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Borough of Dunstable



# ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health



and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the years

1958 - 1959

— o —



THE HEALTH OF DUNSTABLE

R E P O R T

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1 9 5 8 and 1 9 5 9

H.A.A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.





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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

PRIORY HOUSE,

DUNSTABLE.

18th April 1961.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen,  
and Councillors of the Borough of Dunstable.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Health Report for 1958 and 1959.

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the years, and the area was singularly free from serious epidemic diseases. There were no cases of Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough or Food Poisoning, but Measles was widespread in 1959.

There were forty-one deaths from Cancer in 1958, of which eight were Cancer of the Lung. In 1959 there were **thirty-nine** deaths from the disease, eight being due to Cancer of the Lung.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Town Clerk and the Public Health Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

H.A.A. Pargeter.

Medical Officer of Health,  
Borough of Dunstable.



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(a) Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

H.A.A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (Tel. No. Dunstable 63526).

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector.

H. STEW. M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat and Other Foods  
Certificate.  
(Tel. No. Dunstable 61241).

(c) Additional Public Health Inspectors.

M. HINCHCLIFFE. M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat and Other Foods  
Certificate.

F.W.P. HARMSWORTH. A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat and Other Foods  
Certificate.

(d) Chief Clerk.

Mrs. D.F. WORDSWORTH. (until 1st May 1959)

Mr. K. PAUL. (from 1st July 1959).

(e) Junior Shorthand Typist.

Miss M. JOHN. (until 27th December 1958)

Miss B. J. STRANGE (from 2nd February 1959).

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

## Vital Statistics.

	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>
Area of Borough .. .. .	2,084 acres.	2,084 acres.
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	21,300	22,320
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book as at 31st December. .. .. .	7,230	7,540
Rateable value as at 31st December. .. .. .	£313,098	£389,995
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March. .. .. .	£1,135	£1,267
Number of new houses erected:		
(a) Council. .. .. .	151	10
(b) Private enterprise.. .. .	281	330

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1958 AND 1959.

The following tables give extracts from the Vital Statistics for the years 1958 and 1959 as furnished by the Registrar-General:

	<u>1958.</u>			<u>1959.</u>		
	Total	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births.....	429	212	217	478	247	231
Legitimate.....	408	202	206	459	233	226
Illegitimate.....	21	10	11	19	14	5

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population 1958:

    Crude Rate.....25.2

    Adjusted Rate.....23.9

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population 1959.....21.4

	<u>1958.</u>			<u>1959.</u>		
	Total	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births.....	9	7	2	15	4	11
Legitimate.....	9	7	2	15	4	11
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births).....

20.5

30.4

Rate per 1,000 of population...

0.4

0.7

Total Live and Still Births:	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Live.....	429	212	217	478	247	231
Still.....	9	7	2	15	4	11
	438	219	219	493	251	242



## DEATHS OF INFANTS. 1958.

Infant deaths (under one year of age).	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male.....	4	1	5
Female.....	3	-	3
Total.....	7	1	8
Rate per 1,000 births..	16.3	2.3	18.6

Infant deaths  
(under four weeks of age)

Male.....	2	1	3
Female.....	2	-	2
Total..	4	1	5
Rate per 1,000 births..	9.3	2.3	11.7

Illegitimate Live Births = 4.9% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths..... Nil.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births -

## DEATHS OF INFANTS 1959.

Infant deaths (under one year of age).	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male.....	9	-	9
Female.....	7	-	7
Total.....	16	-	16
Rate per 1,000 births..	33.5	-	33.5

Infant deaths  
(under four weeks of age)

Male.....	6	-	6
Female.....	6	-	6
Total.....	12	-	12

Rate per 1,000 births.. 25.2 - 25.2

Illegitimate Live Births = 4% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths..... Nil.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births -



DEATHS.

1958.

1959.

Male.....	95	126
Female.....	92	100
Total.....	187	226

Death Rate:	Crude.....	8.8	10.1
	Adjusted.....	10.8	13.1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

1958.

1959.

Males. Females. Males. Females.

All Causes.....	95	92	126	100
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	3	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease.....	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	1	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2	6	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	3	1	4	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	5	-	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	4	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.....	10	10	14	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	-	1	1
16. Diabetes.....	3	1	2	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	17	16	16
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	17	10	31	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	2	5	-	3
20. Other heart disease.....	10	13	9	18
21. Other circulatory disease.....	5	3	5	4
22. Influenza.....	-	1	3	1
23. Pneumonia.....	6	5	3	6
24. Bronchitis.....	2	5	4	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum...	3	-	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	-	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	-	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	8	7	8	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	4	1	4	1
34. All other accidents.....	-	1	4	-
35. Suicide.....	-	1	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war..	-	-	-	-



## POPULATION.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1958 was 21,300 and for 1959 22,320 and the table below shows that there has been a total increase of population of 5,060 in the last nine years.

### Population 1950 - 1959

Year.	Population.	Increase over previous year.	Natural Increase.
1950	17,260	-	5.7
1951	17,070	-	2.4
1952	17,090	20	1.5
1953	17,270	180	5.1
1954	17,570	300	5.2
1955	18,140	570	5.2
1956	19,020	880	9.3
1957	20,150	1,130	9.9
1958	21,300	1,150	10.0
1959	22,320	1,020	11.3

'Natural Increase' shows the difference between the birth and death rates.

The average yearly increase in the five years is 950.

### Birth Rate.

Birth Rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child bearing age.

The Registrar General supplies a 'comparability factor' to all areas so that an adjusted Birth Rate can be made. The 'factor' for this Borough for 1958 is 0.95 and for 1959 0.92.

The Birth Rate for 1958 was 23.9 after multiplying the 'crude' Birth Rate of 25.2 by the 'comparability factor'. The Birth Rate for England and Wales as a whole was 16.4.

The total number of live births was 429.

The Birth Rate for 1959 was 21.4 after multiplying the 'crude' Birth Rate of 21.4 by the 'comparability factor'. The Birth Rate for England and Wales as a whole was 19.7.

The total number of live births was 478.



### Still Births.

The number of Still Births in 1958 was 9 and the Still Birth Rate 0.4 per 1,000 population. The corresponding Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births 16.7

The number of Still Births in 1959 was 15 and the Still Birth Rate 0.7 per 1,000 population. The corresponding Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was 30.4.

### Death Rate.

The uncorrected Death Rate for 1958 was 8.8. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the 'comparability factor' of 1.23 by which a corrected Death Rate of 10.8 is obtained. The Rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

The uncorrected Death Rate for 1959 was 10.1. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the 'comparability factor' of 1.29 by which a corrected Death Rate of 13.1 is obtained. The Rate for England and Wales was 11.6

### Infant Mortality.

The following tables show deaths of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

1958.										
	<u>Weeks</u>				Total under one month.	<u>Months</u>				Total under one year.
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Prematurity...	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Congenital defects.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Broncho- Pneumonia....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Laryngo- tracheitis...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	4	1	-	-	5	2	1	-	-	8



Infant Mortality. (continued).

