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GLOUCESTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Public Health Department

For the Year
1964

STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

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Rural District Council of Gloucester

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health, environmental hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District.

As in the previous years, I am indebted to other officers for much of the material from which the Report is compiled and especially to the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. J. S. Hopkins and the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. W. D. Harris, for the sections contributed by them.

The health of the Rural District was well maintained. The population has continued to expand by more than 1,000 people each year and is now estimated to be 51,040. While the birth rate 20.2 was higher than that for the country as a whole, the death rate 10.0 and infantile mortality 17.5, were below the national averages.

The District remained free from serious outbreaks of infectious disease due in no small measure to the ready use made of all the facilities for immunisation and vaccination.

There were no cases of food poisoning but an increasing number of complaints were made of foreign bodies in foodstuffs, so constant vigilance needs to be maintained for the protection of the public.

Included in the housing accommodation provided by the Council

was Tynings Court, Churchdown; a block of nineteen self-contained flats specially designed to meet the needs of elderly people. There is a resident warden and features such as communal rooms, kitchen, central heating and fittings generally adapted to their use. These facilities enable elderly people to continue to live in their own homes in spite of increasing infirmity.

Ten bungalows for elderly people were added to those at St. James' Close, Quedgeley, and this accommodation was brought to the standard set at Tynings Court.

More dwellings of this type will be required as the proportion of elderly people continues to increase.

It will be noted that schemes for main sewerage are in course of preparation for various parishes. These schemes are urgently required in the interest of the public health.

During the year certain provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, came into operation. The Act is designed to regulate working conditions in such places and will affect some hundreds of people employed in the District.

The Council has responsibility for Health Education within its District and has been active in this field which is an important aspect of preventive medicine.

In conclusion I offer my sincere thanks to members of the Council for their kind consideration and to the Staff for their continued help during the period.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Committee (31.12.64)

Chairman: T. J. WHITFIELD

Vice-Chairman: C. J. STEELE

S. ALLCOCK
J. J. BARBER
R. K. H. BRICE
MRS. B. M. CASTLE
F. A. CHAMBERLAYNE
C. J. DE LISLE WELLS
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Public Health Department Staff

STEPHEN KNIGHT, M.B., B.S.(LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Charlton
Kings Urban District, Gloucester and Cheltenham Rural
Districts and County Divisional Medical Officer of Health for
the North Gloucestershire Divisional Area.

S. W. D. HARRIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health
Inspector and Petroleum Officer.

G. G. VIGGERS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Deputy Chief Public Health
Inspector.

P. M. JONES, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., District Public Health
Inspector.

L. S. SCOURFIELD, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., District Public Health
Inspector.

R. BAYLIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector.

N. J. DAVIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector.

N. J. BILLINGTON, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health
Inspector.

A. M. TIMSON, Administrative Assistant.

MISS J. E. C. MORGAN, Clerk/Typist.

P. J. C. WALKER, Student Public Health Inspector.

F. GREENWOOD, Rodent Operator.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District

Area (in acres) : 70,808.

Population (Registrar General's estimated Home Population mid 1964) : 51,040. (This figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the District).

Number of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1964), according to rate books : 15,742.

Rateable Value (December 31st, 1964) : £1,715,845. 0. 0.

Sum represented by a penny rate (March, 1964) : £7,053. 0. 0.

General Rate 1964-65 : 9/4. (County Precept 7/10).

Adoptive Public Health Legislation in force in the District

1. Building byelaws (Public Health Act, 1936, adopted 31st July, 1953).
2. New Streets (adopted 1st April, 1937).
3. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures (adopted 1st September, 1938).
4. Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in Open Air (adopted 28th August, 1950).
5. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 141, Water supplies to occupied houses (adopted 1st January, 1957).

Vital Statistics

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the district, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales, and the County of Gloucester.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 4. (page 8).

