings						
Beechingstoke	1					
Bromham				2		
Bishop's Cannings						
Chirton		4				
Easterton	1					
Erlestoke			3			
Etchilhampton						
Great Cheverell						
Little Cheverell	1		1			
Marden			1			
Market Lavington	13					
Marston	1		3			
Patney			-		-	
Potterne	6		2			
Poulshot						
Roundway	10				1	1
Rowde	3	300 300	2	1		
Seend	2					13500
Stanton St. Bernard						-
Stert	3					
Urchfont	1					1
West Lavington	22			1		
Worton			2			
	64	4	10	4	1	1
			!	1		



#### PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following statistics relating to immunisation and vaccination procedures in the Rural District during the year:-

## Diptheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisations

Year of Birth		1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962-58	1952-57	Others Under 16
Primary imms	Diph	78	87	1	1	2	5	-	-
Completed	Wh/c	76	87	-	1	2	-	-	-
during 1967	Tet	87	87	1	1	2	9	51	3
Reinf. injects	Diph	-	50	63	8	6	109	4	1
administered	Wh/c	-	35	25	3	2	15	-	-
during 1967	Tet	-	50	63	8	7	110	11	-

## Smallpox Vaccinations

Age Group		Mon	Years				
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1-4	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	B - B	-	3	16	95	8	19
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	1	7

Poliomyelitis Vaccination  AGE GROUP	s 3rd Quad.	2nd inj.	3rd inj. or 4th Quad.	4th inj.	3 oral doses	2 orals after 2 injs.	4th oral after 3 injs. or 3 oral
1967 1966 1965 1964 1963 1958 - 1962 1952 - 1957 Others under 16 Others over 16	11111111				73 93 11 2 3 14 -		- 43 54 3 3 115 5
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	198	-	225

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## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Annual Reports are dreary reading because by their nature they are repetitive, statistical and deal with mundane events entirely devoid of drama and having little reader appeal. If lack of comment upon the Reports is any criterion very few Councillors read them '.

This is understandable, they have more pressing things to do. But Reports do have their uses; in addition to providing a factual record of work done, they provide a book for future action and protect the officer by setting the record straight.

In submitting this, my 23rd and last Annual Report, it would seem appropriate and perhaps give added interest, to comment on the contemporary scene and to survey those activities which come within the province of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector during the most eventful years of the Council's history.

I would like to record my gratitude to all the staff of the department. Their standard of work and helpful attitude to the public is in the best traditions of local government service. I pray it may earn the recognition it deserves.

May I also express appreciation to Dr. Barry, the Clerk and the Treasurer for help and advice.

Finally, thank you to the Council for their good humoured tolerance of an officer who frequently wanted to gallop faster than they were prepared to go.

Yours obediently,

G.E.WILLIAMS.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

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## TWENTY THREE YEARS 1945-67. A REVIEW.

The Council's record of its communal and protective responsibilities at the end of the second World war comprised 300 Council houses, a water supply to 8 parishes, a nominal refuse service and no sewerage scheme whatsoever. A good start had been made on the demolition of unfit houses in two parishes but there was little evidence of the enforcement of Public Health legislation. The Town & Country Planning Act came into operation in 1934 and the Building Byelaws in 1931, yet only 200 plans were deposited in 14 years ! This equals about 4 months throughput at the present rate. Apparently this particular legislation was regarded as only rarely necessary!

If you lived in a rural Council house in the pre-war years of peace and plenty you enjoyed bucket and rope sanitation. You drew water from a communal well by bucket and rope; when you had used the water you poured it via a crude kitchen sink, to a cesspool in the garden which in turn was emptied by bucket and rope and thrown onto the garden where the well was situated. The "loo" was a bucket round the corner, its contents also went onto the garden. The designers of this energetic system of hygiene obviously intended that the agricultural worker should not be over zealous in his washing habits. Strange to relate, these two short circuits to water pollution and typhoid did not, apparently, detrimentally affect the health and longevity of the inhabitants !

If this was the state in Council property, tenanted houses owned by private landlords were infinitely worse. There were 2,500 of them and a detailed survey revealed the following borrible truths

2,344 of them had no water closet.

1,307 did not even have a sink.

