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Borough of High Wycombe



# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

*Public Health Services*

1961

A. J. Muir, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

R. F. Shapter, M.A.P.H.I.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

**C O N T E N T S**

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Borough of High Wycombe

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

## Public Health Services

### 1961

A. J. Muir, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

R. F. Shapter, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector



## S T A F F

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Also Medical Officer of Health for Marlow Urban District and Wyeombe Rural District Councils.  
Area and Divisional School Medical Officer, Bucks County Council)

A. J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

#### Main Office address

Municipal Health Centre,  
High Wyeombe

Telephone : High Wyeombe 4031/2

(Home Telephone : High Wyeombe 1338)

### DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Also Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Marlow Urban District and Wyeombe Rural District Councils.  
Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer, Bucks County Council)

T. E. ROBERTS, M.B., B.S., D.(Obst) R.C.O.G., D.P.H.  
(Resigned 30.9.61)

P. E. DOYLE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.A., D.P.H.  
(Appointed 1.11.61)

### CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R.F. SHAPTER, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate

### DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

L.S. DICKER, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate,  
R.S.H. Smoke Certificate

### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

W. WOODWARD, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate

J.F. LEAH, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate

G.R. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate  
R.S.H. Smoke Certificate

### PUBLIC ANALYST

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.I.C.

### CHIEF CLERK

A.G. HALL



To : THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF  
HIGH WYCOMBE

I have pleasure in submitting my eighteenth Annual Report on the Public Health Services of the Borough.

The Registrar General's Estimate of the population in mid-1961 was 51,150 - an increase of almost 5,000 on the previous year. This increase of 11% approximately, confirms the impression that the population of the Borough has risen markedly in the past few years. This increase is seen, not only in the number of new houses, but also in the evidence of increased overcrowding in some parts of the town.

The number of births was 997, the highest on record; and it represents an increase of 5% on last year. Unfortunately, the illegitimate rate also rose to 7.2% of live births. This is somewhat higher than the national average of 5.4%. The increased number of births in recent years is reflected in the increased demand on maternity beds and in increased attendance at Child Welfare Clinics.

There were fifteen infant deaths in the year, a decrease of five on 1960. This gives an infant mortality rate of 15.04 as against the national average of 21.4 per 1,000 live births. Again, the majority of these deaths occurred shortly after birth and can be mainly attributed to defects with which the infants were unhappily born.

During the year there were 435 deaths, a decrease of 24 on 1960. Diseases of 'old age' were responsible for most of these deaths and, once again, disease of the heart and circulation was the main single cause of death accounting for 43% of the total. Cancer caused 91 deaths and again lung cancer was the largest single cause in this group. Although the lung cancer rate for men has quadrupled between 1940 and 1960, many are still dubious that cigarette smoking is responsible. The Minister of Health,



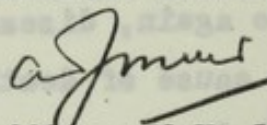
writing about the 'epidemic of cancer of the lung', gives some data on Jersey : "The island records the highest male cancer death rate in the world as well as an exceptionally high rate for women. According to reports of the Medical Officer of Health, more tobacco per head of population is consumed in Jersey than anywhere else. There is no air pollution problem and no case of lung cancer was recorded in a non-smoker during the years 1957 to 1959".

An epidemic of measles during the year was responsible for most of the 685 notifications of infectious diseases. Eleven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified representing a fall of 20% on the previous year. Nonetheless, the fact that 11 new cases came to light emphasises that the problem of tuberculosis is still with us and that no effort should be spared in its detection and eradication. There was no case of poliomyelitis during the year and it is not unreasonable to assume that poliomyelitis immunisation may have contributed to this. Nevertheless it is highly desirable that all those who are eligible but have not as yet been immunised should rectify this omission as soon as possible. To this end, evening immunisation sessions continue to be held at the Health Centre.