Table I

						Male	Female	Totals
Live Births:								
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	485	496	981
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	25	24	49
Total	..	..	..	..	..	510	520	1030
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population						..	..	20.2
Area Comparability factor (births)						..	..	0.98
Corrected Birth Rate (20.2 x 0.98)						..	..	19.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births						..	..	4.8
						Male	Female	Totals
Still Births :								
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	6	7	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Total	..	..	..	..	..	7	8	15
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births						..	..	14.4
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population						..	..	0.3
Total live and still births						..	..	1045
Infant Deaths :								
(Death of infants under 1 year of age)								
						Male	Female	Totals
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	11	5	16
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Total	..	..	..	..	..	12	6	18
(Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age)								
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	8	3	11
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Total	..	..	..	..	..	9	4	13
(Deaths of infants under 1 week of age)								
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Total	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
INFANT MORTALITY RATES								
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births						..	..	17.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births						..	..	16.3
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births						..	..	40.8
Neo-natal mortality rate—								
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births						..	..	12.6
Early neo-natal mortality rate—								
Deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births						..	..	9.7
Perinatal mortality rate—								
Stillbirth and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births						..	..	23.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion) :

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil

DEATHS :

	Male	Female	Totals
	278	234	512
Crude Death Rate per 1000 population			10.0
Area Comparability Factors (Deaths)			0.96
Corrected Death Rate (10.0 x 0.96)			9.6

POPULATION

The Register General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1964 is 51,040 as compared with 49,870 for the previous year, an increase of 1,170. There continues to be an increase in population of more than 1000 per year.

BIRTH RATE

There were 1030 births making the Birth Rate 20.2 per 1000 population, again comparing favourably with the national average 18.4.

DEATH RATE

512 people died during the year, 85 less than in the previous year; the Death Rate being 10.0 per 1000 population, lower than the national rate 11.3 and so favourable.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Eighteen infants under one year of age died during the year making the Infant Mortality 17.5 such deaths per 1000 total live births. This rate is below the national average 20.0. It will be noted that ten of the babies died in the early neonatal period that is within one week of birth.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths.

STILL BIRTH RATE

There were fifteen still births; the rate per 1000 total live and still births being 14.4, somewhat lower than the national average 16.4.

Table 2. Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality Rates in the District for the last five years

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Birth Rate (per 1000 population) ..	19.6	19.3	19.9	19.7	20.2
Death Rate (per 1000 population) ..	10.1	11.6	10.7	12.0	10.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) (—deaths of infants under 1 year)	11.2	18.9	20.9	20.4	17.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate, per 1000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 month)	8.0	13.3	14.6	18.3	12.6

Table 3. For Comparison, the Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc. are given below

	England and Wales	County of Gloucester	Gloucester Rural District
Live Births	18.4	19.48	20.2
Still Births (per 1000 total, live and still births)	16.4	11.87	14.4
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 year)	20.0	17.04	17.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 month, per 1000 live births)	13.8	11.91	12.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week) ..	28.2	29.99	23.9
Death Rate (per 1000 population) ..	11.3	10.18	10.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1964

Table 4 gives the causes of death in the District in accordance with the abbreviated list of 36 groups of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948.

Table 4.

CAUSES OF DEATH					Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—
10.*	(Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	9	2
11.	(" " lung, bronchus	...	...	...	21	1
12.	(" " breast	...	...	...	—	15
13.	(" " uterus	...	...	...	—	7
14.	(Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	28	20
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	4	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	36	33
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	52	33
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	6	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	24	39
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	12	11
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	14	24
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	33	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	9	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	8	6
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—
TOTAL					278	234

Explanatory Note.

* Neoplasm = Cancer.

Cancer

Table 5. Death Rates from Cancer per 1,000 population

	England and Wales		Gloucester Rural District	
	M	F	M	F
Cancer of the Lung ..	0.93	0.16	0.82	0.04
Other Cancer	1.51	1.83	1.45	1.72

Twenty two people died from cancer of the lung, twenty one of them were men, but there was no undue mortality, the local rates for all forms of cancer on the whole being about the national average.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The examination of pathological specimens, and the analyses of milk and ice cream samples, etc., are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health at the Gloucester Royal Hospital. (There is no charge for this work).

Samples of food/water and sewage taken by this department, were examined by the City Analyst, Bristol.

Hospitals

Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Over, which is administered by the Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Management Committee.

Child Welfare Centres

These Centres are under the general administration of the County Area Health Sub-Committee.

Meetings of Child Welfare Centres are held at Brockworth, Churchdown, Eastington, Frampton, Hucclecote and Barnwood, Longlevens, Norton, Quedgeley, Upton St. Leonards and Westbury-

on-Severn. There is also a Mobile Child Welfare Centre which serves the Tirley area.

These centres are most useful, nearly all mothers with babies attend. The bulk of the work falls upon the ladies of the Voluntary Committees. The community is much indebted to them for their devotion to this service.

Home Help Service

This service is organised by the County Council and is provided where the need is supported by the family doctor. Appeals for help should be made to Mrs. P. Allen, Assistant Home Help Organiser. Telephone Gloucester 21444.