1860 needed extensive repair and improvement to prevent them from sliding into the demolition catagory.

263 called for immediate demolition.

55 only were free of any defect.

Eight parishes out of the 24 had a water supply system. Even so the source was inadequate and the cast iron mains unsuitable. Burst mains were a daily occurrence and the faltering system threatened to yield up the ghost.

· in italiants assumment age beside the dates north the second The refuse service consisted of a monthly collection of tins and bottles in an open lorry, which were dumped in an uncovered stinking, rat and fly infested tip.

There was no semblance of a modern sewerage system.

The whole presented a miserable daunting spectacle of inadequately conceived public services, meanly administered. But this was not unusual in Rural Districts and the record of the Devizes Rural District Jouncil in those days was no worse than that of most rural areas; for those that dwelt in rural Merrie England this was the unfortunate norm.

So much for the situation in 1945, how do matters stand today?

The Council have built 800 dwellings and own 1100 dwellings against 300 in 1945. All Council dwellings now have full scale modern sanitation and many have advanced refinements such as central heating, piped television and launderettes.

Vigorous application of the Improvement Grant schemes has resulted in modernising and thoroughly overhauling over 800 privately owned houses. This work is proceeding apace. The impetus triggered cff by the powerful financial aid (around £170,000) afforded under the Grant Schemes has had a snowball effect. A large number of houses have been improved without grant aid. Keeping up with the Jones' sometimes confers great benefits! About 80% of all houses in the district now have "mod cons".

A most comprehensive water supply system covering all parts of the area was completed in 1957. It included 80 miles of mains, 4 pumping stations and 7 reservoirs.

A weekly collection of refuse by modern refuse vehicles operates all over the district. Refuse disposal is on a properly Controlled Tip free of nuisance or loss of amenity. The disposal service has been extended to two neighbouring Councils effecting a big saving to all.

Sewerage schemes covering 95% of the population of the district are in operation. This meant 50 miles of sewers, 25 pumping stations and 10 sewage works.

In retrospect it is easy to see that many things could have been done better and sooner. One of the most potent causes of procrastination arises from officers feeding detail and irrelevancies to Councillors who thus get involved and bogged down with time consuming detail. In this I have sinned. The concern of Councillors should be major policy. Administration should be left to Chief Officers and if overtly or otherwise

they evade this reponsibility, they should be dismissed.

Land acquisition is the greatest delayer of progress. Although the detailed preparation of a housing, water supply or sewerage scheme may have surmounted all problems, it cannot proceed until the necessary land has been comveyed to the Council. This is of course, common sense prudence. The land required is often quite trivial in area and the cost insignificant in relation to the total cost of the scheme: but procrastination in purchase can hold up a scheme for one or more years. The acquisition of quite trivial parcels of an acre or two generally takes 2-3 years. In one classic instance involving a potential water source, it took 5 years to acquire 1 acre of downland, A delay of one year (in acquiring land) on a £100,000 scheme costs the rate and tax payer an extra £10,000 because building and civil engineering costs increase by approximately 10% per annum. This surely is a bottleneck that needs ironing out. Here is the kind of field where worth while savings can be made.

Although the administration of protective and control legislation advanced from zero in 1945 to a moderate level I felt there was often a lack of understanding of its purpose and interest in its application. This was a failure of communication, failure on my part to clearly explain the aims and objects of complicated legislation, aided also by the desire of Councillors to protect the individual from the bureaucrat at the expense of protection of that more impersonal thing - the community.

Notwithstanding these shortcomings, it is on overall result that any fair appraisal must surely be made. The verdict must be that the Council have, in the period under review, deserved well of their generation. They have done better than most and accomplished five times more since 1945 than in the previous 51 years of their existence. This fact alone deserves a blast on the trumpet :

## HOUSING.

## COUNCIL HOUSING.

Thirty-nine dwellings were completed during the year. Five important policy decisions were made in 1962 in regard to future programmes, they were to construct estate roads to Wiltshire County Council standards, to make provision for garages on a one for each dwelling basis, to provide central heating, to improve the standard of fitments (kitchen and electrical etc) and to try open plan estate layout. These decisions have now been embodied in estates. They have changed the image of Council housing and earned high praise from occupants.