Once again I record my thanks to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff, to my brother officials and to my own staff for their loyalty and enthusiasm during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

October 1962



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Municipal Health Centre,  
High Wycombe  
October 1962

SECTION I

STATISTICS :

Area	...	...	...	...	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	51,150
Number of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	15,353
Rateable Value as at 1.4.61	...	...	...	...	£977,779
Product of a Penny rate (Actual 1960/61)	...	...	...	...	£3,750

RAINFALL :

Pann Mill, Easton Street	...	...	29.07 ins.
Widdenton Park, Lane End	...	...	28.74 ins.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS :

Live Births :

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Legitimate	930	471	459	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 19.5 Adjusted Rate .. 18.1
Illegitimate	67	33	34	
<b>Total births</b>	<u>997</u>	<u>504</u>	<u>493</u>	

Still Births :      18      7      11      Rate per 1,000 total  
(live and still)  
births ... 17.73

Deaths :      435      239      196      Death Rate per 1,000 of  
the estimated resident  
population ... 8.5  
Adjusted Rate .. 10.37

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil



DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

Total number of deaths	...	...	...	15
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births				15.0
Number of legitimate infant deaths	...	...	...	15
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	16.1
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	...	...	...	Nil
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	-

Neo-natal death rate

Number of deaths of children under 4 weeks (7 males, 3 females)	...	...	...	10
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	10.0

Early Neo-natal death rate

Number of deaths of children under 1 week (6 males, 2 females)	...	...	...	8
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	8.0

Perinatal Mortality rate

Number of deaths in first week	...	8	
Number of still births	...	18	
Total	...	26	
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...		25.61

DEATHS (ALL AGES) :

Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	87
Measles	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	...	...	...	3
Total Tuberculosis deaths (all cases)	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	...	...	...	0.02
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis deaths	...	...	...	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	...	0.02
Total Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis deaths	...	...	...	Nil
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	...	-
Total Respiratory Deaths (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	79
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	1.54

INFANTILE MORTALITY :

Fifteen infants under the age of twelve months died during 1961, giving an infantile mortality rate of 15.0 per 1,000 live births.



Ten of the deaths occurred in the first four weeks (eight of them in the first week) and the causes are given below :-

Atelectasis	...	...	...	2
Birth Injury	...	...	...	3
Cerebral Anoxia	...	...	...	1
Congenital Heart Defect	...	...	...	2
Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	1

Of the deaths between 4 weeks and 52 weeks, the following causes were given :-

Accidental	...	...	...	1
Broncho pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Cardiac Failure	...	...	...	2
Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	1

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for High Wycombe and England & Wales for the last ten years :-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England & Wales	27.60	26.80	25.50	24.90	23.80
High Wycombe	15.13	12.12	17.80	11.50	14.70

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
England & Wales	23.00	22.50	22.00	21.70	21.40
High Wycombe	26.90	18.47	12.20	21.00	15.04



CAUSES OF DEATH :

	<u>1960</u>		<u>1961</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
1 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	-	1	-
2 Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
3 Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	-
4 Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5 Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6 Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	1
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8 Measles	-	-	-	-
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	3	-
10 Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	6	4	5	5
11 Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	26	5	23	2
12 Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	8	1	11
13 Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	3	-	6
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	25	20	22	12
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	2	3	1
16 Diabetes	-	2	2	1
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	20	29	13	30
18 Coronary Disease, Angina	44	17	46	28

S E C T I O N 1 0 0 0 0

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES  
PROVIDED BY HEALTH SERVICES

		<u>1960</u>		<u>1961</u>	
		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	13	4	4
20	Other Heart Disease	16	34	23	17
21	Other Circulatory Disease	11	12	11	12
22	Influenza	1	-	2	5
23	Pneumonia	28	12	14	21
24	Bronchitis	9	13	23	10
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	2	3	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2	5	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	3	1	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	5	5	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	4	-
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	-
31	Congenital Malformation	8	2	3	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	20	18	14
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1	3	1
34	All other Accidents	2	3	-	3
35	Suicide	1	1	1	1
36	Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	1
T o t a l s		<u>245</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>196</u>



## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### HOSPITALS :

The Borough is in the area administered by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The hospitals available to local residents are as under :-

<u>General</u>	War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe Amersham General Hospital Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury
<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
<u>Tuberculosis</u>	Sanatorium, Peppard Common
<u>Maternity</u>	Shrubbery Maternity Home, High Wycombe Amersham Hospital Maternity Unit
<u>Mental</u>	St. John's Hospital, Stone, Aylesbury

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :

This service is provided by the County Council. The local nursing headquarters are at the Grange, Amersham Hill and there is a resident Superintendent in charge. Student Midwives are also given instruction in domiciliary midwifery and are attached to the Nurses' Home for a spell whilst doing their "Part II" training at the Shrubbery Maternity Home.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

The needs of the district are served by the Ambulance Station in West End Street which caters for an extensive area in and around High Wycombe.