Fifty-eight part time home helps are at work in the district.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

Under these Acts the Council have authorised their Medical Officer of Health to apply, when necessary, to the Courts for an order for the compulsory removal of aged and sick persons; living in insanitary conditions, and unable to provide for themselves and not receiving from other people, proper care and attention; to a hospital or residential institution.

No applications to the Court for Orders for removal of any persons to hospital were made during 1964.

The Home Help Service is invaluable in enabling elderly people to carry on in their own homes.

Table 6. Notification of Infectious Diseases in 1964 by Age Groups.

Disease	Age								Total
	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	25+	45+	65+	
Scarlet fever	3	7	33	9	...	...	...	52
Whooping cough ...	7	9	12	20	1	1	...	...	50
Measles (excl. G.M.) ...	19	78	99	124	13	1	...	...	334
Ac. Poliomyelitis (paralytic)
Ac. Poliomyelitis (non-para.)
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	2	4	1	8
Tuberculosis (meninges, etc.)
Tuberculosis (other)	1	2	...	...	3
Diphtheria
Smallpox
Meningococcal infection
Ac. Encephalitis (infective)
Ac. Encephalitis (post-inf.)
Dysentery	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	4
Ophthalmia neonatorum
Puerperal pyrexia	3	...	...	3
Ac. Pneumonia (prim. or flu')	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Para-typhoid fever
Enteric fever
Food poisoning
Erysipelas
Malaria (Contr. E. & W.)
Totals	26	91	119	179	28	9	4	1	457

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of children immunised against diphtheria during 1964.

Table 7.

Age at 31.12.64 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1964	1 1963	2-4 1962-60	5-14 1959-50	Under 15 Total
Primary Immunisation	405	412	64	203	1084

Table of comparison showing the number of children immunised against diphtheria in 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964 and the number of births in 1964.

Table 8.

No. of live births 1964	Primary Immunisation				Re-inforcing Injection			
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1961	1962	1963	1964
1030	968	666	810	1084	917	968	1079	1708

There was a marked increase in the number of children immunised during the year, the number of primary immunisations approximating to the number of births.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The following table shows the number of children vaccinated against whooping cough. A triple vaccine (Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus) is used in Child Welfare Centres as a routine.

Table 9.

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Under 15
	1964	1963	1962-60	1959-50	Total
Primary vaccination . .	405	409	55	12	881

Immunisation against Tetanus

The numbers of children immunised against tetanus approximates to those for diphtheria and whooping cough.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Freedom from cases of poliomyelitis is due to the success of vaccination against this disease and all concerned are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts, but the high level of immunity must be maintained.

Scarlet Fever

Fifty-two cases of scarlet fever were notified; although an increase of 31, there was no undue incidence and the disease was mild in character.

Whooping Cough

Fifty cases were notified; twenty eight more than the previous year but still very low owing to the general acceptance of immunisation.

Measles

334 cases were notified as compared with 871 in the previous year. There were no deaths. The disease has a biennial incidence, the year under review being one of low incidence.

Diphtheria

There has been no case of diphtheria in the District since 1951. Undoubtedly due to the continued success of the campaign for immunisation against the disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases occurred in the District.

Dysentery

Four cases occurred in one family of the relatively mild "Sonne" type of dysentery; measures were undertaken to prevent spread.

Food Poisoning

As in the previous year no case of Food Poisoning occurred.

Vaccination against Smallpox

Persons vaccinated in year ended 31st December, 1964.

	Under 1 yr.		1 yr.		2-4 yrs.		5-14 yrs.	
	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.
Gloucester Rural District	47	—	243	—	35	2	19	—

The number of vaccinations against Smallpox showed a considerable increase and is about 30 per cent of the number of births.

Tuberculosis

Table 10. This Table shows the new cases, in-transfers and deaths for Tuberculosis, for the past 21 years.