## PRIVATE HOUSING.

Activity in this field was at a far higher level than anything previously experienced. This is one of the direct results of pursuing a progressive policy in the provision of water supply and sewerage schemes throughout the district. Without these basic essentials private building is not feasible.

Estates were either under construction or in an advanced planning stage at Market Lavington (130), Urchfont (56), Roundway (134), Potterne (56), Seend (11) and Rowde (54).

The number of private dwellings completed was 56.

## THE REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF COUNCIL DWELLINGS.

Any officer responsible for the repair and maintenance of Council dwellings enjoys no sinecure. The tenant naturally thinks his house should be kept in good repair carried out promptly and with the least inconvenience. All good landlords concur in principle and so do the officers who have to translate their wishes. Unfortunately, there is a nigger in the woodpile. Repair and maintenance, as every house owner knows, are costly. Prompt attention often increases the cost. The higher the standard of service the greater the cost. Any increase in cost must be reflected in the rent. Councillors do not like rent increases and tenants hate them, so what to do? First class service with a two or three shilling per week increase in rent or keep the rent down with a lower standard? The Council have always chosen the latter.

The improvement of pre-war Council houses is now virtually completed. Although the scheme of alterations has resulted in improvements which have conferred great benefits on tenants, your officers have always regretted that their recommendations for a much better scheme were not accepted. Housing standards are progressively rising, wisdom and long term economy surely lies in planning for tomorrow rather than today.

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# THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

The number of approved Improvement Grants in 1967 was 39 Standard Grants and 4 Discretionary Grants. The total amount of grant aid approved was £7561.

#### SLUM CLEARANCE.

Twelve houses were demolished. Demolition Orders were made on 3 dwellings and Closing Orders on 2. Time and Place Notices were served in respect of 3 dwellings.

Demolition Orders were revoked following the improvement of 3 houses and a Closing Order was revoked in respect of one house.

One cottage was demolished in default.

#### CARAVANS.

The number of licences operative were 21 for single sites, 2 for 2 sites, 1 for 4 permanent and 2 holiday sites 2 for 6 sites, 1 for 8 sites and 1 permanent site for 15 caravans. A grand total of 66.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

# HOUSING ANNUAL RETURN.

Appendix 1 shows certain housing activities in the statistical form required by the County Medical Officer.

# REFUSE.

The Council were invited, in the latter part of the year, to participate in a proposed Consortium of 10 authorities for the disposal of refuse by incineration. The capital cost of this fantastic scheme is £306,000 and the operational cost £53,000 p.a. If the Council joined the Consortium their proportion of the annual costs would be £5,300. Onto this has to be added extra haulage costs to the central incinerator plant equal to £1,500, making a total of £7,800 compared with present disposal costs of £1183. An increase of at least 600%. Apparently some authorities regard increases of this order with equanimity. Would the Prices and Income Board be equally unconcerned, or is this kind of activity sacrosanct?

The state of the s ton out of the street of the end the same of the same Place Northern Ware served to Propose of Proposes. . . cos 1900 Les their wanted ets on he's laper was been been and Cost, of course, is not the only criterion in assessing this issue. Is the present system, i.e., Controlled Tipping, as satisfactory as incineration? Beyond all doubt if it is properly conducted. Proof of this can be seen in the Council's tips. A completed tip and a tip currently in use are open to inspection to all who pass along the Devizes-West Lavington section of the A360.

But what about the availability of land for tipping? The Towns of course, are badly off for land within their boundaries but the total land areas of the 11 authorities in the Consortium is 187,358 acres. The population of the Consortium is about 150,000. The land requirement for controlled tipping is 1 acre per 10,000 population per annum. Thus the land requirement would be 15 acres each year. Can anyone seriously contend that it is not possible to obtain 15 acres of suitable land per annum out of 187,358 acres? Any land used for tipping would eventually revert to agriculture.

I advised the Council to opt out of the scheme and to offer to dispose of refuse for Devizes and Melksham. Negotiations were in fact completed early in 1968, to the very considerable financial and other advantages of the parties concerned.

The total cost of collection and disposal for the year ended 31st March, 1968 was £8,367 which represents 10/1d per head of population (15,300). This is a decrease of 1/5d per head on 1966. Revenue from salvage was £156.

