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ELY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

and Isle of Ely

---



A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1 9 7 1



ELY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

and Isle of Ely

B. G. Wright (Chairman)  
Mrs. F. M. Tash (Vice-Chairman)  
A. J. Bullock  
H. G. G. G.  
C. B. G. G.  
S. W. G. G.  
Mrs. E. G. G.  
C. A. G. G.  
J. H. G. G.  
F. G. G.  
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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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B.W.M. Macartney  
B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.C.H.  
Medical Officer of Health  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge

Tel. No. Cambridge 58811

D.J. Gwynn  
M.A.P.H.I.  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
11 Lynn Road  
Ely

Tel. No. Ely 2894

THE LEGAL DISTRICT COURT

In the

County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_

vs.

\_\_\_\_\_

of the

County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area .....	66,082 acres
Number of Parishes .....	12
Rateable Value at 31.3.71 .....	£373,258
New Penny Rate for 1970-71 .....	£3,482
Estimated Number of Habitable Dwellings at 1.4.71 .....	5,391
Estimated Mid-Year Population .....	15,370

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

B.G. Wright (Chairman)  
 Mrs. F.M. Tash (Vice-Chairman)  
 A.J. Butcher  
 H. Crabb  
 C.B. Darby  
 E.W. Edgley  
 Mrs. R.L. Gill  
 C.A. Golding  
 J.H. Handley  
 F.G. Harrison  
 J.W. Hudson  
 C.H. Martin, M.A.  
 R.N. Morris  
 Mrs. M.J.A. Powell  
 W. Saul  
 W. Smith  
 H. Tash  
 D. Ward  
 S.R. Ward  
 V.H. Warren  
 A.J. White

(the Full Council sits as the Public Health Committee)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	B.W.M. Macartney, B.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.(Obst.). R.C.O.G.
Chief Public Health Inspector	D.J. Gwynn, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.H., and P.H.I.E.B. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
Additional Public Health Inspector	A.P. Shaw, M.A.P.H.I., Dip. P.H.I.E.B.
Clerk/Typist	Mrs. M. Main.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ely Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I set pen to paper to write my report for 1970 comparatively little was known of the detailed form of reorganised local government which is to come into being on 1st April 1974.

Although the legislation is now passing through Parliament and although the report of the local boundary commission indicates that the three Districts that I serve will be amalgamated and together with the Urban District of Newmarket and the parishes of Moulton and Kentford will form a new County District, there is still little definite detailed information as to the functions and responsibilities of the new Councils. Time is getting short.

The White Paper on the Reorganisation of the National Health Service has yet to be published.

Times of change are full of opportunity but perhaps too much change in too short a time prevents full advantage being taken.

#### Vital Statistics

The general pattern of statistics for the District is very similar to previous years. Both the birth rate and death rate are slightly less than in 1970 but the difference is not significant.

There were considerably fewer deaths from malignant disease but ischaemic heart disease continues to take a high toll.

#### Infectious Diseases

I was notified of 119 cases of measles compared with 7 cases in 1970, 29 in 1969 and 98 in 1968. The majority of cases seem to fall in a slightly older age group than in earlier years and this could be a modest reflection of the immunity conferred on the younger children by the measles vaccine and I hope will encourage parents to take advantage of the protection that is now offered to their children. Measles is a miserable disease and can, of course, have serious complications.

#### The Environment

The Chief Public Health Inspector has presented his usual excellent report and it only remains for me to comment briefly on those matters that Circular 1/72 requires.

Work on the incentive bonus scheme for refuse collection and disposal with the introduction of a bin liner service was completed during the year and the scheme was brought into operation early in 1972.

Apart from a few isolated dwellings the whole District with a single exception enjoys a modern sewage disposal service. The scheme for Wentworth is now well advanced and there is reasonable hope that it will get under way in the course of 1972.

The Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board continues to provide the District with an adequate and wholesome water supply from the Beck Row source. This may in the future need to be supplemented from the Isleham source. Since the neighbouring water boards now have programmes for installing fluoridation equipment, it is to be hoped that the Board serving this District will follow suit, so that the people of this District and the children in particular will not much longer be denied the benefits of this important nutrient, which is deficient in our present water supply.



Finally, I would like to underline the point made so well by Mr. Gwynn, that in achieving and maintaining a high standard of public hygiene there is no more important factor than the personal visits of the public health inspectors to premises in the course of their duties.

My thanks are due to Mr. Gwynn and all the members of staff of the Department for their careful and cheerful attention to their duties and to the Chairman and members of the Council for their interest and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B.W.M. Macartney.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
B.W.M. Macartney.



# VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used  
for the statistical calculations)

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	114	112	226
Illegitimate	9	6	15
	<u>123</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>241</u>

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	15.7
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.07)	16.8
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	16.0

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

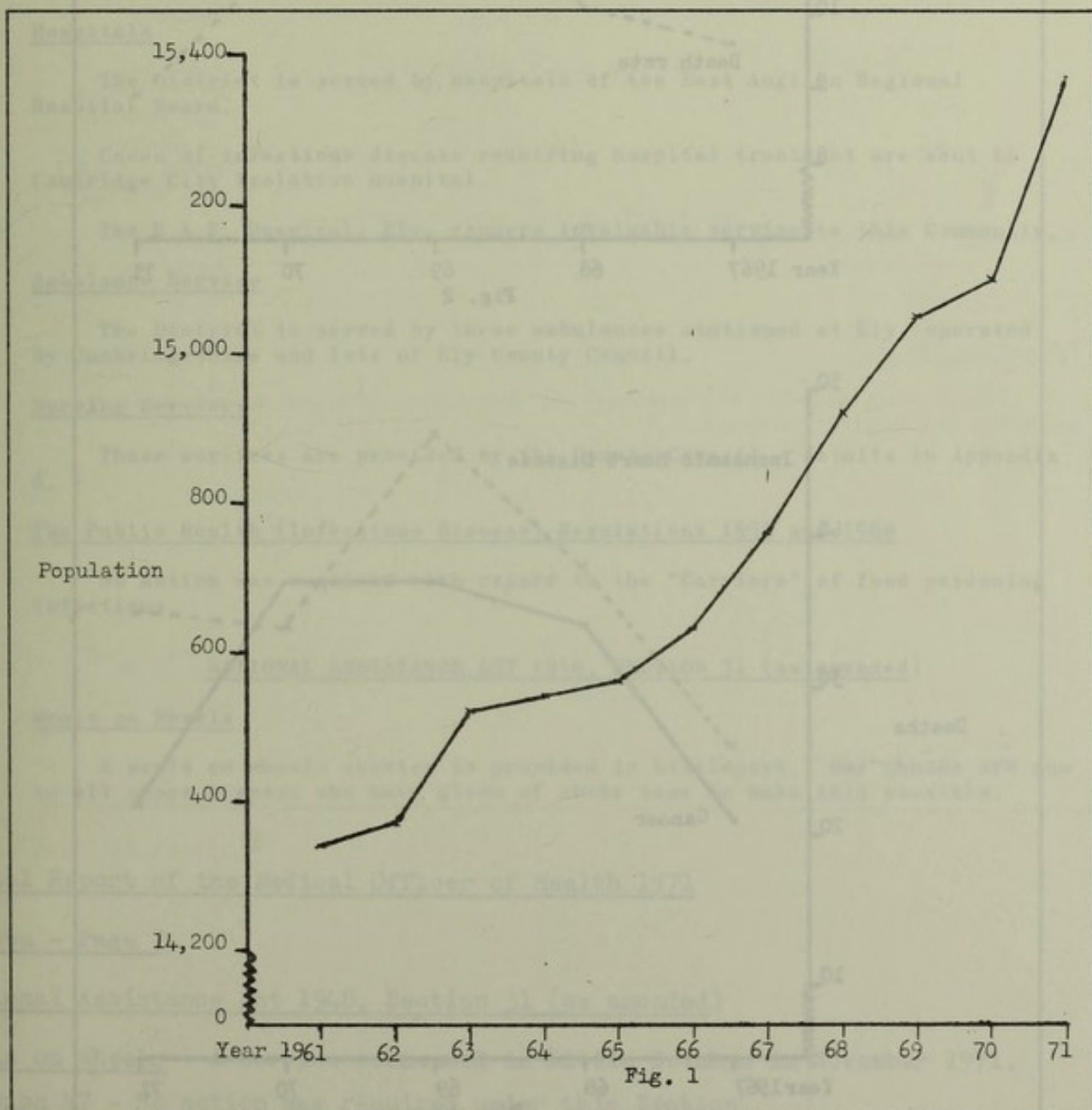
Rate per thousand live and still births	24.0
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	12.0

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	70	63	133
Death rate per thousand estimated population			8.7
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1.02)			8.9
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			11.6
Infant mortality (deaths of infants under one year of age)	1	1	2
Infant mortality rate (infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)			8.0
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)			18.0
Neonatal mortality rate (infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)			8.0
Early neonatal mortality rate (infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)			4.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)			28.0
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births)			9.0
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births)			Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			6%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, child-birth and abortion)			Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births			Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)			22 (37)
Deaths from ischaemic heart disease			35 (34)

(1970 figures in brackets)

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1971

Age in Years	Infective Hepatitis	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary T.B.	Whooping Cough	Total
Under 1 year		2				2
1		6				6
2 - 4		38	1		2	41
5 - 9		57	2			59
10 - 14		14				14
15 - 24	1	1				2
25 - 44	1	1				2
45 - 64	1			1		2
65 and over						
Age Unknown						
Totals	3	119	3	1	2	128