Year	Pop. of District	New & I.T. Cases	Per 1000 Pop.	Deaths	Per 1000 Pop.	Number on Register	Per 1000 Pop.
1944	32,210	74	2.3	25	0.78	313	9.7
1945	31,480	53	1.7	11	0.35	203	6.5
1946	31,550	53	1.7	17	0.54	176	5.6
1947	31,960	63	1.9	15	0.45	205	6.4
1948	33,540	54	1.6	21	0.62	201	6.0
1949	36,350	65	1.8	16	0.48	205	5.6
1950	35,640	52	1.5	11	0.39	207	5.7
1951	37,360	64	1.7	17	0.45	212	5.7
1952	38,370	70	1.8	6	0.15	243	6.3
1953	37,430	51	1.3	8	0.21	220	5.8
1954	39,140	65	1.6	8	0.20	235	6.0
1955	40,490	75	1.8	3	0.07	274	6.8
1956	41,770	70	1.7	3	0.07	281	6.7
1957	43,000	65	1.5	3	0.07	293	6.8
1958	42,820	50	1.2	3	0.12	293	6.8
1959	43,920	64	1.2	6	0.16	298	6.8
1960	45,350	55	1.2	2	0.05	309	6.6
1961	46,570	51	1.0	4	0.08	280	6.0
1962	48,050	31	0.7	3	0.06	267	5.5
1963	49,870	33	0.7	2	0.04	256	5.1
1964	51,040	35	0.7	1	0.02	256	5.0

Table 11. New, In Transfer cases, Deaths and Number on the Register, 31st December, 1964.

	Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other forms		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
New Cases ...	6	2	—	—	—	3	11
In-Transfer Cases ...	10	14	—	—	—	—	24
Deaths	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
On Register 31.12.64	119	109	—	—	7	21	256

Modern treatment brings about a rapid cure in most cases of tuberculosis, one person died of the disease but eleven new cases were notified. Thus sources of infection do exist, indeed the register of tuberculosis contains 256 names although only a few of these are cases of infectious tuberculosis. Elsewhere in the community are unknown active cases which would be discovered if Mass Radiography were universally accepted. This measure with others such as B.C.G. Vaccination and tracing of contacts could bring about the entire elimination of the disease.

Families at Risk

The scheme agreed between the County Council and District Council for the rehabilitation of problem families living in Council houses continued to operate during the year. Where arrears of rent are such as to render the family liable to eviction the case is referred to the County Social Welfare Officer and if it is accepted the County Council guarantee 75% of the rent arrears.

At 31st December, 1963, sixty-seven cases were under supervision within the Rent Guarantee Scheme. During 1964, a further sixty cases were referred, however thirty-six cases were withdrawn from the Scheme as all Welfare problems in the home appeared to have been settled and in a further twenty cases no action was taken after the initial visit as it was felt that the case had been resolved. In three cases, supervision of the family was withdrawn although in these cases, they were not within the Rent Guarantee Scheme. In two other cases, the families left the properties concerned and no further action was taken. Of the sixty-six cases remaining, fifty-nine were within the Rent Guarantee Scheme at 31st December 1964, three further cases were being supervised although not coming within the Scheme and four others were under consideration.

Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1952-62

Staverton Airport

In connection with the on-call customs facilities granted to Staverton Airport, the Council made arrangements for Health Control at the Airport.

Dr. H. G. Dowler, Dr. C. H. Drake, Dr. J. S. Prior, and Dr. S. Knight, were appointed to act as authorized officers under Regulation 5 (a) of these Regulations.

DANGER TO BATHERS—RIVER SEVERN

In conjunction with the Parish Councils concerned, a review was made of places where bathing may take place in the River Severn. At these places warning notices have been erected or renewed by the local Parish Council. In two places, Newnham and Wainlode, Norton, in addition to the notices, existing life saving apparatus was augmented by the Council.

REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

Mr. J. S. Hopkins, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The main works at Longford has continued to deal adequately with the volume of sewage despite a considerable increase due to the large number of new houses which have been erected. Towards the end of the year, the pilot plant was completed and a programme of research is now being undertaken in order that future trends may be properly catered for when the Works is next extended.

The position with regard to various drainage schemes has been somewhat disappointing during the year. Those now at the Ministry include Longford re-drainage and new schemes at Hardwicke and Quedgeley, Tirley and Whitminster. On each of these, the delay in acquiring land has been the principle reason for their lack of progress. At Whitminster, however, this has now been overcome and the Local Inquiry will be heard early in the new year.

The Ashleworth scheme has had to be altered to accommodate sewage from Hartpury by agreement with the Newent R.D.C. at the request of the County Council and it is hoped to submit this to the Minister at the beginning of next year.

Refuse Collection

The replacement of two vehicles during the year of larger size and greater efficiency has helped to maintain the regular weekly collection despite the heavy increase in the number of properties served.

The introduction of a litter collection service was made during the latter part of the year and it is hoped that, in a short time, many areas which, in the past, have suffered from constant accumulations of litter will be regularly cleansed.

J. S. HOPKINS,
Engineer and Surveyor.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
Mr. S. W. D. Harris, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

The maintenance of a healthy environment within their districts is an important responsibility of local authorities. Rising population densities and industrialisation, together with the pressure of an enlightened community have resulted in their being given increasing amounts of new public health legislation to administer.