SECTION III

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

**CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :**

**(a) Administered by the Bucks County Council**

**Child Welfare Centres**

**Municipal Health Centre**  
Tuesdays and Fridays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**St. Peter's Church Hall**  
Micklefield Road  
Mondays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**St. Anne's Church Hall**  
London Road, Wycombe Marsh  
2nd and 4th Tuesdays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**Methodist Church Hall**  
Rutland Avenue  
Tuesdays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**Methodist Schoolroom**  
High Street, West Wycombe  
4th Wednesday  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**Sands Village Hall**  
2nd and 4th Thursdays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**Social Centre, Totteridge**  
Thursdays  
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**Dental Clinic**

**51 Priory Road**  
(Nursing and Expectant Mothers  
and children under school age)

**Mothercraft and  
Relaxation Classes**

**Municipal Health Centre**  
Mondays, Wednesdays and  
Thursdays, 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

**Women's Advisory Clinic**

**Municipal Health Centre**  
Mondays, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.

(b) Administered by Regional Hospital Board

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

Out-Patients' Department  
War Memorial Hospital  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
10.0 - 11.0 a.m.

Tuberculosis Clinic

Chest Clinic, War Memorial Hospital  
Mondays 12.30 - 3.15 p.m.  
(Contacts)  
Tuesdays 9.0 a.m. - 12 noon  
(New Cases)  
Fridays 9.0 a.m. - 12 noon  
(Old Cases)

Venereal Diseases Clinic

War Memorial Hospital  
Wednesdays and Fridays  
2.0 - 6.30 p.m.  
(New Patients 3.30 - 5.30 p.m.)  
Dr. Korn in attendance  
4.30 - 6.30 p.m.)

LABORATORY SERVICES :

Facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford.

SECTION IV

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) Notifiable Diseases

The Table on the following page gives the number of cases notified during the year.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1961

Disease	Notified Cases	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Age Unknown
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Post Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	646	14	51	74	82	91	318	15	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	15	3	-	2	3	5	2	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	685	17	51	76	85	96	325	16	2	17	-



(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

Generally speaking, during 1961 immunisation against these diseases was performed separately although in many cases when carried out by the family doctor combined vaccines were used. In 1961, 734 children were immunised against diphtheria and 451 had re-inforcing doses. 636 children were immunised against whooping cough whilst 80 were protected against tetanus.

(c) Vaccination against Smallpox

791 primary vaccinations and 78 re-vaccinations were performed. These figures are an increase of 16% on those of the previous year.

(d) B.C.G. Vaccination (Tuberculosis)

The scheme for immunising 13 yr. olds continued during the year. All children attending maintained and independent schools were offered this service and after preliminary tuberculin testing the negative re-actors were vaccinated. The percentage of positives - indication of previous infection with tuberculosis - has decreased markedly in recent years, as shown in the following table :-

1958	-	19.7% +ve
1959	-	14.2% +ve
1960	-	8.0% +ve
1961	-	9.0% +ve

This decrease in the number of positive re-actors is a welcome sign of a decrease in natural infection in the district but it means that more children have to be vaccinated.

That this procedure is of great value is shown by a report of the Medical Officer of Health of London County Council in which he stated that since routine vaccination of school-children began eight years ago no immunised person has subsequently contracted pulmonary tuberculosis.



(e) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

This was continued throughout the year and supplies of vaccine were plentiful. Generally speaking, children attended day-time clinics and special provision was made for the adults at evening sessions.

During 1961, 46,847 doses of vaccine were administered in the Wycombe Area of which the Borough is a constituent part; and since the inception of the scheme in 1956, 202,950 doses have been given.