I regretted and I believe the Council will regret the decision to sell the filled up tip at Heron Bridge. When a local authority has finished with a tip site it should obviously revert to agriculture or other useful purposes and the original vendor should be given the first option to buy. The Council will require enormous quantities of soil cover when the Broadway tip comes into operation, much of this can often be obtained by suitable inducements from building and road works, but the supply is spasmodic and uncertain. The prudent operator therefore requires a huge buffer reserve of soil. Here at Heron Bridge was such a reserve, in fact about 200,000 cubic yards, right on the doorstep of Broadway. It could hardly have been more convenient, or its condition more suitable. If soil has to be purchased, and it is more than likely that large quantities will have to be purchased, it could cost £1 per cubic yard. Extraction from Heron Bridge would have been half that price and would have created additional tipping space as a bonus.

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The problem of the unwanted motor vehicle is assuming substantial proportions and will increase rapidly. The owners of these vehicles are difficult to trace and when they can be found they are usually irresponsible and men of straw. The law on this matter is to be strengthened in 1968 and will involve the setting up of an impounding area and specific confiscatory procedures. The new tip at Broadway is the obvious site for such a pound. The disposal of 18 vehicles was arranged during the year.

#### SEWERAGE.

Modern sewerage schemes are now operating in the following parishes:-

> Erlestoke. Market Lavington. Urchfont (including Rowde. Wedhampton). Seend (including Potterne. Great Cheverell. Poulshot. Worton. Chirton. Patney.

Easterton. Bromham. Stanton St. Bernard. Etchilhampton. Sells Green). West Lavington. Little Cheverell. Marston. Marden.

The scheme for Patney, Chirton and Marden came into operation in March.

The scheme prepared for Bishops Cannings/All Cannings is still held by the Ministry. Whether or not this will be released for implementation depends on the financial situation. This scheme has been held up for some considerable time and undoubtedly the costs will have risen when the time comes for it to be constructed.

Experiments regarding the treatment of sludge continued during the year and a large measure of success was achieved at certain of the Council's works by mixing aluminium chlorohydrate. This has the remarkable property of de-watering the sludge. It is expensive but it works.

When the Bishops Cannings/All Cannings scheme is sompleted there will remain only a few hamlets without a sewerage system. These hamlets are Seend Cleeve, Chittoe, Roundway, Stert and Lavington Sands. The cost of sewering these thinly populated and scattered communities averages around £900 per dwelling. No-one would wish to deny the inhabitants the benefits of modern sewerage systems but costs of

CILID CHEST STORY STREET STREET STREET STREET STREET de Ante-ser par les les lances de l'appendant de l' this order for providing one public facility are an unfair burden on the rest of the community. Fortunately, with the exception of Seend Cleeve and Lavington Sands, septic tanks work very successfully in these areas. Nearly all houses have septic tanks (many installed with the aid of Improvement Grants) and there is therefore no hardship or public health problem. Suitable arrangements for Seend Cleeve and Lavington Sands areas will however, need to be considered in the near ruture.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply system constructed by the Council and now administered by the North Wilts Water Board covers the whole district. The Water Board took control in October, 1962. It is not unprofitable briefly to review the events of that time and subsequent history.

The Board comprises 9 local authorities, viz, the Boroughs of Chippenham, Devizes, Calne and Malmesbury, the Rural District Councils of Calne & Chippenham, Devizes. Malmesbury and Bradford & Melksham and the Urban District of Bradford on Avon. During the negotiations which preceded the merger it was strongly contended by some of the Boroughs that they were bringing into the fusion valuable assets in the shape of sound water undertakings having water mains, reservoirs and pumping stations of adequate capacity and in good order. Their water sources were also quite wonderful. For this reason their consumers should enjoy water tariffs that were about 100% cheaper than rural areas. They still enjoy this inequitable advantage. At least it is inequitable as far as Devizes R.D.C., is concerned. The Board inherited from Devizes R.D.C., a sound undertaking worth about £1 million and it has not had to spend more than £300 or so since 1962 on its improvement. What is the position in regard to some of the other water systems, particularly those with allegedly valuable assets? It has been necessary to spend well over £500,000 to make these undertakings sound and capable of fullfilling their function. On the most generous view some of them were tottering. Witness the successive water crises when supplies nearly ceased (and for a period actually ceased) and all kinds of expensive emergency measures were invoked to keep ailing systems from breakdown. The Devizes R.D.C., contributed the soundest water scheme to the Board and domestic consumers pay a water rate 200% higher than Chippenham or Devizes for the privilege.