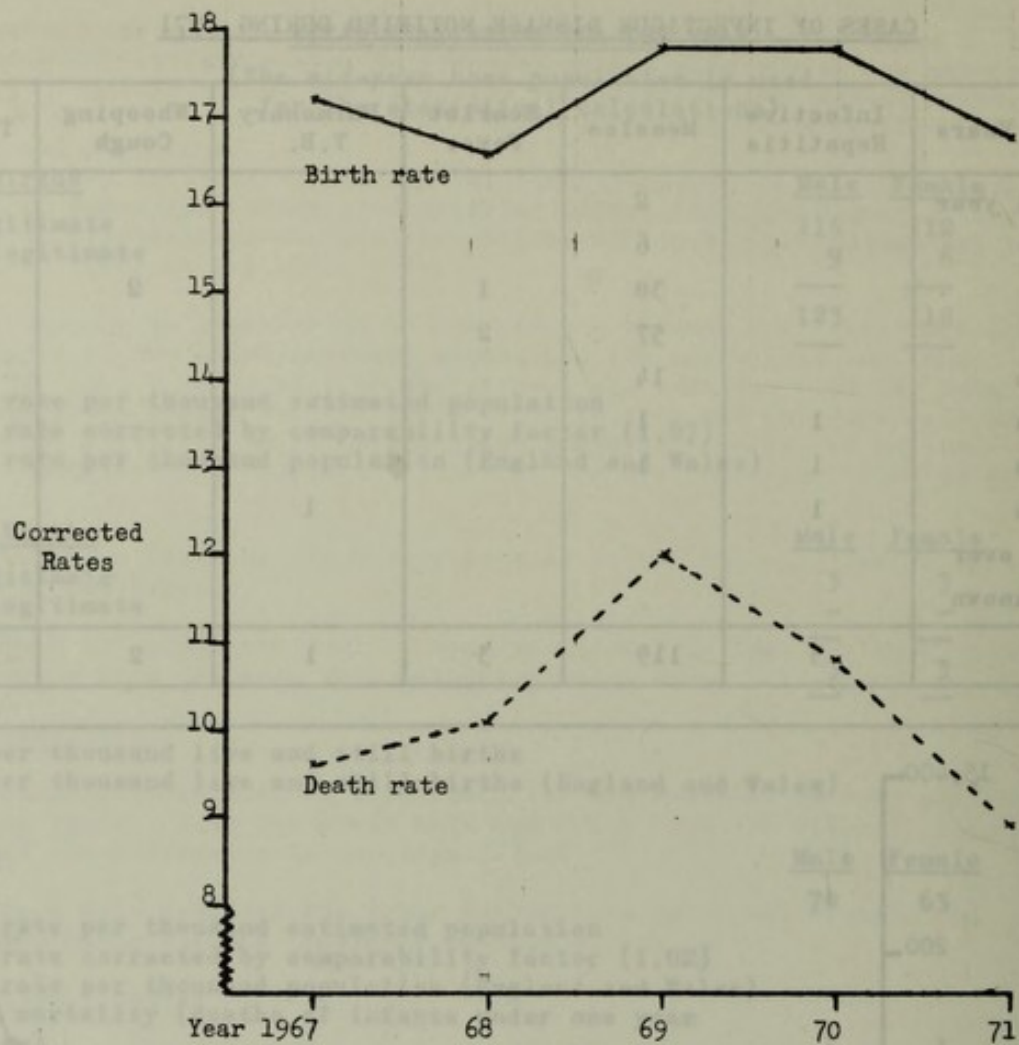


Fig. 2

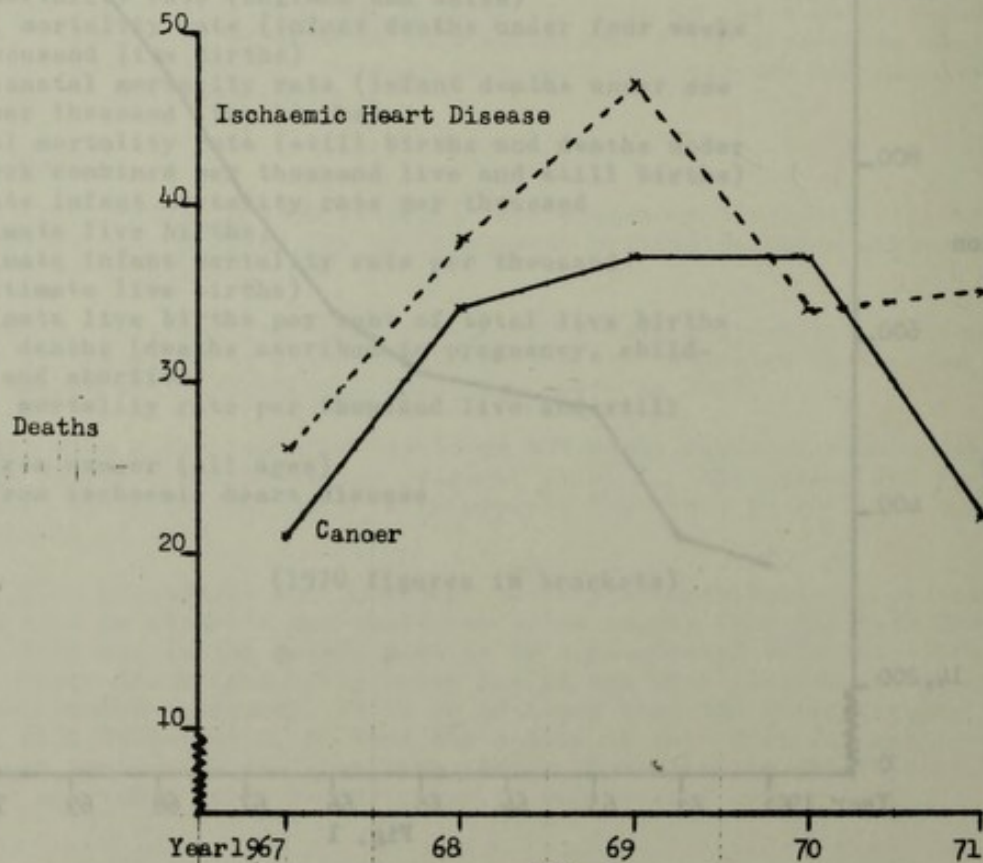


Fig. 3



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1971

Errata - Page 7

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 31 (as amended)

Meals on Wheels - A service commenced in Little Downham in November 1971.

Section 47 - No action was required under this Section.

Section 50 - The Council took action in one case under this Section.

1st Report of the National Officer of Health 1971

Part 1

General Assistance Act 1946, Section 21 (as amended)

Section 45 - A service commenced in Little Downham in November 1971.

Section 47 - No action was requested under this Section.

Section 50 - The Council took action in one case under this Section.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### Medical Officer of Health

Under arrangements made by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council under section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1933, the Medical Officer of Health to the Ely Urban District Council, Ely Rural District Council and Newmarket Rural District Council is combined with the appointment of Senior Medical Officer to the County Council by securing for the appointment of a full time Medical Officer from 1st September, 1968.

### Public Health Inspectors

During the year Mr. Gwynn continued as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Shaw.

### Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

### Hospitals

The District is served by hospitals of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital.

The R.A.F. Hospital, Ely, renders invaluable service to this Community.

### Ambulance Service

The District is served by three ambulances stationed at Ely, operated by Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council.

### Nursing Services

These services are provided by the County Council - details in Appendix A.

### The Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations 1953 and 1968

No action was required with regard to the "Carriers" of food poisoning infections.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 31 (as amended)

#### Meals on Wheels

A meals on wheels service is provided in Littleport. Our thanks are due to all those persons who have given of their time to make this possible.

### Sections 47 and 50

No action was required under either of these Sections.