	1959.					
	Under one Month.		Total under one Month.	Over one Month but under one Year.		Total Under one Year.
	M.	F.		M.	F.	
Prematurity.....	5	1	6	-	-	6
Birth Injuries.....	1	2	3	-	-	3
Deformities from Birth.....	-	2	2	1	-	3
Meningitis.....	-	1	1	-	-	1
Respiratory.....	-	-	-	2	1	3
	6	6	12	3	1	16



BIRTH RATES. DEATH RATES. ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY. MATERNAL  
DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
IN THE YEAR 1958.

	Borough of Dunstable.	England and Wales. +
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.	
Births:		
Live Births.....	23.9	16.4
Still Births.....	0.4	0.36
	20.5	21.6 (a)
Deaths:		
All causes.....	10.8	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.....	-	0.00
Whooping Cough.....	-	0.00
Diphtheria.....	-	0.00
Tuberculosis.....	-	0.10
Influenza.....	0.05	0.06
Smallpox.....	-	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	0.00
Pneumonia.....	0.52	0.05
Notificiations (corrected):		
Typhoid Fever.....	-	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever.....	-	0.00
Meningococcal Infection.....	-	0.02
Scarlet Fever.....	0.75	0.86
Whooping Cough.....	-	0.74
Diphtheria.....	-	0.00
Erysipelas.....	-	0.07
Smallpox.....	-	0.00
Measles.....	14.55	5.75
Pneumonia.....	1.41	0.49
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio encephalitis) -		
Paralytic.....	-	0.03
Non-Paralytic.....	-	0.01
Food Poisoning.....	-	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	0.24
Dysentery.....	0.05	0.84
	Rates per 1,000 live births	
Deaths:		
All causes under 1 year of age.....	18.6	22.6
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age.....	-	0.4

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.      + Provisional.



COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1950 - 1952.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Live Births.		Still Births.		Deaths.	
		No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population.	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Estimated population.
1950	17,260	284	15.5	4	13.9	160	9.8
1951	17,070	251	13.8	9	34.6	210	13.0
1952	17,090	217	12.7	7	31.9	192	11.2
1953	17,270	270	14.0	7	28.2	153	8.9
1954	17,570	288	16.4	8	27.0	196	11.2
1955	18,140	266	14.7	9	32.7	171	9.5
1956	19,020	355	18.7	8	13.8	178	9.4
1957	20,150	371	18.4	6	16.2	171	8.5
1958	21,300	429	25.2	9	20.5	187	8.8
1959	22,320	478	21.4	15	30.4	226	10.1

Year.	Estimated Population.	Infant Deaths.			Maternal Deaths.				
		Under 4 Weeks.	4 weeks to 12 months.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births.
						Sepsis	Other	Total	
1950	17,260	2	1	3	11	-	-	-	-
1951	17,070	3	4	7	28	-	-	-	-
1952	17,090	-	3	3	14	-	-	-	-
1953	17,270	6	1	7	32	-	-	-	-
1954	17,570	8	2	10	35	-	-	-	-
1955	18,140	4	2	6	23	-	-	-	-
1956	19,020	7	2	9	25	-	-	-	-
1957	20,150	3	2	5	14	-	-	-	-
1958	21,300	5	3	8	19	-	-	-	-
1959	22,320	12	4	16	34	-	-	-	-



NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).  
1958.

	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 & over	Age Un- known	Total.
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-	1	3	9	2	1	-	-	16
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella).....	1	3	-	5	5	15	1	-	1	-	31
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infection.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Pneumonia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis (Infective)....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poiscning.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glandular Fever....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	1	3	1	6	8	24	3	1	4	-	51



# NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General Statistics. The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1959 together with the number admitted to hospital, and the deaths from these diseases:-

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths Registered.
Scarlet Fever.....	4	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	9	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis:			
Paralytic.....	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic.....	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella)	243	1	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	1	1	-
Meningococcal infection....	-	-	-
Ac. Pneumonia.....	2	1	9
Smallpox.....	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:			
Infective.....	-	-	-
Post-infectious.....	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever...	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fevers.....	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.....	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum.....	-	-	-

### Scarlet Fever.

During 1958 sixteen cases were notified compared with two in 1957. All were of a mild type. During 1959 four cases were notified .

### Whooping Cough.

During 1958 there were no notifications of this disease. In 1957 there were twenty-four cases. During 1959 there were nine notifications of this disease.

### Measles.

During 1958 Thirty-one cases were notified compared with one hundred and eleven in 1957. There was one death due to this disease. During 1959 Two hundred and forty-three cases were notified.

### Diphtheria.

No cases were notified during 1958 or 1959.

### Dysentery.

During 1958 one case was notified, compared with sixteen in 1957. Infection was due to Shigella-Sonnei. During 1959 one case was notified.

### Poliomyelitis.

The Borough was free from this disease during 1958 and 1959. One case was notified during 1957.

### Food Poisoning.

During 1958 no cases were notified. During 1959 five cases were notified.



# TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1958.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years.....	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 years.....	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under five years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 years.....	4	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 64 years.....	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	6	5	-	-	3	-	-	-

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47.

### Persons in need of care and attention.

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who:

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During 1958 in one case only was it found necessary to take legal action for compulsory removal. During 1959 in two cases only was it found necessary to take legal action for compulsory removal.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEARS

1 9 5 8 and 1 9 5 9

HAROLD STEW, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
PRIORY HOUSE,  
HIGH STREET SOUTH,  
DUNSTABLE.

January, 1961.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Councillors of the Borough of Dunstable.

Gentlemen,

As a result of the delay in preparation of this report its main purpose can only be a factual record of work carried out and any comment may well be out of date and ~~superfluous~~.

The work of a Local Authority receives little publicity and many of its activities are taken for granted, it is hoped therefore that readers will find in these few pages an indication of the constant activity which is necessary to maintain the very satisfactory standard of environmental health which most of us enjoy.

With increased industrialisation and constant influx of additional population the problem of speedy and efficient removal and disposal of the waste products becomes of paramount importance. By far the largest step forward in this connection during the period under review was the completion of the New Sewage Disposal Works which came into operation early in 1958, details of which, kindly supplied by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, will be found in paragraph 3 of this Report.

Although the Refuse Collection Service continued to suffer from labour difficulties brought about by the attractiveness of alternative employment in the local factories, it was still found possible to maintain a very regular and satisfactory service. Although the need for tipping space was becoming desperate, the negotiations for a new tipping site were not finalised until the end of 1958. It seems remarkable that in an area from which millions of tons of chalk have been extracted and where the pits are an eyesore all around us it becomes increasingly difficult to obtain tipping facilities.