In order to keep abreast of new developments, public health inspectors of the Department attended residential courses at Bristol University and the Civil Defence Staff College during the year.

The Rural District Councils Association drew attention to the national shortage of public health inspectors and the need to provide training facilities. The Council decided to support the Association and Mr. P. J. C. Walker was appointed as Student Public Health Inspector in December.

Where possible the work of the public health inspectors is presented in tabular form for easy reference, together with appropriate comments.

Table 12.

	No. of Visits	Notices Served		Defects remedied after notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling houses ..	602	59	10	39	1
Water supplies ..	658	15	1	11	1
Food premises ..	481	38	—	22	—
Slaughterhouses ..	1211	4	—	3	—
Milk and Dairies ..	14	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses ..	3	1	—	1	—
Factories etc. ..	98	1	—	1	—
Drainage and Sewerage	812	27	1	23	—
Atmospheric pollution	42	3	—	3	—
Infectious disease ..	56	—	—	—	—
Pests ..	53	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	570	13	—	8	—
Caravans ..	274	32	—	28	—
Noise abatement ..	107	3	—	2	—
Petroleum ..	152	63	—	40	—
Health Education ..	57	—	—	—	—
Total ..	5190	259	12	181	2

The increase in visits of 11% over the previous year was mainly in respect of water supplies and food administration and it is pleasing to note that formal action was only necessary in 12 instances. A number of requests for assistance in dealing with local public health problems were received from parish councils and the table includes site visits between their representatives and officers of the Department. I have encouraged this personal liaison with the parish councils because experience has shown the value of their local knowledge together with the advantages of a personal approach in getting things done.

WATER SUPPLIES

Main supplies in the District are provided by three statutory water undertakings viz., Gloucester Corporation, Cheltenham Corporation and Stroud Water Board, and they supervise the purity and adequacy of their supplies.

In addition there are three smaller undertakings, Gloucestershire County Council, Frocester Estate, and Haresfield Estate which provide certain of their properties with piped water from storage reservoirs served by the hillside springs.

The final stage involving the laying of public mains to supply the Parish of Maisemore was completed during the year.

RURAL SANITATION

(a) Cleansing of Cesspools

This service which provides for two free emptyings per year in respect of private dwellings continued to run satisfactorily. This is due in no small measure to the fact that the Contractor's Manager is resident within the district, which enables prompt attention to be given to queries arising during the course of the service.

The number of emptyings has increased during the year and ratepayers have expressed their appreciation of the service provided by the Council.

(b) Sanitary Conditions Adjoining Laybys, etc.

For some years there has been a noticeable increase in the problem created by the lack of toilet facilities on main and trunk roads, particularly those traversed by holidaymakers. Diseases like cysticercosis are spread by the fouling of agricultural land by humans and the disease risk is far more serious than the merely aesthetic problem. (See page 26.) The Council decided to erect public conveniences in seven parishes in their district and there is no doubt that events will prove the correctness of this realistic approach which will ensure obedience to the *Royal rule, "never miss a chance to relieve yourself; never miss a chance to sit down"

(c) Sewer Ditches

The work of cleansing and maintaining sewer ditches was continued throughout the year by the Department's workmen. The work involved is, of necessity, most unpleasant and consideration was given to the use of machines for some of this work. In view of the narrowness and inaccessibility of most of these ditches, however, machine cleansing can only be used on a very limited scale. The Council has maintained them in as satisfactory a condition as possible for many years, and from the public health aspect the emphasis must continue to be on the provision of main drainage wherever practicable.

*Windsor, Duke of, "A King's Story" (1953), p. 128

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION— CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Owners of the larger factories in the district have converted their boiler installations to oil firing with the exception of one where coal is still used, but with adequate safeguards. A significant reduction in atmospheric pollution from these sources has resulted and great credit is due to the managements concerned, especially when one considers the disruption of work and the high costs involved in these conversions.

Smoke from the humble domestic chimney continues to be one of the main sources of atmospheric pollution and while conceding that legislative control has achieved startling improvements, one is left with the thought that a reduction in the price of smokeless fuels, particularly the more refined ones like electricity, gas and oil would have done a better job in half the time. Responsibility for ensuring clean air over vast areas of Britain is in the hands of Rural District Councils and the ever increasing spread of industrial and residential development into the countryside poses fresh problems.