# NURSING SERVICES FOR ELY RURAL DISTRICT

## PROVIDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL

The trend of nursing is towards team work rather than nurses working on individual districts. Health visitors and nurses are now being attached wherever possible to general practitioners and midwifery is being undertaken in hospitals.

### Ante Natal Care

At home and at surgeries by general practitioners and midwives.

### Child Health Clinics

Tuesday	Haddenham	2nd and 4th	Church Hall	2.00 pm. G.P. attends 4th Tuesday
	Littleport	Weekly	Health Centre	2.30 pm. G.P. attends alternate Tuesday
	Sutton	4th	Methodist Church Hall	2.00 pm. Extra clinic 2nd Tuesday in January, April, July and October
Wednesday	Black Horse Drove	4th	Community Centre	2.00 pm. Assistant M.O. attends

### Education Classes

Educational classes for parents and other are arranged as required by midwives and health visitors.

Many journals and magazines published immediately after the 1st January each year carry editorial profiles of the year ahead and what is might be the interests covered by that year's publication. This report, at least, tends to do just the opposite. It looks back over a year which may have been one of activity or inactivity, satisfaction or frustration, achievement or disappointment. When matters such as local government reorganisation are topical there is sometimes room for speculation, but mainly it is a presentation of facts and figures which record what has happened.

When called upon to show our colleagues it is only natural to put the best foot forward and I hope that the contents of this report do just that. However, in carrying out the research which produced these facts of the year and weaknesses are also revealed, and this leaves us with a feeling that we have left nothing many of the things we ought to have done. Lack of time, lack of staff and other resources are the usual reasons of why many things could not be done. The report and left for the moment, which never comes. I must have said a word or two about the future. It is not my intention to do this at the moment. I will in the future be able to give priority to every subject that falls to be dealt with by the Public Health Department. Most of the work is concentrated around the three main objectives which the Committee has set for itself. I am sure that the Department will be able to do this. I am sure that the Department will be able to do this. I am sure that the Department will be able to do this.

## REPORT

of the

### CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D.J. Gwynn, M.A.P.H.I.  
Public Health Department,  
11 Lynn Road,  
ELY,  
Cambs.