The work of the Department continued to be completely absorbing in both time and energy and I would like to record my appreciation of the help and support given me by The Medical Officer of Health, other Chief Officers, Mr. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Harmsworth and the Clerical Staff.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HAROLD STEW.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



## SECTION C:-

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. GENERAL.

The town continued to expand, plans for development continue to pour in and will soon completely absorb the comparatively small area contained within the Borough. Despite the considerable industrial development, the population is well served by open spaces and this, combined with a high elevation and prevailing south westerly winds which reach us from the Chiltern Hills, gives the environmental health workers a very good start in their efforts to maintain a satisfactory standard.

#### 2. WATER SUPPLY.

##### (a) Source and Consumption.

There was no alteration in the general source of supply during 1958 and 1959 and we are indebted to the Eastern Gas Board, who were the water undertakers, for kindly supplying most of the information used in the preparation of this Report. From the following table it will be noted that a high proportion of the supply continues to be provided through Luton, and that the amount consumed continues to increase.

There was no shortage experienced during the period, nor was any anticipated in the immediate future.

	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>
	Million	Million	Million
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
From Wells within the Borough...	222.4	206.01	249.81
From Wells at Friars Wash.....	<u>303.5</u>	<u>360.67</u>	<u>385.13</u>
	<u>525.9</u>	<u>566.67</u>	<u>634.94</u>

This amount can be roughly divided, by way of consumption, in the following manner:-

	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>
(1) Domestic (unmetered) approx.	458.86	502.47
(2) Industrial (metered) approx.	107.81	132.47



(b) Quality.

A total of one hundred and eighty four samples were submitted for bacteriological examination by the Eastern Gas Board during 1958 and one hundred and eighty three in 1959 and copies of the Reports were forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health. The results of the samples taken from the Town's mains during distribution were uniformly satisfactory.

A typical bacteriological report being as follows:-

"This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity indicative of a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

Samples taken from the outlet pump at the Dunstable Waterworks before chlorination, however, showed some bacterial impurity and the bacteriologist reported as follows:-

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance. It shows slight bacterial impurity but coliform organisms are limited to small number and Bact. coli are absent from among them. No difficulty would be expected in the chlorination of the water to achieve the standard of bacterial purity appropriate to a public supply".

It was suggested that the presence of Coliform bacilli had been found to coincide with heavy rainfall, and since there had been no evidence of Coliform faecal origin, it was felt that the automatic chlorination which took place would maintain the supply in a satisfactory condition. Approximately 0.2 parts per million of Chlorine was added to the supply at its source and the residual chlorination recorded in the samples taken varied between 0.2 parts per million and 0.1 parts per million.

One sample was submitted for chemical analysis in 1958 and three in 1959 from the outlet pump at the Dunstable Waterworks. The laboratory reports were as follows:-

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."



(c) New Works.

No major alterations were carried out during the period under review but some improvements were effected to the service in the Tring Road area and much normal work was necessary to supply new premises.

(d) Plumbo-Solvency.

The chemical analysis taken during the year showed a complete absence of lead and no trace was found of Copper, Zinc, Iron and Manganese. This is not surprising in view of the presence of both permanent and temporary hardness.

(e) Risk of Contamination.

There are no special risks involved in collection or distribution although the presence of a sewer in the Dunstable Waterworks land is causing some concern in view of the unsatisfactory samples.

(f) Number of Dwelling Houses Supplied.

Every house in the town is supplied from the town mains. There are no private supplies. The number of houses in the Borough without a separate piped supply is very small.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the following information regarding drainage and sewerage:-

"By far the most important matter concerning Sewerage was the completion of the new Disposal Works, which first came into operation during April, 1958, and which was officially opened by the Minister of Housing & Local Government, the Rt. Hon. Henry Brooke, P.C., M.P. on the 27th June 1958.

The final cost of this works with its design capacity for a population of 40,000, will be about £300,000, and bearing in mind that the generally accepted average cost of a Disposal Works per head of population is £10. to £11. it will be seen that the new Dunstable works are economic both in design and construction.

Moreover, because of the processes employed on an ideal site, operative labour costs are low. In addition to the Manager, a mechanic, four Watermen and Labourers, and a Junior Laboratory Assistant make up the total staff. Analyses of the final effluent from the Works show that the standards are well within those imposed by the Rivers Board.



### 3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE (continued).

In addition to the new Disposal Works, a new Outfall Sewer was laid to the Works Intake from Houghton Regis village green. This sewer also provides for the drainage of a very large residential unit north of the village, which is being undertaken jointly by the Luton Rural District Council and the London County Council, and which will ultimately contain over 2,000 dwellings, together with ancillary buildings such as schools, shops, etc.,.

The North Ward Surface Water Outfall, was completed in 1959 and will undoubtedly remedy flooding which has occurred in the vicinity of Brewers Hill Road and the High Street North Railway Bridge.

Other works included the construction of Foul and Surface Water Outfall Sewers draining the southern part of the Croft Golf Course Estate, new lengths of sewers provided by Private Enterprise in the Poynters Road, Luton Road area and a new Surface Water Sewer in Upper Union Street.

The sewers in the Borough generally are in a good condition, although a major blockage occurred in Luton Road in 1958, where the sewer crosses Laporte's Sports Ground, which cost several hundred pounds to rectify."

### 4. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no rivers or streams in the Borough.

### 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of Refuse and Salvage, the Borough Surveyor's Department being responsible for Street Cleansing and gully emptying.

#### (a) Refuse Collection.

The number of inhabited houses continued to increase, 432 having been built during 1958 and 440 in 1959.

The service was still losing good men into the more lucrative and congenial employment in local factories and rather more time was lost than usual as a result of sickness. Two men were off work for 5 and 6 weeks respectively after hospital treatment and a further 1751 man hours were lost as a result of general sickness in 1958 and a total of 1989 man hours in 1959. This is a major difficulty in a district where it is virtually impossible to obtain suitable replacements or casual labour of any kind.

Despite this difficulty a regular weekly collection was maintained except when snow and heavy rain interfered.



(a) Refuse Collection (continued).

The 1948 Lewin 'Compressing' Vehicle which had been very unreliable in its later life was replaced in May 1958 by a Shelvake & Drewry 16/18 cu. yard fore and aft Tipper and this contributed to the maintenance of a satisfactory service.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

The Council's Tip at Whipsnade Road was almost completely filled by the end of 1958, much of it having been levelled off and loads of soil spread to allow re-grassing. Although the land is too far from the centre of town to be of much value as an open space the area has been improved considerably by this reclamation of a very large chalk working which had been an obvious scar upon the approach to the Downs. After four years, negotiations for the purchase of a new site for tipping were concluded early in 1959. The site was a worked out Chalk Quarry just outside the Borough Boundary off Buttercup Lane but only a few hundred yards from the houses at the south western extremity of Meadway. This caused some controversy and the Council met a deputation of Meadway residents who were objecting to the proposed use. They were assured that every possible precaution would be taken to prevent any nuisance, including rigid observance of the rules laid down for Controlled Tipping. Tipping commenced in April 1959, and although there were a few isolated complaints I think it is true to say that the local residents are appreciative of the very careful way in which the Tip has been managed. Much of the credit for this must be given to the Tip Attendant, - Mr. R. Meakins, who with the aid of the Eristol '25' Angledozer has covered the refuse immediately after deposit. A very adequate supply of good covering material has been forthcoming from local Public Works Contractors who are allowed to tip Soil free of charge.