Forty-two visits were made during the year to deal with problems brought to the attention of the Department and it was necessary to serve written notices in three cases. No cases came to the Council's notice which required attention from the Ministry's Alkali Inspectorate. I am indebted to the Public Analyst and his staff for their willing and valuable help.

NOISE ABATEMENT

One hundred and seven visits were necessary to deal with complaints from householders regarding noise arising on industrial premises. The ratepayers are given prompt service whenever possible, but some of the problems are extremely complex and a number were still outstanding at the end of the year.

The Department has been mainly concerned with noise arising during the night and experience has shown that a surprisingly high level of noise is acceptable by the average person during the day without complaint.

Instruments provided by the Council for noise measurement have proved of great value and were in use all too frequently during

the year. Night surveys still show ambient noise levels which are higher than one expects to find in rural areas but it must be placed on record that factory managements have been generally co-operative and it was not necessary to recommend formal action in any instance.

CARAVAN SITES

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Twelve Site Licences were issued during the year. I am indebted to the County Fire Officer for the very thorough inspection and report made by his Department in every instance of fires in residential caravans which come to his notice. These reports indicate that all too frequently fires are preventable by nothing more than ordinary care and good sense.

The Council's Licence conditions lay down a high standard of fire equipment on caravan sites and particular attention is paid to this aspect in subsequent site inspections by the public health officers.

The County Council consults the Rural District Council on applications received for planning consent for caravan sites, as required by law, and wherever possible the Council supports the Planning Authority.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year under review the number of treatments carried out increased compared with the previous year. Due to this increase and other commitments of the Rodent Officer it was not found possible to test bait the Council's sewers. It is expected, however, that this position will be rectified during the next year.

Refuse tips in the area are inspected regularly and treatments are carried out when necessary. No major infestation, within the terms of the Ministry's definition, have occurred for some years although of course re-infestation of refuse tips is a recurring problem.

Reference was made in the last Annual Report to "Warfarin resistance" occurring in rats and mice. Further scientific investiga-

tion has shown that some individuals in certain common rat and house mouse populations are completely resistant to the anti-coagulant rodenticide "Warfarin", by virtue of genetical change. Fortunately this resistance has not become apparent in this area and accordingly, due to its relative safety in use, "Warfarin" continues to be the major rodenticide used by the Department.

Table 13.

	Inspections	Treatment
Private dwellings	1064	197
Council houses and hutments ..	184	45
Farms	79	3
Business Premises	225	17
Sewers	—	—
Schools	53	9
Hospitals	—	—
Old Sewage Works	21	3
Other	294	14
Total	<u>1920</u>	<u>288</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Table 15.

Type of Business	Total Number	No. of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	107	72	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision shops	119	213	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice Cream Vendors	98	33	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All Ice Cream sold in the district is pre-packed.
Butchers Shops	16	73	Six shops registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Sausage making.
Fishmongers ...	5	5	This includes fried and wet fish.
Bakehouses ...	2	3	These are small and only supply a small proportion of the population.
Licensed Premises	61	84	The breweries are very co-operative in carrying out improvements recommended.
Dairies	5	14	
Wholesale Premises (Food Manufacture)	3	1	Inspected under Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.
Total ...	416	498	

FOOD HYGIENE

A considerable amount of time was taken up in investigating complaints of foreign bodies in food. These are becoming so numerous as to give cause for grave concern. They indicate carelessness at some point in the preparation or distribution of food and this appears to be increasing in spite of the fact that a large proportion of the nation's food is prepared in modern mechanised factories.

The Council decided to prosecute in one case which arose during the year and fines totalling £60 and costs of £14 16s. 4d. were imposed. I acknowledge and thank the Council for the encouragement and support they have given in tackling this problem and unless there is a marked improvement, further prosecutions will be recommended in an effort to give the public the protection to which they are entitled.

Following the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak in May and June a large number of tins of corned beef were inspected at food premises in the district but no tins from the associated source were found. A number of unsatisfactory tins were, however, destroyed as a precaution.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, arrangements were made for Mr. Lars Sten Svedberg of Sweden to study the Council's food administration together with that of other selected local authorities, on behalf of the World Health Organisation. I am indebted to the various factory managements which co-operated in opening their premises during the visits which made up part of the programme.

MILK SUPPLIES

The various dairies in the district are visited regularly and the operators have been most co-operative in maintaining a high standard.

Fewer complaints were received than in previous years of contaminated milk bottles and no statutory action was necessary. There are signs that the more hygienic milk carton is not making the headway one would have hoped and it is likely that the milk bottle will continue to pose its problems for the foreseeable future.