Tel: Ely 2894



COMMENT

Many journals and magazines published immediately after the 1st January each year carry editorial predictions about the year ahead and what it might hold for the interests covered by that particular publication. This report, of course, tends to do just the opposite. We look back over a year which may have been one of activity or lethargy, satisfaction or frustration, achievement or disappointment. When matters such as local government reorganisation are topical there is sometimes room for speculation, but mainly it is a presentation of facts and figures which record history.

When called upon to show our achievements it is only natural to put the best goods on display, and I hope that the contents of this report do just that. However, in carrying out the research which produces those goods, some of the flaws and weaknesses are also revealed, and this leaves us with a feeling that we have left undone many of the things we ought to have done. Lack of time, lack of staff and other resources are the usual causes of too many things being swept under the carpet and left for the tomorrow which never comes.

With the best will in the world we cannot hope to give priority to every subject that falls to be dealt with by the Public Health Department. Most of the work is predetermined anyway but there are occasions when the routine pattern is thrown into turmoil. Fortunately, these times are limited, and I am pleased to show in this current report that no major disruption occurred, and more time was therefore devoted to the 'bread and butter' items such as basic Public Health Act inspections, housing matters, food hygiene control and visits to places of employment.

Throughout the year, further consideration was given to the proposed incentive bonus and productivity deals for the cleansing services staff, and for the foreman and rodent operator. Consultations involved management, men and the work study officers, together with contact with similar Councils in order to make comparisons with schemes already in operation. Meetings of one form or another were held at frequent intervals and, on more than one occasion, the midnight oil was burned on the processes leading up to the final report. It was not until the middle of December that clearance was obtained from all participating bodies, and approval was then given for a 6-month trial period to be commenced as soon as possible. The major changes involved will, no doubt, bring their own particular problems in due course, not least of which is the tighter control called for in the administrative aspects of the scheme. I have always found that paper work necessarily follows our practical work. I only hope that the reverse will not apply in this instance with our practical work being forced into second place.

In conclusion, I think I can safely say that the staff of the department have again made an earnest effort to make this little corner of the globe a healthier, if not better, place in which to live. We recognise that we have not been able to please all the people all of the time but we suspect that the majority of ratepayers and others who have had to call on our services have received a good measure of satisfaction. My thanks are again due to Dr. Macartney and my colleagues in the other departments for co-operation at all times, and to my own particular 'team' for their active support in all the duties they are called upon to perform.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
D.J. GWYNN.



## 1. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Refuse Collection  
Refuse Disposal  
Sewage Disposal  
Cesspool Emptying  
Watercourses

### a) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

There were no practical advances either in collection or disposal arrangements, and no major difficulties were encountered in meeting the Council's commitment to clear refuse from domestic and other premises during the year.

The Stretham refuse tip was maintained in a satisfactory condition. This tip has now been in use for five years. It is intended to complete the infill of this area within a fifteen year period from 1966, and the present indication is that it will provide sufficient tipping capacity until 1981, when the lease is due to expire.

The comprehensive study of this service by work study officers of the County Council was continued throughout the year. After several revisions a scheme of incentive bonus operations, involving refuse collectors, dykemen and the cesspool tanker driver, was devised and was due to become operational early in 1972. This scheme is aimed at a reduction in staff by normal retirement, a decrease in the fleet of collection vehicles, and the introduction of a bin liner service.

### b) SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Reports for earlier years have indicated the diligent manner in which the Council has carried out a programme of providing main sewerage facilities in all parishes.

The only outstanding scheme is the one for Wentworth. As this has been linked with a major scheme for the enlargement of the Sutton/Witcham works, delays have been experienced due, mainly, to economic factors. During the current year the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to proceed with the preparation of the combined scheme.

The problems experienced in the relaying of a sewer in Silt Road, Littleport, came to an end with the completion of the second stage in October.

Samples of sewage effluent taken regularly by the River Board officers during the year indicated satisfactory effluent treatment at all works on 20 visits. Additionally, 6 samples were only just below standard, while 1 sample produced a very unsatisfactory result. This was due to a sample being taken during a desludging operation at Coveney and, on settling down, the next sample was of a good standard.

### c) CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The S.D./Bedford 1100 gal. tanker again proved adequate for carrying out cesspool emptying and similar duties. It was found necessary to slightly increase the hiring rate to business premises from £1.75 to £2 per hour, and for intermediate emptyings at domestic premises a charge of £1.15 per load was levied, an increase of 15p over previous years charges.

The free service, on an annual basis, continued to be available to domestic premises not served by a main sewer.

A total of 497 orders were received (495 in 1970 and 402 in 1969). The total loads amounted to 808 (717 in 1970 and 694 in 1969) representing 800,000 gals. of sewage. Income from the service to business premises amounted to £572. Disposal of tanker contents continues to be a problem, but has been alleviated to some extent by the construction, at Littleport Sewage Disposal Works, of a holding tank which allows a controlled flow of this concentrated material to enter the works for treatment with the normal flow of mains sewage.

#### d) WATERCOURSES

In a district where much thought and effort has gone into the provision of proper sewage disposal methods, it naturally follows that cleaner watercourses should be in evidence.