With the continued growth of the Town the volume of refuse increases and the following analysis of the number of loads of various kinds dealt with at the Tip gives some indication of the problem.



ANALYSIS OF THE LOADS DEPOSITED AT THE  
REFUSE TIP.

	<u>No. of Loads.</u>	
	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>
<u>Public Health Department.</u>		
Lorry S.1. (Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yds.).....	103	373
Lorry S.2. (Commer Dual-Tip 18/20 cu. yds.).....	538	716
Lorry S.3. (S.D. Fore & Aft. 16/18 cu. yds.).....	711	882
Lorry S.4. (Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yds.).....	444	376
Lorry S.5. (Bedford Side-loader 12 cu.yds.).....	752	851
Totals.....	2,548	3,198
<u>Highways Department.</u>		
Lorry.....	408	771
Tractor & Trailer.....	381	311
Road Sweeper.....	251	255
Totals.....	1,040	1,337
<u>Luton Rural District Council.</u>		
Lorries.....	302	172
<u>Private Contractors.</u>		
Trade Refuse.....	1,190	1,636
Soil.....	673	486
Totals.....	1,863	2,122
Total number of Loads deposited.....	5,753	6,829

(c) Salvage.

Waste paper and other Salvage is collected and carried in trailers attached to the refuse collecting vehicles. A separate collection is made from the larger shops and business premises.

The limitations on the amount of waste paper which the Mills would accept from Councils was relaxed during this period and strenuous efforts were made to increase the amount collected. There are several advantages in this:



(c) Salvage (continued).

- (1) If not collected as salvage it has to be buried on the Tip with consequent labour and loss of valuable tipping space.
- (2) The revenue assists with the costs of maintaining the refuse collection service and
- (3) but certainly not last in importance, the 25% of the revenue which is shared by the employees helps to reduce the considerable gap between the wages which can be paid by Local Authorities and those paid in the local factories.

How successful our Salvage efforts have been is reflected in the following table of income:

	Year 1957.				Year 1958.				Year 1959.			
	Tons	cwts	qrs	lbs	tons	cwts	qrs	lbs	tons	cwts	qrs	lbs.
Paper.....	290	3	1	--	339	7	1	-	455	14	2	-
Heavy Iron..	7	10	3	-	5	19	3	-	11	1	1	-
Rags.....	3	18	1	14	4	8	3	7	5	1	2	21
Brass, Lead, Aluminium, Copper.....	1	2	1	19	1	6	-	26	1	14	1	23
Tins.....	8	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	6	3	-
VALUE..	£2,594. 15s. 4d.				£3,090. 7s. 10d.				£4,016. 1s. 2d.			

(d) Public Health Department Depot.

On 31st January 1958 the Council, at a Special Purposes Committee, agreed in principle to the Establishment of a Public Health Department Depot at Meadway, and at the end of 1959 detailed plans had been prepared for submission to the Planning Authority. At the time of going to press the Department is still struggling to carry out its functions from the obsolete and completely inadequate West Street Depot.

Regard should be given to the increased difficulties resulting from: (1) the considerably increased flow of waste paper which is handled in what is nothing more than an open fronted wooden shed and 2 cwt. bales having to be manhandled to a height of 10' to facilitate storage,

(2) the impossibility of entrance and exit for the larger capacity vehicles which consequently have to park temporarily, when unhitching trailers, in a Trunk Road which is getting busier every day,



(d) Public Health Department Depot (continued).

- (3) the need for additional and larger garages for these vehicles, and
- (4) the necessity of providing at least some reasonably adequate welfare provisions for the men who are employed on one of the less pleasant tasks in all weathers.

(e) Cleansing of Cesspools.

It will not be possible to reduce the number of cesspools in the Town until a sewer is provided which can serve those properties in Tring Road and The Avenue which are below the level of the existing sewers.



## 6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following schedules give details and number of inspections made and the results of notices served:-

	1958	1959
<u>General Sanitation.</u>		
Drain tests.....	39	87
Water supply.....	8	6
Drainage.....	437	417
Keeping of Animals.....	25	8
Accumulations.....	48	39
National Assistance Act.....	62	40
Fried fish shops.....	8	8
Hotels and lodging houses.....	37	5
Houses Let in Lodgings.....	3	5
Caravans.....	490	1124
Caravan Sites.....	2	24
Dilapidated buildings.....	80	92
Factories - with power.....	128	100
- without power.....	6	17
Swimming Pool.....	21	18
Workplaces.....	21	15
Bakehouses.....	7	5
Public Conveniences.....	218	170
Theatres and places of Entertainment.....	16	14
Licensed premises.....	18	36
Refuse collection.....	372	348
Refuse disposal.....	194	272
Rats, mice and rabbits.....	170	56
Atmospheric Pollution.....	15	77
Schools.....	7	2
Shops.....	113	89
General administration and miscellaneous.....	731	663
Interviews.....	1086	894
Offensive smells.....	17	39
Public Mortuary.....	10	8
<u>Housing.</u>		
<u>Under Public Health Acts.</u>		
Number of houses inspected.....	251	248
Visits paid to above houses.....	990	991
<u>Under Housing Acts.</u>		
Number of houses inspected.....	104	104
Visits paid to above houses.....	351	428



6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA (continued).

	1958	1959
<u>Housing (continued).</u>		
<u>Overcrowding.</u>		
Number of houses inspected.....	17	10
Visits paid to above houses.....	40	16
<u>Filthy and Verminous Premises.</u>		
Number of houses inspected.....	20	34
Visits paid to above houses.....	48	57
<u>Rent Act.....</u>	149	30
<u>Housing Applications etc.....</u>	205	131
<u>Improvement Grants.....</u>	201	243
<u>Infectious Diseases.</u>		
Inquiries in cases of infectious diseases.....	25	12
Visits re. disinfection.....	12	7
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits.....	33	43
<u>Meat and Food Inspection.</u>		
<u>Inspection of Meat.</u>		
Visits to slaughterhouse.....	369	594
Visits to shops and stores.....	3	11
Visits to other premises.....	4	1
<u>Visits to:-</u>		
Butchers.....	59	32
Canteens.....	12	4
Dairies and milk distributors.....	8	14
Fishmonger and poulterers.....	10	13
Food preparing premises.....	22	13
Grocers.....	135	33
Greengrocers and fruiterers.....	19	25
Ice-cream premises.....	12	16
Market stalls.....	459	544
Restaurants.....	47	47
Street vendors and hawkers' carts.....	12	14
Other food premises.....	51	28
Meat delivery vehicles.....	4	7



6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA (continued).