Anthrax Order, 1938

No cases of anthrax were confirmed during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924-52

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

Slaughterhouses

The following slaughterhouses were licensed in 1964.

1. Churchdown, Chapel Hay.
2. Eastington, Alkerton Place.
3. Minsterworth, The Flatt.
4. Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Brickhouse Farm
5. Hempsted, Sud Meadow Road.

The Meat (Treatment) Regulations, 1964 came into operation during the year and prohibit the addition to meat of a number of chemical substances specified. No instance of the use of prohibited additives came to the notice of the Department.

Too many cattle were found infested with *cysticercus bovis*, which while having little effect on the animals can give rise to tapeworms in the intestines of human beings which may exceed 20 feet in length. Infestation of both humans and animals is necessary to complete the life-cycle of this parasite and the fact that it is still being detected in the slaughterhouses is evidence that many people still harbour the tapeworm. (See notes under Rural Sanitation (b)).

The Public Health Inspectors arrange for carcasses with small infestations to be held at 14° F for at least 2 weeks or 20° F. for at least 3 weeks to kill all viable cysts. The loss to the nation from this parasite alone must be tremendous when one considers that one carcass of beef may deteriorate by as much as £50 in value as a result of this treatment and that prime animals are the ones usually affected.

Table 16. Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known) ..	2794	147	149	21638	4294	29022
Number inspected	2794	147	149	21638	4294	29022
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	8	10	3	118	4	143
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	427	109	4	965	376	1881
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticercosis	15.64%	80.95%	4.73%	5.01%	8.85%	6.98%
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	6	—	—	33	41
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.07%	4.90%	—	—	0.75%	0.14%
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	23	2	—	—	—	25
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	23	2	—	—	—	25
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for :—

(i) All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis	22835 lb.
(ii) Tuberculosis	820 lb.
(iii) Cysticercosis	491 lb.
Total ..	24146 lb.

(or 10 tons 15 cwt. 2 qr. 10 lb.)

Cysticercus Bovis **Regional Infestation**

	<i>Number infested</i>
External masseter muscles	11
Internal masseter muscles	4
Heart musculature	7
Other sites	3

The Council maintained its 100% post-mortem inspection of all food animals slaughtered in the district for sale. Bacteriological examination was carried out regularly as a check on the cleanliness not only of the meat, but of the slaughterhouse equipment used. The Council's meat inspection service has been gradually improved over the years and it is hoped eventually to achieve 100% ante-mortem inspection.

There was a substantial increase in the number of animals slaughtered during the year and without the excellent co-operation which exists between the meat traders and the Council's officers it would not be possible to maintain this service without detriment to other public health work.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Condemnation of Foodstuffs

Table 17.

Article	Non-Preserved lb.	Preserved, tinned, etc. lb.
Meat	24146	90
Flour and Cereals	—	—
Vegetables	—	48
Fish	—	—
Cheese & Fats	—	—
Fruit	—	7
Cream & Evaporated Milk	—	—
Totals	24146 lbs.	145 lbs.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Health Education

The "Cohen report on Health Education" was published during the year and has provoked considerable discussion among interested bodies. Notable among its recommendations is the emphasis placed on health education remaining the responsibility of local authorities.

The public health inspectors have been active in this field and lectures have been delivered at the Technical College, Grammar and Secondary Modern Schools, and a number of organisations throughout the district.

Year by year the demand for the service increases and this will in time necessitate the purchase of more sophisticated audio and visual aid equipment in order that full advantage can be taken of the many excellent aids to health education that are available.

The interest shown by members of the public in particular aspects of public health, has, on several occasions, "pin pointed" local problems with the result that the work of the department can be channelled towards meeting and dealing with these matters before they become major issues.

In talking to groups comprised mainly of housewives, the emphasis has been placed on the responsibility which they share with Health Authorities to raise the standards of hygiene, by shopping only in premises where the highest standards of hygiene are observed.

The continued expansion of the service is anticipated and every effort is made to provide a speaker on request.

The prime object in carrying out a programme of health education is to produce a healthy community and thereby to reduce, as far as possible, the demands on the country's medical and hospital services, and it is with this end in view that the Department places considerable importance on the service provided.