Only very limited incidents of pollution have been noted recently, and where drainage systems have been found to connect directly with watercourses remedial action has been taken.

The work of the dykemen has thus been made more bearable, but there are still over 1500 chains of dykes to be maintained.



2. HOUSING

General Building Programme  
Improvement of Private Dwellings  
Slum Clearance

a) GENERAL BUILDING PROGRAMME(i) Council Housing ProgrammePermanent Houses

No. of dwellings completed during 1971 ..... -  
No. of dwellings under construction at 31.12.71 ..... -  
No. of dwellings provided under the Housing Acts  
to 31.12.71 ..... 1787  
No. of pre-war dwellings improved by the provision  
of standard amenities during 1971 ..... -  
No. of pre-war dwellings under improvement at  
31.12.71 ..... -  
No. of pre-war dwellings improved since  
introduction of the scheme in 1958 ..... 658

Temporary Houses

There is no temporary housing accommodation provided by the Council.

(ii) Private Enterprise HousingPermanent Houses

No. of dwellings completed during 1971 ..... 156  
No. of dwellings under construction at 31.12.71 ..... 218  
No. of dwellings completed since April 1945 ..... 1285

(iii) Subsidised Agricultural Housing

No. of dwellings completed during 1971 ..... 4  
No. of dwellings completed since April 1945 ..... \* 48  
No. of dwellings completed since commencement of  
scheme in 1938 ..... 76

(\* This figure is included in the 1285 shown at (ii) above).

The Council house building programme was at a standstill throughout the year, although several schemes were in course of preparation. Resumption of building bungalows specifically designed for our senior citizens was to be expected shortly. The planning stages of a further group scheme, with warden control, at Witchford were also advanced at the end of the year.

In the private sector, the brakes were well and truly off, with twice the number of completions compared with the previous year. A much higher figure can also be recorded for the number of dwellings under construction at 31st December, 1971.

b) IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS

The impetus given to improvement schemes by the increase in grant maxima, provided for by the Housing Act 1969, tended to decelerate this year. No doubt the general financial depression was partly responsible.

The Council, through the Housing Committee, gave the fullest support to all improvement schemes and every encouragement to owners to take



advantage of this golden opportunity to prolong the life of what has become a most valuable asset, i.e. domestic property.

1970 produced the highest number of completed schemes involving major improvement for several years (27). The year now under review saw a reduction to 19, still a commendable figure and above average when looked at over a period of time.

Standard Grant schemes assisted during the year amounted to 33, again reflecting a good average.

The following table shows details of grants:-

#### Discretionary Grants

No. of dwellings improved or provided during 1971 .....	19
Total of grants paid during 1971 .....	£12,828
No. of dwellings improved since 1949 .....	319
Total of grants paid since 1949 .....	£97,975
Average grant per dwelling during 1971 .....	£675

#### Standard Grants

No. of dwellings improved during 1971 .....	33
Total of grants paid during 1971 .....	£7,155
No. of dwellings improved since 1959 .....	474
Total of grants paid since 1959 .....	£74,981
Average grant per dwelling during 1971 .....	£217

#### c) SLUM CLEARANCE

In March 1971, the Housing Committee received a report covering a review of housing standards in all Parishes of the district. This indicated that a watching brief would be maintained on 261 sub-standard properties which, at first sight, appears a high figure. Looked at in depth, however, it would be seen that only 26 dwellings were unfit to the point where formal action would be considered to obtain closure or demolition. Of the remainder, 10 were already the subject of official orders and still occupied; 52 were also subject to orders but were vacant and presenting no urgent problems; 97 could be expected to have a prolonged life by means of improvement schemes; and the other 76 were vacant and expected to remain so in view of advanced dilapidation or through being in use for purposes other than habitation.

During the year 8 demolitions were noted. One property became the subject of a Closing Order, and action was being taken in respect of a further three dwellings.

### 3. FOOD CONTROL

List of Food Premises  
Registered Premises  
Food Hygiene  
Meat Inspection  
Poultry Inspection  
Condemnations  
Legal Proceedings  
Complaints

#### a) LIST OF FOOD PREMISES

The established food business in the district are categorised as follows:

GROCERS/GENERAL PROVISIONS	39
LICENCED PREMISES	22
BUTCHERS	13
BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS	6
SWEET AND ICE CREAM SHOPS	6
SCHOOL CANTEENS/KITCHENS	16
CAFES	3
GREENGROCERS	3
FACTORY CANTEENS	2
FRIED/WET FISH MERCHANTS	4
POULTRY SLAUGHTERHOUSES	2
CONVALESCENT HOME CANTEEN	1
CHEESE FACTORY	1
HONEY BLENDER	1
SLAUGHTERHOUSE	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>

#### b) REGISTERED PREMISES

There are 75 premises registered for storage and sale of ice cream. 43 are actively trading.

10 premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages etc.