(f) Tuberculosis

Eleven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified - three less than in the previous year. No case of non-pulmonary disease was notified. There was only one death recorded, this being the fewest ever from this disease. As recently as fifteen years ago deaths averaged 20 per year and that in a much smaller population.

(g) Isolation Hospitals

The area is served by hospitals at Aylesbury, Reading and Maidenhead.

S E C T I O N     V

TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis Service is administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tables on the following pages give, at a glance, the position regarding Tuberculosis in High Wycombe during 1961.



TABLE I

## TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	RESPIRATORY			NON RESPIRATORY			GRAND TOTAL
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January 1961	169	111	280	25	16	41	321
No. first notified during 1961	7	4	11	-	-	-	11
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	9	7	16	1	-	1	17
No. removed from Register during 1961							
(a) died ...	3	-	3	-	-	-	3
(b) removed from district ...	8	4	12	-	-	-	12
(c) de-notified ...	3	5	8	1	1	2	10
No. remaining on Register on 31st December 1961	171	113	284	25	15	40	324

TABLE I I

## DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Deaths	7	6	5	2	3	5	9	6	4	1

TABLE I I I

AGE-GROUPS OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	7	4	-	-	3	-	-	-

The above Table gives in full details and number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons on the Register (either from Tuberculosis or other cause) notified during 1961.

SECTION VI

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 : SECTION 47

No formal action required.



TABLE I I I - DEATHS

AGE-GROUPS OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS

AGE GROUP	1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		1954		1953	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60 and over	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Totals	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4

The above Table gives in full details and number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons notified during 1961. Tuberculosis or other cause notified during 1961.

Year	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
Deaths	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7

No formal action reported.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F   P U B L I C   H E A L T H   I N S P E C T O R

for the year 1961

To the Mayor, Aldermen  
and

Councillors of the Borough of High Wycombe

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the work of my Department for the year 1961.

For some years the inspection of meat and other foods for fitness, the inspection of food premises and equipment for condition and cleanliness, the sampling of foods - bacteriologically as well as chemically - for quality has played an important part in the work of the Department. This is perhaps of even greater importance to-day and the work of the Department in this direction is set out on pages 25 to 37.

It is pleasing to know that no serious case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

Housing also plays an important part of our duties. Clearance progress was a little slower during the year but the overall picture is satisfactory. The special circumstances of each person to be re-housed may delay the re-housing programme to some degree but I am sure that the sympathetic treatment of displaced persons by the Housing Committee is appreciated. The provision of houses is, of course, a matter for the Borough Engineer and Surveyor and not for my Department, but the two operations of housing go hand in hand - in fact it reminds me of the coconut-stand owner who says to his customer "You knocks 'em down and I stands 'em up."

In housing matters it is disappointing to see that owners of houses are not taking advantage of the Government's scheme of Standard Grants in order to install essential amenities of the present day living standard into their houses. It is known that works of repair may have to be carried out in order to qualify for the grants, but powers to enforce repair already lie in the hands of your Health Committee. Perhaps, therefore, the time has come to carry out some routine work of housing repairs, with the hope



of the installation of the standard amenities. Has the time not come when the legal standard of a house should include its being provided with a bath, indoor water closet, wash-basin, ventilated food cupboard and hot water supply to the kitchen sink as well as to the bath and wash-basin?

In conclusion, may I add that the work of my Department is not possible without the co-operation of others both within and without this Local Authority. To all these people I offer my sincere thanks. Not least in this direction are the thanks due to my own staff for their loyalty and sense of duty.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. F. SHAPTER

Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following Acts are wholly or partly administered by the Department:-

- Public Health Acts, 1875 - 1961.
- Housing Acts, 1930 - 1961. (Unhealthy Areas, Unfit Houses, demolition, repair etc.)
- Food & Drugs Act, 1955.
- Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.
- Clean Air Act, 1956.
- Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.
- Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957 (Sections 50, 51 & 52.)
- Chepping Wycombe Corporation Act, 1927. Part VII and Sections 101, 102, 104, 105 and 106.
- Explosives Acts, 1875 - 1923.
- Fabrics (Misdescription) Act, 1913 - Regulations 1959.
- Factories Act, 1937.
- Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.
- High Wycombe Corporation Act, 1946. Part V.
- Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.
- National Assistance Act, 1948. Sections 47 and 50.
- Noise Abatement Act, 1960.
- Pet Animals Act, 1951.
- Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.
- Rent Act, 1957.
- Shops Act, 1950.
- Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 - 1954.