On the most charitable interpretation they have had (and still enjoy) a raw deal ! As a bonus, consumers now pay nearly 300% more for a service connection than the R.D.C., charged. Blessed are the merits of mergers!

THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T nowest with the state of the st  Both the Board and the Council take periodic samples to check the purity of the water and exchange information on the results. Water throughout the district is satisfactory both in quality and quantity and none of the water is plumbosolvent. Sampling results were as follows:-

North Wilts Water Board. 115 Satisfactory. 4 Slight pollution with non-

faecal coliform organisms.
(Subsequent samples satisfactory).

R.D.C. Public Supply: 33 Satisfactory.

Private supply: 17 Slight pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms.

2 Gross pollution with faecal coliform organisms.

Private supplies are now rare. In cases where pollution has been found, owners are advised to boil all water for human consumption and household use. Investigations were made as to the possibility of connecting mains water to the one property where the private supply was grossly polluted but this proved extremely costly and the Council were unable to assist by way of grant. This case is still under review.

The District is supplied from 6 sources, the fluoride content of the supplies being as follows:-

Chirton Bottom	0.14			in parts per treatment).
Erlestoke.	0.18	11	11	11
Great Cheverell. Ivyfields,	0.08	11	11	"
	0.70	11	11	11
Bourton.	0.09	11	11	11
Shepherd's Shore	.0.11	11	11	11

The position in regard to water supply in the district is as follows:-

Parish.	Number of houses supplied.	Population supplied.
All Cannings. Beechingstoke.	131 46	458 161
Bishops Cannings. Bromham.	280 501	980 1753
Chirton. Easterton.	9 <b>1</b> 135	318 472
Erlestoke.	59	206

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Parish.	Number of houses Supplied.	Population Supplied.
Etchilhampton. Great Cheverell. Little Cheverell. Marden. Market Lavington. Marston. Patney. Potterne. Poulshot. Roundway. Rowde. Seend. Stanton. St. Bernar Stert. Urchfont. West Lavington. Worton.	50 154 54 34 440 38 23 509 97 217 311 346 41 30 234 336 122	175 539 189 119 1540 133 80 1781 339 759 1088 1211 143 105 819 1176 427

No water is supplied from public standpipes.

## TO N & COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS.

The number of applications submitted under the Town & Country Planning Acts were as follows:-

307 approved (a 25% increase over 1966). 23 refused. 8 withdrawn after negotiation.

There was only one appeal to the Ministry (in respect of a petrol filling station) when the refusal was upheld.

Private development under construction or projected in the larger parishes is on an unprecedented scale. The construction of an estate of 90 houses for W.D. families in the parish of Market Lavington was commenced during the year. This village consisted of only approximately 400 dwellings so that the village was enlarged by about 20%. Such a large influx of population could have been fraught with many difficulties but the village responded happily and circulated all new families with information on the history of the village and all local functions and social gatherings with an invitation to the service families to join in the village activities. This welcome appears to have greatly assisted in the smooth integration of the service families.

to toeques at) wirelatt our capped to the Binistry (in respect of The second of the second secon One difficulty encountered has been the large increase in the number of children to be catered for in the village schools; the number far exceeded all estimates and additional temporary accommodation has had to be provided.

The large increase in population also causes some strain on the sewage works which will soon be suffering from overload.

Proposals were also received for an extension to this estate by a further 30 dwellings.

An application for residential development in Seend High Street was received; Seend is a very pleasant village with property of considerable architectural (and historic) merit. The main route A361 forms the village High Street and the road now takes a considerable volume of traffic to the west country. The not inconsiderable difficulties encountered locally in regard to the volume of traffic caused local persons to query the wisdom of allowing a further estate access onto the road. However, after considerable negotiation, an access acceptable to the County Surveyor was agreed and the application approved. There is no doubt that the long awaited by-pass for Seend is becoming an urgent matter.