#### c) FOOD HYGIENE

With the introduction of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 - in force from 1st March, 1971 - an even greater effort was made to increase the number of visits to premises where food is stored, prepared and handled. In fact, the attention given to all classes of food premises increased by over 50%. This extra vigilance is necessary if we are to secure a higher standard of food handling, and constant attention to cleanliness of premises and personnel alike will continue to take the highest possible priority.

#### d) MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering takes place at one licenced slaughterhouse in the district. The through-put is very small and, therefore, 100% inspection of all carcasses and offal has provided no problem. Standard charges are levied for the inspection services.

The following table presents the details for the year



	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	69	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number inspected	69	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with disease	4.5	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis only</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-

e) POULTRY INSPECTION

No routine pattern of inspection has been achieved at the two slaughtering establishments in the district. It is estimated that approximately 2,200 head of poultry are slaughtered weekly. Reliance is placed on the vigilance of the staff to ensure that no suspect carcasses enter the chain of distribution.

f) CONDEMNATIONS

40 lbs. of carcase meat and offal were condemned at the slaughterhouse.

90 lbs. of frozen food were surrendered following breakdown of a deep-freeze unit.

g) LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings were taken against a local baker when it had been found that a loaf of bread, delivered to a housewife in this district, contained a rodent dropping. Warnings had previously been issued to the effect that the bakery was not adequately proofed against rodent and insect infestation and, in spite of a defence plea that the dropping had been contained in a sack of pre-packed flour, the Ely Magistrates found for the Council and imposed a fine of £15 with costs of £10.65.

h) COMPLAINTS

An unusually high number of complaints regarding contaminated and unsound food were dealt with during the year. Apart from the case referred to in the previous item, it was not found expedient to take formal action. While there is no excuse for food to be sold which is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded, there are times when a caution is sufficient, and also times when there is lack of evidence or persons to prosecute. Such was the case of the fruit pies, bought from the stall of an itinerant market trader, and found to be stuck to their tin foil cases by a few days growth of mould. No name on the wrapper;



no date coding; no trader to be found; no prosecution. At least the housewife learned a lesson and now buys only from reputable, and traceable, sources.

Investigation was also made in respect of wire in a Bakewell Tart, mould in a meat pie and in jellied eels, and the presence of a maggot in a tin of imported grapefruit segments.

4. PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

Offices and Shops  
Factories

a) OFFICES AND SHOPS

No particular problems arose during the year regarding practical administration of the Act.

The annual report submitted to the D.O.E. recorded 81 registered premises in the district, of which 6 were newly registered during 1971.

Every registered shop and office received at least one visit during the year. The total number of inspections rose to 133.

There are 227 employees in premises covered by the Act, of which 90 are males and 137 females.

b) FACTORIES

We were able to build on the good work of the previous year and increased the total number of inspections to 68. This extra effort, on similar lines to those indicated for Food Hygiene and O.S.R. work, is rewarded by the drop in the number of occasions on which notices have to be served drawing attention to contraventions. This appears to be proof enough that frequent 'on-site' inspection keeps management on its toes and results in better standards all round.

The following table gives the prescribed particulars required by Section 153(1) of the 1961 Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	7	2	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities	53	66	3	Nil
Totals	60	68	3	Nil

Factories in this area do not involve large and complex installations. Most of the enforcement is in the hands of H.M. Factory Inspectorate.



## 5. OTHER DISTRICT SERVICES

Caravan Sites  
 Petroleum Regulations  
 Rodent and Pest Control  
 Water Supplies  
 Miscellaneous Matters

### a) CARAVAN SITES

Within the terms of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, there were 27 licences in force for sites in the district during 1971.

17 sites were occupied by single residential vans; 8 sites were used by 3 or more vans; and 2 sites were in use for limited periods, catering for tourists and fishermen.

It was estimated that 157 caravans were providing permanent homes, the majority being sited at Littleport and Witchford.

### b) PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

Re-licencing of existing storage installations and the testing and licencing of new installations continued on a routine basis. The requirement that licencees should provide a satisfactory test certificate for electrical circuits and fittings was confirmed, and would become standard at the expiration of current licences. All licencees were given adequate notice as it was anticipated that a number of faults would have to be corrected, producing an overload of work on competent electrical contractors.

As a result of liaison with the Fire Authority, two incidents received joint attention. The first involved a fire in a lorry loaded with inflammable chemicals. The Fire Brigade quickly used a blanket of foam and the fire, while extensively damaging the lorry and its load, was controlled without serious consequences. With no immediate danger of explosion, attention was given to possible seepage to sewers and water-courses, but this risk was minimal as the incident occurred several hundred yards from the nearest drainage system.

The second incident arose from a complaint made by the occupant of a bungalow adjoining a petrol filling station. He was concerned at a smell of petrol in his private drains, and the fact that the fumes were filling the living area in which a solid fuel boiler was alight. Precautions were taken against the immediate danger and investigations followed into the cause. As a result, 3 tanks at the petrol station were condemned, and a new installation had to be made. The garage proprietor suffered a lengthy period of limited trading with only a single grade of petrol, but this was small enough price to pay compared with the consequences of any explosive build-up of vapour if the leakage had gone unchecked for much longer.