	1958	1959
<u>Meat and Food Inspection</u> (continued).		
<u>Visits in connection with sampling:-</u>		
Milk bacteriological.....	6	-
Ice-cream.....	6	4
Water.....	-	1
Swimming Pool.....	13	6
Miscellaneous food visits.....	4	-
Unsound food.....	66	23
Pet Animals Act.....	4	6

	1958	1959
Number of Abatement Notices served.....	7	12
Number of Abatement Notices complied with.....	7	9
Number of Informal Notices given.....	265	254
Number of Informal Notices complied with.....	255	237

SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE.

	1958	1959
(a) <u>Structural Alterations.</u>		
Dustbins provided.....	9	17
Chimneys repaired and/or pots renewed.....	7	7
Firegrates repaired or new provided.....	11	6
Chimney flues improved.....	2	-
Eaves gutters repaired or new provided.....	34	23
Roofs repaired.....	30	19
Rainwater pipes repaired or new provided.....	25	15
Ventilation improved.....	1	-
Sub-Floor ventilation provided or improved.....	1	3
Dampness remedied.....	19	25
Walls repaired.....	21	8
Ceilings repaired.....	11	13



SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE (continued).

	1958	1959
(a) <u>Structural Alterations (continued).</u>		
Boundary walls rebuilt.....	1	-
Doors and frames repaired or new provided.....	10	8
Windows and frames repaired or new provided.....	39	18
Window sills repaired or new provided.....	19	2
External walls repaired, repointed or rendered..	15	4
Yard and passage paving repaired or new provided	4	6
Water storage tanks repaired or new provided....	3	4
Exterior redecoration carried out.....	3	3
Doors provided with weatherboards and weatherbars	5	1
Doorsteps repaired or new provided.....	2	1
Floors repaired or new provided.....	15	8
Food stores provided or improved.....	1	1
Staircases repaired.....	2	-
Handrail provided.....	1	-
Airbricks provided or renewed.....	3	3
Window reveals and sills repointed.....	22	1
Windows provided with sashcords.....	23	18
Coal stores repaired.....	3	-
Miscellaneous.....	2	3
Bak addition building demolished and rebuilt....	-	1
(b) <u>Water Closets and Drainage Defects (Houses).</u>		
W.C. cisterns repaired or new provided.....	41	24
Inspection chambers provided.....	3	-
Inspection chambers improved.....	2	3
Inspection chambers provided with covers and frames	11	3
Waste pipes repaired or new provided.....	2	1
W.C. seats repaired or new provided.....	8	1
W.C. pans provided.....	10	6
Flush pipe joints renewed.....	2	1
Drains repaired or relaid.....	5	7
New drains laid.....	3	-
Soil pipes repaired or new provided.....	2	-
Drains cleared.....	8	-
Gullies provided.....	1	2
Overflow pipes repaired.....	-	3
Waste pipes disconnected from rainwater pipe....	-	1
Waste pipes repaired or new provided.....	-	9
Sink and washbasins renewed.....	-	4
Dirty W.C. cleansed.....	-	1
Gully dishings and surrounds repaired.....	5	10
W.C. roofs repaired.....	7	1
W.C. ceilings repaired.....	2	-
W.C. walls repaired.....	9	4
W.C. eaves gutters and R.W.P. repaired or new provided.....	6	3



SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE (continued).

	1958	1959.
(b) <u>Water Closets and Drainage Defects</u> (Houses) (continued).		
W.C. floors repaired.....	2	-
W.C. doors and frames repaired.....	5	5
Dilapidated W.C. structures demolished.....	3	1
Disused drains sealed.....	2	6
Water supply pipes and stopcocks repaired.....	9	14
Tap repaired or renewed.....	2	-
Miscellaneous.....	3	3
Water supply restored to W.C.....	-	6
(c) <u>Food Hygiene Regulations.</u>		
Businesses ceased in lieu of compliance with Regulations.....	-	1
Storage of returnable container improved.....	1	-
Warnings re smoking whilst handling food.....	1	2
Names and addresses provided on stalls and vehicles	2	1
Hot water supply provided or improved.....	10	3
Wash hand basins provided.....	5	2
Sinks provided.....	1	-
First aid kits provided.....	3	1
Soap, nailbrushes and towels provided.....	3	-
Walls repaired.....	6	-
Ceilings repaired.....	4	-
Rooms decorated.....	14	1
Equipment cleansed.....	6	1
Food display improved.....	2	3
Ventilation improved.....	1	-
Floors repaired.....	7	1
Personal cleanliness improved.....	1	1
Clothing storage improved.....	2	1
"Wash your hands" Notices provided in W.C's.....	11	1
Businesses discontinued at unsanitary premises...	2	1
Dirty conditions remedied.....	4	2
Food handling improved.....	1	1
Food storage improved.....	3	1
W.C's. cleansed.....	2	-
Ventilated lobby provided between W.C. and food room.....	-	1
W.C. water supply pipes repaired.....	1	-
W.C. pans provided.....	1	-
Inspection chambers provided.....	1	-
Drains repaired.....	2	1
Drains laid.....	1	6
Gullies provided.....	1	1



SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE (continued).

	1958	1959.
(c) <u>Food Hygiene Regulations.</u>		
Rainwater pipe disconnected from drain.....	1	1
Accumulations removed.....	2	2
Dustbins provided.....	15	1
Yard paving relaid.....	-	1
Meat delivery vehicle provided with Offal bins..	-	3
Warnings re. carrying meat without head covering	-	1
(d) <u>Shops.</u>		
W.C's. decorated.....	-	1
Rooms decorated.....	-	1
Heating provided or improved.....	1	-
Ventilation provided or improved.....	1	-
Lighting Provided or improved.....	2	-
Hours of closing provisions enforced.....	1	-
Eaves gutters repaired or new provided.....	2	-
Yard and passage paving provided or repaired....	1	-
Drains cleared.....	2	-
Drains laid.....	2	-
Drains repaired.....	-	1
Inspection chambers provided.....	-	1
Floors repaired.....	-	2
Walls repaired.....	-	1
Ceilings repaired.....	-	1
(e) <u>Factories.</u>		
Use ceased in lieu of compliance with Act.....	-	1
Drains cleared.....	1	-
Drains relaid.....	-	2
W.C's. provided.....	5	1
Urinals provided.....	3	-
W.C. structures repaired.....	3	-
Dirty sanitary accommodation cleansed.....	4	-
W.C's. redecorated.....	7	-
W.C. seats repaired or new provided.....	4	2
W.C. cisterns repaired or new provided.....	2	1
Flush pipe joints renewed.....	1	-
Sanitary accommodation suitably marked for both sexes.....	4	-
Suitable screening provided to sanitary accommodation.....	2	-
Electric lighting provided to sanitary accommodation.....	2	1
Intervening ventilated space provided to sanitary accommodation.....	3	-
Sinks provided.....	2	-



SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE (continued).