A somewhat unusual application was received for the development of some 57 acres of woodland. The proposal being for up to 20 "weekend" homes, together with a riding school, landscaping of the woodland and improvements to the existing stream to provide fishing facilities. This development constituted a rather high class recreational amenity. The application was refused but only after considerable thought had been given to this new recreational venture, there being the feeling that there is a growing demand for some form of recreational facility for the higher income groups and that this should be provided within country districts as well as at the conventional seaside resort. Formidable problems of access, road system, land drainage etc., were not resolved satisfactorily by the applicant.

The Council receives many applications which are doomed before they are submitted because they are for development which is on too large a scale for the area (i.e., development of 14½ acres in one small hamlet!) or because it is extremely isolated from existing development or facilities. Although planning policy is carefully explained to prospective applicants the submission of applications, no matter how wild, cannot be refused and much time and effort is wasted by both officers and committees. I would not wish the right of anyone to make an application to be restricted but I do feel that this type of application is far too easily submitted and the cost to the ratepayers (and, if it goes to appeal, to the taxpayers) is considerable whereas the cost to the applicant is nothing. Some applicants seem to think that the local authority should solve all development problems for them.

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#### BUILDING REGULATIONS.

Applications approved 379 (an increase of 18.8% over 1966). refused 4

To interpret and enforce the Regulations in the manner intended it is necessary for an applicant to submit drawings that the are clearly legible and accurate and include all the necessary information. Despite the fact that these Regulations have been in force for more than twelve months it is often difficult to persuade applicants of this necessity and it has been necessary on several occasions to refuse the applications formally in order to bring home to them the need to comply with this requirement.

## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

33 premises were registered under this Act in 1967. All the premises were regularly inspected and it was not necessary to take formal action in respect of any infringements.

# FOOD HYGIENE ( GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

Food premises in the district are in general of a satisfactory standard in regard to equipment and operation. The following table shows the number of premises:-

General Retails Food Shops.	Licen- sed premi- ses.	Butcher's shops.		Fish	Schools & Institu-	liconsed
47	46	7	6	1	24	3

All premises comply with regulations 16 and 19.

#### PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 79 premises registered under this Act and these are regularly inspected to ensure that they maintain the required standard.

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#### MILK SUPPLIES.

The number of producer/retailers and distributors of raw milk was 2 and the number of distributors selling heat treated milk was 8.

Sampling results:

CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE		Passed.	Failed.	Total.
Methylene blue test (for keeping quality of tuberculity tested milk.	n	5	5	10
Phosphatase test (for efficient pasteurisation).		75	_	75
	е .В. .А.	5 5	-	} 5

#### ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the Sale of Ice Cream is 61. Every premise was found to comply with the relevant regulations. 7 samples were taken and all were Grade 1.

# LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS.

There are no egg pastuerisation plants in this district however, samples were taken from bakehouses using pasteurised egg and these all proved satisfactory.

## DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The number of premises licensed for the boiling of waste foods is three. These premises have been inspected during the year and continue to maintain the required standard.

#### BELLIEUE MILE

The number of producer/regallers and distributors of patfing and the S saw with war to heat treated all was 5.

Sampling ventions

## TOR ORBINE

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# LICENTE ESO (PARTEURISATION) REGULATIONS.

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# PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS.

The state of the s	267	246	17	4
Miscellaneous.	7	7	-	-
Offensive accumulations.	4	4	-	-
Smoke.	_	-	-	_
Footpaths.	-	_	-	_
Rodent infestation.	104	104	_	-
Fly infestation.	19	19	_	_
Keeping of animals.	22	20	2	-
Refuse.	13	13	_	_
Vater.	2	2	_	_
River Pollution.	7	1	3	_
Orainage.	21	20	1	_
Sewerage.	19	19	_	_
Insanitary houses.	7	7	_	
vercrowding.	40	-1		4
Housing (excluding Council housing).	42	27	11	),
	Principle Land Market Springer	Proper land to desirable reductions and analysis	standing.	
Type of complaint.	Number.	Remedied.	Out-	No action

# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Miscellaneous.	415
Housing.	241
Nuisances.	201
Drainage.	208
Sewerage,	79
Water supply.	19
Dairies.	21.
Milk sampling.	66
Food inspection.	107
Infectious diseases.	92
Food shops.	119
Bakehouses.	17
Refuse.	17
Workshops & Factories.	39
Petroleum Regulations.	106
Rodent control.	44
Council houses.	1818
Town & Country Planning.	634
Building Inspection.	4021
Diseases of animals.	22
Water samples.	57
Mayor bamprose	21

#### PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS

See Street			 marintess) intano
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		-	
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# SUMMERS OF INSPECTIONS.

Britis	Council newsees.
	Bullintag Imagedion.
	elskine to sesseald.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

Regular and systematic inspection and treatment of premises has been maintained during the year. Details of visits made and treatments carried out are shown in the following table:-

Non-	e of property.
	1. Agricultural.
1. Number of properties in the district. 4473	845
2. Total number of properties (including nearby premises inspected following notification).  80	
Number infested by (1) Rats. 67 (2) Mice. 13	
3. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification 2073	42
Number infested by (1) Rats. 106 (2) Mice	23
Sewers.	
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?	No.

The Council continues to share the services of a Rodent operator with Devizes Borough Council and with co-operation on both sides, the arrangements work satisfactorily.

## ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

There are two well established Boarding establishments in this district. Routine inspections are made from time to time by the public health inspectors and the local R.S.P.C.A. inspector. All the conditions of the licences were found to be in order.

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# . . Fact . top . Proceedings . Or of of . Local .

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

There are two slaughterhouses in the district, one solely for the requirements of a single butcher and the other serving four or five butchers. There was some difficulty during the year regarding the standards of hygiene and the provision of sterilisers etc. which involved considerable effort.

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

		Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.				
	Number killed and inspected.	513	104	1	481	528				
	ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUB RCULOSIS; AND CYSTICERCOSIS.									
	Whole carcasses condemned.	1	-	-	-	1				
	Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	92	27	-	35	110				
	Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease.	17.93%	25.96%	-	7.28%	20.83%				
	TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.									
	Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	_	-	-//	3				
	Percentage of the number impacted affected with tuberculosis.	-		-	-	•57%				
	CISTICERCOSIS.				846					
	Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. Percentage of the	13	-	-	-	DB-				
	number inspected affected with cysticercosis.	2.53%	-	-	-	-				

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328.	184					
	35					
			31.0.5			

# Details of meat condemned in 1967.

Cattle (excl.	Lungs.	Emphysema S/pneumonia Pleurisy Food aspiration Abscesses Parasitic	1 1 8 14 1	31.2	lbs.
	Livers.	Fluke. Abscesses Necrosis	44 18 1		lbs.
	Hearts.	Degenerative cysticercosis	8	40	lbs.
	Cheeks.	Degenerative cysticercosis Abscesses	3	80	lbs.
	Mileen.	Peritonitis Contamination Degenerative	1 1		
		cysticercosis	1	6	lb.
	Skirt.	Fatty degeneration	1	_ 2	lb.
Cows.	Head & Tongue. Lungs.	Abscesses Echinococcus Food aspiration	1 1 2	25	lb.
		Pleurisy	2	72	lbs.
	Liver.	Echinococcus Telangiectasis Abscesses Fluke Peritonitis Fatty degeneration	2 7 2 8 1		lbs.
Sheep and Lamb	S .				
	Liver.	Fluke Parasitic	16 8	72	lbs.
	Legs.	Bruising	2	19	lbs.
	Lungs.	Parasitic	8	16	lbs.
Pigs.	Lungs.	Acute congestion Pneumonia Pleurisy Abscesses	3 72 6 1	246	lbs.
	Livers.	Peritonitis	5 19 2		lbs.
	Head.	T.B.	3	1001101	lbs.
	Heart.		8		lbs.
Whole			1	4	TOS.
whote	carcass.	Haemorrhaggia Incipient	1		lbs.
	Foreleg.	decomposition/putre Abcesses	1		lbs.