### c) RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Mr. J. Barker continued to carry out the day to day control work involved in dealing with rats, mice and other pests. This contribution to the department's services so often goes unnoticed but, as with most things, the value is hidden from sight. If the service suddenly stopped, the consequences could be frightening. As it is, the rodent population of a potentially desirable area, is being kept within tolerable limits. We could do even better if all rotting foodstuffs were disposed of properly, and all areas affording harbourage were frequently cleared and treated.



The number of complaints received during the year, and the details of visits and treatments carried out, are as follows:

(i) Rats and Mice

Complaints received		189
Inspections	Dwelling houses	245*
	Business premises	71*
Treatments	Dwelling houses	224*
	Business premises	22*
Surveys and treatments of	Refuse tips	95
	Sewage plants	82
	Watercourses	41

(ii) Other Pests

Complaints received		107
Inspections	Dwelling houses	111*
	Business premises	13*
Treatments	Dwelling houses	110*
	Business premises	13*
Surveys and treatments of	Refuse tips	5

(\* These figures included 'follow-up' visits).

Additionally 84 wasps nests were destroyed.

d) WATER SUPPLIES

Water is supplied to all parts of the district by the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board.

The Ely R.D.C. was represented on the Board by Councillors C.B. Darby, J.W. Hudson and C.H. Martin, M.A.

The Ely supply zone is served by the borehole at the Beck Row source. Because it has been convenient to use this source to supply parts of adjoining zones not provided for, the output of the Beck Row pumping station has almost reached its authorised average output of 1.6 m.g.d. However, it is planned to relieve this by increasing the output of the Isleham source when required.

The level of the ground water at the Beck Row source has fallen a little each year as more has been taken, but this is not thought to be serious and it seems that equilibrium will be reached when the authorised rate of abstraction is reached.

Although complaints were relatively few, purity and quality are of paramount importance and there is room for some strengthening of control. A full time chemist and laboratory would put a disproportionate load on the resources of the Board, but it is hoped to arrange to share the services of a resident chemist with a nearby undertaking early in 1972.

The Board has given no consideration to the subject of fluoridation since November 1969 when it was decided not to comply with the requests of the health authorities to adjust the levels of fluoride in the public water supply. At that time very little progress had been made nationally or locally and it was anticipated that rapid advances would be made in the development of apparatus and the techniques of chemical dosing.

However, during 1971 there has been much more progress in the water industry and, in particular, the Cambridge Water Company and the West Suffolk Water Board have programmes to begin installing equipment in the coming year. If the Board fail to carry out a parallel programme, water supplies in the small parts of the counties of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely and West Suffolk will be untreated while the supplies in the major parts of these counties will have fluoride added.

(With acknowledgements to F.W. Sanders, M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., A.M.B.I.M. Engineer to the Board).

e) MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

While there are no specific comments to make on the undermentioned aspects of the Department's work, it should be noted that routine inspection and licencing was carried out in connection with the following matters:

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS  
CIVIC AMENITIES  
CLEAN AIR ACT  
GAME DEALERS  
NOISE ABATEMENT  
SCRAP METAL DEALERS  
SCHOOLS INSPECTION  
STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING  
SWIMMING POOLS  
WATER SAFETY



## 6. GENERAL DISTRICT INSPECTION

Details of visits made during 1971 are as follows:

### HOUSING

Routine inspections	74	
Improvement grants	164	
Works of demolition	8	
Clearance programme	<u>31</u>	277

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Private drainage/cesspools	134	
Sewer dykes/watercourses	104	
Cleansing services	349	
Animal nuisances	37	
Pest Control	80	
Water supplies	<u>1</u>	705

### FOOD HYGIENE

Bakers/Confectioners	26	
Butchers	34	
Cafes/Canteens	40	
Fish Traders	17	
Grocers/General Provisions	86	
Greengrocers	12	
Licensed Premises	46	
Mobile Food Shops	39	
Slaughterhouses	48	
Vegetable washing plants	<u>18</u>	366

### CARAVANS

Licensed sites	49	
Itinerant sites	<u>16</u>	65

### CIVIC AMENITIES

Abandoned vehicles	27	
Rubbish dumps	<u>22</u>	49

### FACTORIES

General	<u>68</u>	68
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### OFFICES AND SHOPS

Routine inspections	132	
Registration queries	<u>1</u>	133

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Private houses	20	
Schools	<u>4</u>	24

### OTHER VISITS

Animal Boarding Establishments	16	
Pet Animals	13	
Petroleum Regulations	30	
Street Naming and Numbering	47	
Noise Abatement	10	
Swimming Pools	10	
Water Safety	6	
Food complaints	21	
Sundry items	<u>12</u>	165

Total inspections 1852