	1958	1959
(e) <u>Factories.</u> (continued).		
Wash hand basins provided.....	9	-
Soakaways provided.....	1	-
Number of employees reduced where sanitary accommodation insufficient.....	1	-
Gullies provided.....	-	1
(f) <u>Tents, Vans and Sheds.</u>		
Caravans moved in lieu of compliance with Act...	-	1
Standings and yard improved.....	1	1
Number on site reduced and distance between made adequate.....	1	-
W.C's. provided.....	2	-
Cesspools provided.....	1	-
Gullies provided.....	1	-
New drains laid.....	2	-
Inspection chambers provided.....	1	-
Dustbins provided.....	2	-
Water supply improved.....	1	1
Access road improved.....	1	1
Accumulations removed.....	1	1
Dustbins provided.....	-	1
Soakaway provided.....	-	1
(g) <u>Other Premises.</u>		
Dangerous buildings made safe.....	1	4
Accumulations removed.....	3	2
Disused wells filled.....	-	1
Eaves gutter and rainwater pipe provided at place of Public Entertainment.....	-	1

OFFENSIVE TRADES - Section 107 Public Health Act, 1936.

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, requiring the registration of Marine Store Dealers' premises and for the keeping of records is in force in the Borough. There are only two premises registered, both dealing in scrap metal and rags.



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Information as to the number of Inspections made, notices served and work carried out under the provisions of the above Act are set out below:

## (1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register		Number of				Occupiers Prosecuted	
	1958	1959	Inspections		Written Notices		1958	1959
			1958	1959	1958	1959		
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	12	11	6	17	2	-	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority....	133	122	128	100	12	7	-	-
(111) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	8	14	21	18	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	153	147	155	135	14	7	-	-



(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found	Re-medied	Referred			
			To H.M.In-spector	By H.M.In-spector		
<u>Sanitary Conveniences:</u>						
(a)Insufficient.	1958	4	1	-	-	-
	1959	1	2	-	-	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective.	1958	9	7	-	1	-
	1959	6	3	-	3	-
(c)Not separate for sexes.	1958	1	1	-	-	-
	1959	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork).						
	1958	1	1	-	-	-
	1959	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	1958	15	10	-	1	-
	1959	7	5	-	3	-



(3) OUTWORK - SECTIONS 110 and 111

Nature of Work	SECTION 110				SECTION 111			
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) 1958 1959	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. 1958 1959	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. 1958 1959	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. 1958 1959	Notices served. 1958 1959	Prosecu- tions. 1958 1959		
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	30 36	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Box Making.....	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Novelty Making.....	2 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Plastic Goods.....	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
TOTAL.....	34 40	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -







## 8. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION (continued).

A factory adjacent to the Southern boundary of the Town was responsible for two further complaints but these were promptly and adequately dealt with by our colleagues in the neighbouring Rural District.

## 9. SWIMMING POOLS.

There is one swimming pool in the Borough open to the general public.

It is privately owned, open air, and the water which is supplied from its own deep well is constantly circulating and is filtered chlorinated and aerated.

Most of the local Schools use the pool for swimming instruction during the Summer and constant watch is therefore maintained on the quality of the water.

Although the twelve samples of bath water taken by the Department were reported upon as satisfactory in every case but one conditions generally as to the upkeep of the Pool deteriorated.

In view of the lack of statutory power to deal with any unsatisfactory conditions the Council agreed to make Bye-laws under Section 233 of the Public Health Act 1936 for:

- (a) securing the purity of the water therein;
- (b) ensuring the adequacy and cleanliness of the accommodation thereat;
- (c) regulating the conduct of persons resorting thereto; and
- (d) the prevention of accidents.

These bye laws based on the Model Standard laid down by the Ministry were submitted for confirmation towards the end of 1959.

## 10. PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

There is only one cinema within the Borough and regular inspection of the sanitary accommodation has been carried out.

The County Council as Licensing Authority were provided with the necessary annual Certificates that the sanitary accommodation was adequate and had been maintained satisfactorily during the years 1958 and 1959.

As a result of constant watchfulness a satisfactory standard of hygiene is now obtained in the food stalls and sanitary accommodation which accompany the Annual Statute Fair.



## 11. DISINFESTATION.

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs is set out below:

		1958	1959
(a) Number of Council Houses	(1) Infested.....	1	1
	(2) Disinfested...	1	1
(b) Number of Other Houses	(1) Infested.....	-	1
	(2) Disinfested...	-	1

Three private houses were disinfested in 1958 to eradicate fleas.

The Council agreed to provide a full service for the destruction of wasps nests and 6 were destroyed in 1958 and 62 in 1959.

## 12. RODENT CONTROL.

A baiting and poisoning treatment of the sewers was carried out between 11th and 26th November 1958. Sixty of the towns Six hundred and twenty manholes were test baited and twenty showed a bait take. These indicated a heavy infestation again in the Central and Northern areas of the Town, a maximum number of manholes in these areas were then prebaited and poison baited with damp sausage rusk and zinc phosphide. Seventy six out of the ninety manholes prebaited showed a "take" including sixty with a "complete take"

A further maintenance treatment for rats in sewers was carried out in March 1959. Eighty manholes were prebaited and thirty six only showed a "take" Bread mash and arsenious oxide were used for the poisoning treatment and the result shows an encouraging reduction in the rat population in the Sewers.

The following table shows the action taken with regard to surface infestations of Rats and Mice.

	Dwelling Houses.		Business Premises.	
	Initial.	Retreatments.	Initial.	Retreatments.
1958.	82	167	14	10
1959.	72	84	30	76

All the work was carried out by the one part-time rodent operative employed in the Department under the direction of the Public Health Inspectors.



## SECTION D.

### HOUSING

#### (a) UNFIT PROPERTIES.

As the result of doubt on the part of the Council as to their capability for continued re-housing on the same level the Slum Clearance programme was slowed down somewhat during this period. Considerable activity however took place by way of consolidation and in conclusion of action previously taken.

The Dunstable (Church Street) Compulsory Purchase Order No. 1/1956 consisting of nine unfit houses and a fish shop was confirmed by the Minister in November 1958.

A total of 37 families comprising 85 persons were rehoused from unfit properties by the Council. They consisted of 21 families from properties in private ownership and 16 from unfit properties owned by the Council, this latter category being largely from Bennetts Close Meadway, Manchester Place, High Street North and Nos. 51 to 57 St. Mary's Street.