NEW HOUSING, 1964

Number of dwellings erected during the year:

By the Council :

Churchdown (Sandfield Road)	..	..	..	..	20
Tirley	..	..	..	..	4
Newnham (Station Road)	..	..	..	..	12
Longlevens (Rookery Road)	..	..	..	..	8
Brockworth (Green Way)	..	..	..	..	9
Quedgeley (School Lane)	..	..	..	..	11
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	431
					—
					495
					—

Council dwellings under construction:

Brockworth (Green Close)	27
Brockworth (Ribble Close)	8
Frampton-on-Severn	35
	—
	70
	—

Housing schemes under consideration :

The Council were proceeding with schemes for the erection of dwellings in various parishes.

Private Enterprise houses under construction at 31st December, 1964	580
Number of Council houses sold to tenants in 1964 ..	3
Total number of dwellings owned by the Council on 31st December, 1964	2181

There were 535 applicants on the Council's housing list at the end of 1964 compared with 975 at the end of 1963.

Housing Progress

Dwellings erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1964 :

By the Council and local housing society	2037
By Private Enterprise	5035

HOUSING ACT, 1957

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Houses Demolished During the Year

Number of houses demolished	33
Persons displaced	50
Families displaced	14

Unfit Houses Closed During the Year

Number of houses closed	11
Persons displaced	10
Families displaced	4

The houses included in this category are those which fall so far below the required standard that they are deemed not to be repairable at reasonable expense. Slum clearance work is likely to occupy the Council's attention for a long time to come as older houses gradually fall into decay owing to economic and other factors.

When action is commenced by the Council, it is common for owners to express a wish to recondition their properties rather than allow them to be condemned. They are encouraged in this course partly by the high market value of country properties and partly by the prospect of grant-aid in appropriate cases. By no means all unfit houses are suitable subjects for reconditioning, but where this course is practicable it should be encouraged in order to maintain the nation's pool of housing and to help preserve the various village communities in the district.

Slum clearance is an essential and costly aspect of the Council's duties and could not proceed without the advance provision of new homes for the families to be displaced. I have to acknowledge the support given by the Chairman and Members of the Council's Housing Committees for without their encouragement the Council's very fine record in the post-war period would not have been possible.

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1961

Table 18.

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

Premises	No. of premises in Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	10	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. ..	96	74	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers). ..	56	20	—	—
Total	162	98	1	—

Table 19.**2. Cases in which defects were found.**

Particulars	Number of cases where defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M.I.	by H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	9	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Latrines (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including Homework).	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	10	10	—	—	—

Table 20. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. outworkers in Aug. list as req'd.	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Cases of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	(No reports of outworkers were received during the year)					

Factories Act inspections are combined where possible with visits under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960, the Clean Air Act 1956, and the Petroleum Regulations etc.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The working conditions of industrial workers have been controlled by the Factories Acts for many years. This control did not apply to persons working in offices, shops and similar premises,

who comprised a substantial part of the nation's working population. Local authorities are required to administer much of the above-mentioned Act of which parts came into force on the 1st May, 1964, and the remainder on the 1st August, 1964. In addition to the control of cleanliness, temperature, lighting, ventilation and washing arrangements, the Act also lays upon local authorities responsibilities for investigating and dealing with accidents arising on these premises.

Responsibility for safety is a new departure for local authorities and one accident was reported during the year. A report was submitted to the Ministry but no statutory action was necessary.

By the end of the year 102 premises had been registered with the Council.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, 1960

Under the provisions of this Act, the Council are advised by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of all factories and other places within the District which have become registered users of radioactive material.

No accidents or cases of difficulty arising from the storage or use of this material were brought to the Council's attention during the year.

PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION

The legislation governing the storage, transportation and sale of petroleum spirit is contained in the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, and Regulations made thereunder. Local Authorities are required to licence premises where petroleum spirit is stored and they may attach conditions to the licence.

One hundred and four premises were licensed to store petroleum spirit and this represented a total of 2,801,723 gallons.

Premises were visited at regular intervals to ensure that they complied with the licensing conditions and that they were being operated in a satisfactory manner.

Two new petroleum installations were licensed during the year, and in each case the tanks and pipelines were subjected to an air pressure test in accordance with the recommendations of the Home Office.

Two cases of leakage were detected in existing petrol tanks and appropriate action was taken. In each case the use of the tanks was discontinued and tests were carried out to ensure that they did not contain an explosive mixture before being permanently sealed. The programme of testing tanks which have been in use for over twenty years was continued and it is pleasing to note that in no case did a tank fail the test.

The Council approved its existing set of conditions to be attached to petroleum licences in 1954. Since then the petroleum industry has expanded considerably and new methods of dispensing petroleum are being mooted. In view of these developments consideration will have to be given to the adoption of new conditions which are more compatible with current trends.

S. W. D. HARRIS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.