## PUBLIC HEALTH (GENERAL)

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Rooms disinfected .....	4
Bedding destroyed (articles) .....	20
Library Books disinfected .....	212

### DISINFESTATION :

#### Eradication of vermin

Number of Council Houses treated ...	9
Number of Private Houses treated ...	6

### DRAINS :

Obstructed drains cleared during 1961 - 107

### WATER SUPPLY

#### Public Supply

Samples of water taken from both the public supply and the untreated water at the Wells controlled by the Bucks Water Board continued to be satisfactory.

Twenty-seven samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford for bacteriological examination and these were all satisfactory.

Four samples of untreated water from supply wells and one sample from a private well were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, and these showed the water to be of good quality.

#### Municipal Swimming Pool

Seventeen samples taken from the Swimming Pool during the year were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

### EXAMINATION OF PLANS

The lists of plans submitted to the Public Works and Town Planning Committee for Planning and Byelaw approval are perused and the plans examined where they affect properties over which



this Department may have some control (i.e. by way of the Food & Drugs Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Clean Air Act etc.) During the year 223 plans were examined in this way and action was taken on 70. The provision of additional ventilation in new shop fronts was one matter which required close watching, and other matters included additional height to industrial chimneys, and intervening ventilation between factory toilets and workrooms.

### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

The provisions of the Act relative to noise nuisances which are dealt with as Statutory Nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1936 are administered by this Department. The number of visits and investigations have, therefore, been included in those relative to all Public Health Nuisances.

During the year, however, thirteen complaints were investigated, but of these only five were considered to be Statutory Nuisances capable of being dealt with under the provisions of the Act. In these cases informal action resulted in a considerable improvement.

It is to be noted that in some cases complaint is made to this Department when noises which, though not able to be dealt with as Statutory Nuisances, have been upsetting to a neighbourhood by virtue of the noises being foreign to the peaceful conditions which originally existed. This is particularly so where industrial development can expand to within very short distances of dwellinghouses, and alternatively where dwellinghouses are built exceedingly close to industrial premises. The complaint is really one against planning, but where this proximity of dwellinghouse and factory occurs the matter becomes one of complaint to the Public Health Department: And who would take kindly to a report that a noise of which complaint is made is not a Statutory Nuisance, when it is something which has come without warning to upset the once quiet conditions. Is there not need for a closer look at planning powers in this respect?

There is no standard of measurement yet laid down for Noise Nuisances. It is a matter of judgment as with so much Public Health work - no measuring stick, no dumpy level and no standard weight.

Noise cannot be measured. Sound can be measured in frequency and intensity, but where the two become noise is a matter of judgment. What is tolerable for one person is intolerable for another. Jazz for the teenager is bedlam to the older folk. Even laughter, jollity and gaiety are fine when one is feeling in the mood, but to the person feeling ill, sad or depressed, such becomes a noise - an annoying noise. To those mentally



depressed even normal sounds may become irksome.

Therefore in judging noise nuisances one must take into consideration all factors of the case - the number of complainants, the times of the alleged complaint, the justification for the noise, its intensity and frequency before any formal action can be taken. If formal action is to be taken then the notice served must define the remedial measures necessary to abate the nuisance.

Nevertheless all cases are investigated and even where it is considered that a complaint of a noise is not justifiable it is sometimes possible to use persuasion to effect an improvement. It must be clearly realised, however, that the Noise Abatement Act is not one which empowers the Local Authority to settle neighbours' disputes, or the Authority's officers to act as intermediaries between bad neighbours (whether in dwellinghouses, factories or other premises).

Perhaps the Act was one of those rushed through Parliament before sufficient thought had been given to its implementation, though it has quite likely been useful to deal with nuisances in some districts where absolutely intolerable noises were experienced.

It may be thought desirable that standards should be laid down after some experience of the administration of the Act has been gained. On the other hand to lay down tolerable limits of sound levels against frequencies may preclude action in cases which at present would be considered as nuisances.