Sixteen houses in Beale Street Nos. 9 to 39 were "Represented" in December 1958 and a "Clearance Order" finally confirmed in March 1960 after a Public Inquiry had been held in January 1960

The following sixteen premises were the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders after Individual Unfit House procedure:

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Ashton Street.	)	Almshouses, Closing Orders.
Nos. 1, 3 and 5 West Street.		
44 Church Street.....		Closing Order.
30 High Street South.....		Closing Order.
134 High Street South.....		Demolition Order.
143 High Street South.....		Closing Order.
165 High Street South.....		Undertakings accepted.
167 High Street South.....		Undertakings accepted.
132 Victoria Street.....		Demolition Order .
134 Victoria Street.....		Demolition Order.
136 Victoria Street.....		Demolition Order.
138 Victoria Street.....		Demolition Order.



(a) UNFIT PROPERTIES (continued).

The following premises were demolished during the period under review:

Dunstable Clearance Area No. 3/1956.

Nos. 47 to 55 Church Street..... 5 houses.

Dunstable Clearance Area No. 4/1956.

Nos. 153 to 161 Church Street..... 5 houses.

Individual Unfit Houses.

Nos. 62 to 72 High Street South..... 5 houses.

Nos. 58 to 60 High Street South..... 3 houses.

Nos. 130 to 134 High Street South..... 3 houses.

Nos. 5 to 11 Church Street..... 4 houses.

Nos. 127 to 137 Church Street..... 6 houses.

Nos. 141 to 145 Church Street..... 3 houses.

Nos. 149 to 151 Church Street..... 2 houses.

Nos. 163 to 165 Church Street..... 2 houses.

Nos. 78 to 80 High Street North..... 2 houses.

Nos. 227 to 235 High Street North..... 5 houses.

Nos. 51 to 57 St. Mary's Street..... 4 houses.

Eight Bells Public House and  
11, 12 and 13 Ashton Street..... 4 houses.

Meadway & Bennetts Close M.A.P. Chalets.. 40 houses.

707 houses were inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts and 2,750 visits were made for this purpose.

238 houses were made fit as the result of informal action by the Department and 4 made fit after Statutory action, including for the first time the use of Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957.



(b) Overcrowding.

56 visits were made in respect of suspected overcrowding at 27 premises.

It was found that by immediate action as soon as the Department was aware of the likelihood of a problem arising it was possible to avert trouble by advice and persuasion. This was particularly so in the case of non-nationals who tended to have a lower standard than that in force in this Country, but who quickly responded to any instruction given by the Inspectors.

(c) Rent Act.

Applications for certificates of disrepair continued to require a considerable amount of time and attention in 1958 when 26 applications were received but the volume of work reduced to a trickle in 1959 when only 4 applications were received.

(d) Improvement Grants.

Four applications for grants under the Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 were received in 1958 and five in 1959. Grants amounting to £516.15. 0. in 1958 and £630. 5. 0. in 1959 were approved under these Acts.

Fifteen applications for "Standard" Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 were received in the second half of that year, but although Grants totalling £1,575. were approved by the Council, seven of the applications were not proceeded with and none were actually completed or grants paid before the end of 1959.

(e) New Housing.

The number of new houses completed during the two years was as follows:

	1958.	1959.
(a) By Council.....	151	10
(b) By Private Enterprise.....	281	330



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### 1. MILK SUPPLY.

Dunstable is a specified area under Section 41 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and all milk sold in the Borough must be either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

Six samples of Pasteurised milk, two samples of Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised milk and two samples of Sterilised Milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and were reported upon as conforming to the appropriate standard in each case.

Registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 & 1954 was as follows:

	1958	1959
Number of Distributors of Milk.....	<u>41</u>	<u>43</u>
Number of Dealers Licences authorising the use of Special Designations:		
Pasteurised.....	10	10
Sterilised.....	32	32
Tuberculin Tested.....	10	10
Number of Supplementary Licences authorising the use of Special Designations:		
Pasteurised.....	8	10
Sterilised.....	3	5
Tuberculin Tested.....	6	8

#### 2. ICE CREAM.

Registration under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955 was as follows:

	1958	1959
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream...	65	70
Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream.....	4	4

Ice Cream was only manufactured at one shop in the Borough and a complete cold mix was used.

Only three Samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination but they were each placed in Grade I.



### 3. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

#### (a) Slaughterhouse.

All food animals slaughtered at the one private slaughterhouse were inspected, but to achieve this 100% meat inspection it was necessary for the Inspectors to work a considerable amount of overtime.

The amount of slaughtering carried out provided more than enough meat to supply local needs, the surplus being transported to neighbouring areas. Advantage was taken of the Exchequer Grant made available by the Government in respect of the Inspection of Meat which was not for local consumption.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958 came into force in January 1958 and immediate steps were taken to try and bring the premises into full compliance with the regulations. No great success was achieved until the ownership of the Slaughterhouse changed hands early in 1959 and the new owner agreed to carry out all the work advised and directed by the Department.

It was possible to foresee an early submission to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the report required by the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959

The following tables show the number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Slaughterhouse together with details of the number diseased and percentages of the number affected with Tuberculosis.

The incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* continued to increase, there being 23 cases in 1958 and 23 in 1959, compared with 17 in 1957 and only 6 in 1956. In all cases the condition was localised, the affected parts were condemned and the remainder of the offal and carcasses subjected to cold storage treatment for a period of 21 days at a temperature not exceeding 16° Fahrenheit in accordance with Ministry recommendations.



CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

1958.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number Killed (if known)	1,187	566	305	4,159	3,462	-
Number inspected.....	1,187	566	305	4,159	3,462	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	3	16	4	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	306	186	3	408	193	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.....	25.8	32.9	2	10.2	5.7	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	57	30	1	-	52	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	4.8	5.5	0.3	-	1.5	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	19	4	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	19	4	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-	-



CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

1 9 5 9.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	1,147	739	117	12,208	3,776	-
Number inspected.....	1,147	739	117	12,208	3,776	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	-	10	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	467	272	2	739	193	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.....	40.8	37.2	1.7	6.1	5.1	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	30	19	-	-	43	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	2.7	2.8	-	-	1.1	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	19	4	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	19	4	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-	-



Table showing monthly totals of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1958:-

Month.	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
January.....	119	60	29	278	277	763
February....	90	47	73	128	251	589
March.....	92	52	31	166	269	610
April/May...	202	88	48	441	534	1,313
June.....	193	87	19	789	515	1,603
July/Aug....	110	41	11	434	258	854
September...	92	43	30	517	296	978
October.....	111	50	28	533	332	1,054
November....	92	46	17	447	303	905
December....	86	52	19	426	427	1,010
TOTALS...	1,187	566	305	4,159	3,462	9,679

Table showing monthly totals of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1959:-

Month.	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
January.....	113	53	14	450	301	931
February....	90	44	13	249	305	701
March.....	57	61	10	277	295	700
April.....	57	50	1	340	386	834
May.....	38	41	1	738	265	1,083
June.....	59	51	2	1,011	263	1,386
July.....	96	56	-	1,336	310	1,798
August.....	115	56	8	1,518	312	2,009
September....	146	88	10	2,240	335	2,819
October.....	138	79	11	1,971	232	2,431
November....	120	83	12	1,253	326	1,794
December.....	118	77	35	825	446	1,501
TOTALS.	1,147	739	117	12,208	3,776	17,987.