BONE BIR . V Seeking

#### POULTRY INSPECTIONS.

Owing to insufficient staff it was not possible to institute a more rigorous inspection scheme and inspection was limited to one visit in alternate weeks to the two poultry processing plants in the district. Consequently the department have no record of throughput, however, the owners of the plants have co-operated to supply the information regarding throughput and rejections.

One plant deals entirely with ducks which are home hatched from home flocks and there is consequently very little disease. There is very good liaison with the Poultry Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food and with a local veterinary firm. Post mortems on rejected ducks showed nothing worth commenting on.

Throughput:
Percentage rejected as unfit:
Approx. weight of poultry
rejected as unfit:

100,000 0.5% approx. 1,500 lbs.

The other plant deals with turkeys, capons and hens. There is relatively little rejection of turkeys or capons but a fairly heavy percentage of rejection of hens mostly due to (a) emaciation (b) avian T.B., or (c) ascites and egg peritonitis

Throughput:
Percentage rejected as unfit:
Approx. weight of poultry
rejected as unfit:

234,420 3.5% approx. (hens). 16.5 tons.

There was no official condemnation of poultry during the year but it is hoped to institute a better system of inspection which will enable condemnation to be made for which surrender note certificates will be issued.

Since there are no specific regulations covering poultry slaughtering the inspectors endeavour to persuade the owners of the establishments to achieve hygiene standards at least similar to those pertaining to slaughterhouses.

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# FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

# Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for the purposes of the provisions as to health.

		No of inspections.		
(i) Factories in which secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced.	3	3	_	-
(ii) Factories not incl. in (i) where sec. 7 is enforced.	58	36	-	-
(iii) Other premises where sec. 7 is enforced (excl. outworkers).	-	-	-	_
Totals:	62	39	-	-

2. There were no defects found during the course of the year.

# 3. Outworkers.

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work.	No of out-workers.	Defaults.		some	ices	
	1	2	3	premises.	5	6
Wearing apparel. (Gloves and knitwear).	13		-	-	-	-
Total	13	-	-	-	-	-

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#### HOUSING RETURN.

The following is a copy of a return made to the County Medical Officer of Health which is reproduced giving detailed information on certain aspects of housing.

1.	Number of permanent dwellings in the district at the end of the year.	1473
2.	Number of permanent dwellings in the district owned by the local authority.	1088
3.	Number of temporary dwellings	Nil.
4.	Number of applications for Council houses at end of year.	381
5.	Inspection of dwellings during the year:	
	(i) No of dwellings inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts.	71
	(ii) Number of dwellings found to be unfit.	11
6.	Number of dwellings rendered fit as a result of informal action.	18
7.	Action under statutory powers.	
	A. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	(i) Number of dwellings where formal notices were served.	5
	(ii) Number of dwellings made fit as a result of formal notices.	1
	<ul><li>(a) by owners.</li><li>(b) By local authority in default.</li></ul>	1 Nil.
	B. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 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 notice.	Nil.
	(a) by owners. (b) By local authority in default.	Nil.

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C.	Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 Housing	Acts,	1957
	(i) Number od demolition orders made.	5	
	(ii) Number of dwellings demolished as a result of demolition order.	8	
	(iii) Number of Undertakings accepted to make fit or not to relet.	4	
	(iv) Number of dwellings made fit as a result of Undertakings.	1	
D.	Proceedings under Sections 16,17,18,28 and 35 Housing Acts, 1957.		
	(i) Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were made.	2	
	(ii) Number of dwellings closed as a result of Closing Orders or Undertakings by owners.	2	
Ε.	Proceedings under Sections 17,42,43,46 and 48 Housing Act, 1957.		
	(i) Number of dwellings in clearance areas where demolition orders were made.	Nil.	
	(ii) Number of dwellings demolished as a result of demolition orders.	4	
	(iii) Number of dwellings in clearance areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation.	Nil.	
F.	Proceedings under Section 76 Housing Act, 195	7.	
	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding at end of year.	Nil.	
	(ii) Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year.	Nil.	
	(iii) Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year.	Nil.	
Housin	ng Act, 1964, Part II.		
	mber of Improvement Areas declared under ctions 13 (i)	Nil.	
Nu	mber of Improvement Notices served under ction 19(iii) or Section 20(i)	Nil.	