Tables showing monthly and yearly total of meat from various animals voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption at the Dunstable Slaughterhouse:-

1 9 5 8.

Month.	Bovine including Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total. .
January.....	1,063	17	295	1,375
February.....	787	82	244	1,113
March.....	547	127	155	829
April/May.....	2,013	167	758	2,938
June.....	1,561	324	260	2,145
July/August.....	940	105	106	1,151
September.....	1,138	411	167	1,716
October.....	707	278	125	1,110
November.....	824	267	499	1,590
December.....	1,271	122	504	1,897
TOTALS...	10,851 lbs.	1,900 lbs.	3,113 lbs.	15,864 lbs.

1 9 5 9

Month.	Bovine including Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total
January.....	741	103	128	972
February.....	1,851	104	88	2,043
March.....	939	27	85	1,051
April/May.....	896	293	229	1,418
June.....	835	223	90	1,148
July/August.....	2,708	548	283	3,539
September.....	2,622	348	74	3,044
October.....	1,091	292	95	1,478
November.....	2,155	269	140	2,564
December.....	2,244	157	161	2,562
TOTALS...	16,082 lbs.	2,364 lbs.	1,373 lbs.	19,819 lbs.



## Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 and 1954.

In 1958 seven persons were licensed under the above Acts to slaughter animals with one further person licensed to slaughter animals whilst under the supervision of any person holding a licence not subject to such a condition.

In 1959 ten persons were licensed under the above Acts to slaughter animals with two further persons licensed to slaughter animals whilst under the supervision of any person holding a licence not subject to such a condition.

## Meat and Food Other than in Slaughterhouse.

The following table shows the amount and variety of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed or utilised for animal feeding stuffs, as being unfit for human consumption:-

Article.	1958		1959.	
	Tins, Packets, bottles, Jars or Cartons.	lbs.	Tins, Packets, bottles, Jars or Cartons.	lbs.
Tomatoes.....	61		75	
Meat.....	84		84	
Vegetables.....	31		15	
Jam and Marmalade.....	4		2	
Liver.....		7		
Cod Roes.....		14		54
Jellied Ells.....		8		
Fruit.....	80		139	
Ham.....	14		23	
Chicken.....	1			
Beef.....		42		
Grapes.....	62			
Mackeral.....		14		
Cockles.....	2 galls.			
Fish.....	68		24	
Soup.....	9		3	
Milk.....	9		16	
Ham.....		51½		
Certo.....	1			
Kippers.....		14		
Coffee.....			1	
Herrings.....				70
Tripe.....				20
Shrimps.....			1	
Creamed Sago.....			1	
Ratiffa essence.....			3	
Smoked Cod fillets.....				28
Tomato juice.....			2	
Cow Heels.....			4	



## FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY. FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

Much good work continues to be done in this field but much remains to be done. It will be seen from the Schedule of Work Done headed Food Hygiene Regulations that considerable improvements were obtained in food premises but it is a long steady process of education and elimination.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955.

Although the Bedfordshire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority and as such are mainly responsible for the quality and standards provisions of the Act certain duties still remain with the local authority.

The total number of Food premises in the Borough at the end of 1958 and 1959 was as follows:

		1958	1959
Bakers	(a) Bakehouses.....	7	6
	(b) Shops.....	11	11
Butchers.....		20	21
Canteens	(a) Factories.....	11	11
	(b) Hospital.....	1	1
	(c) Shop.....	1	1
	(d) Schools.....	11	11
Chemists.....		4	4
Clubs.....		11	12
Fishmongers.....		8	7
Greengrocers.	(a) Retail.....	13	15
	(b) Wholesale.....	2	2
Grocers.....		50	50
Ice Cream Store.....		1	1
Licensed premises.....		26	27
Nut packing premises.....		1	-
Off-licences.....		4	4
Restaurants and Snack Bars.....		25	26
Sugar Confectionery.....		25	28

No formal samples were submitted for analysis but four cases of food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded were investigated. Two cases of unsound food sold were dealt with under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and an allegation that a churn of milk had been delivered in a dirty condition to a Hospital kitchen was found proved and a warning letter sent. The Department was also called upon to try and trace a consignment of apples alleged to be dangerous as the result of an arsenical and lead spray deposit on the surface.



## ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

In addition to the normal routine work of a Public Health Department the following extra-ordinary duties are the responsibility of the Department in Dunstable and some indication of the activity under each heading is given.

### National Assistance Act 1948.

It was necessary to arrange the burial, in accordance with section 50 of the above Act, of two persons who had died in the area and for whom no satisfactory burial arrangements had been made or were likely to be made otherwise than by the Local Authority.

The help of the Department was also sought in connection with five persons believed to be in need of proper care and attention. In two cases it was necessary to use the powers contained in Section 47 of the above Act.

A close liaison is still maintained with the Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association to our mutual advantage.

### Public Mortuary.

The Local Authority maintain one of the finest establishments of this kind in the County and the day to day administration is carried out by the Department.

During 1958 twenty-seven bodies were deposited and during 1959 fourteen bodies were deposited: as follows:

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
from: Luton Rural District Council.....	17	1
Amptill.....	1	1
Dunstable Borough.....	9	12

### Public Conveniences.

Dunstable's situation on two main trunk roads means that these facilities are enjoyed by a far greater number than the normal population.

Two full-time attendants and four part-time cleaners were employed at the four Public Conveniences and we are satisfied that, despite continued malicious damage to fixtures and fittings, they are maintained in a very satisfactory condition and do the Town credit.

The collection of monies is carried out by the Treasurer's Department but the responsibility for administration, maintenance and repair is carried out by the Public Health Department.



### Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The one licence issued to a man who regularly attends Dunstable market was amended in 1959 to include Rabbits and Puppies but conditions at all times were satisfactory.

### Game Dealers Licences.

Three licences were issued during the years 1958 and 1959, to local butchers.

### RAINFALL.

The following figures of rainfall in the Borough over the last ten years are included in the Report for record purposes:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>inches.</u>
1950	30.63
1951	31.99
1952	27.39
1953	20.61
1954	29.10
1955	20.85
1956	27.49
1957	24.19
1958	31.10
1959	20.37

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