Except where there may be an obvious noise nuisance and the defaulters are non co-operative, the administration is best left to informal action and persuasion. No Public Health Inspector can force the removal of a factory, but only deal with nuisances if and where they exist.



## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### (a) MILK SUPPLY

#### Registration

There are 48 registered distributors of milk within the Borough, such registrations including retail shops.

There is one registered dairy within the Borough - a "dairy" being a place (excluding farms) where milk otherwise than in a closed container is handled prior to distribution to the public.

#### Licensed Premises

Owing to the change in legislation by the Milk Special Designation Order 1961, the number of Licences in respect of Designated Milks has been reduced.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 the licensing of Dealers in Special Grades of Milk and of Pasteurisers of Milk has been transferred to Food and Drugs Authority. This Council, therefore, retains these licensing powers as High Wycombe is a "Food and Drugs" Authority.

Changes have also been made in the type of licences issued and the period of such licensing has been extended to a five year period. Supplementary licences, previously issued to a dealer to sell milk in an area other than his principal place of registration, have been discontinued, and Dealer's (Pre-packed Milk) Licences introduced to permit the sale of designated milks where such milk is sold by the dealer in the container in which it is supplied to the consumer.

The Licences issued in 1961 are as follows:-

Dealer's (Pasteurisers)		1
Dealer's (Pre-packed Milk) in respect of		
(a) Pasteurised		29
(b) Sterilised		32
(c) Tuberculin Tested		28

#### Milk Vending Machines

During the year fourteen additional milk vending machines were brought into use, mainly in factories. There are now eighteen machines in the Borough.



Samples taken from these machines were satisfactory.

### Bacteriological Sampling

283 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford.

Details are as follows:-

	<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised	109	104	5
T.T.Pasteurised	159	144	15
Sterilised	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>283</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>21</u>

It will be seen that the 100% satisfactory results of last year were not maintained. The total percentage failure of 7.4 is a high figure, but it must be pointed out that where a failure occurs follow-up samples are taken, and if a fault in the equipment is not detected in the meantime further failures will result. Furthermore, a fault in a plant would be likely to give rise to failures in all designations of milk put through, and therefore result in three failures on one particular day. Of the failures reported, those in Phosphatase and Sterility are negligible. Of the eighteen failures in Methylene Blue, however, sixteen of these were divided between two pasteurisers. In one case they occurred mainly on two occasions and in cases where unforeseen circumstances gave rise to plant defects. The other case, however, was one which arose spasmodically throughout the year in varying grades of milk. No reason was established for these failures and samples taken by the Authority in the area in which the plant is situated were reported upon as being satisfactory. This matter was, therefore, being pursued at the end of the year.

(b) FOOD SAMPLING :

Analysis by the Public Analyst

The following Table shows results on samples submitted during the year :-

	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Beverages	1	1	2	-
Blackcurrant Juice Syrup	-	1	1	-
Braised Steak & Veg.	-	1	1	-
Cake	-	2	-	2
Chocolate	2	2	4	-
Cod Liver Oil	-	1	1	-
Concentrated Lemonade	1	1	1	1
Cordials	2	1	3	-
Curry	-	1	1	-
Essence of Rennet	-	1	1	-
Fats	3	-	3	-
Fish Cakes	2	-	2	-
Flavouring & Colouring	-	2	2	-
Flour	-	2	2	-
Ground Almonds	-	1	1	-
Hamburg Steaks	1	-	1	-
Ice Cream	2	1	3	-
Jellies	-	2	2	-
Marzipan	2	6	8	-
Milk	28	4	24	8
Peas	-	1	1	-
Pies	-	2	1	1
Pork Cutlettes	1	-	1	-
Preserves	1	-	1	-
Proprietary Medicines	-	1	1	-
Puddings	-	2	2	-
Sage	-	1	1	-
Salad Cream	1	-	1	-
Sauces	1	1	2	-
C/F	48	38	74	12



FOOD SAMPLING (Continued)

	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
B/F	48	38	74	12
Sausages	11	-	11	-
Sausage Rolls	1	-	1	-
Soup	1	1	1	1
Soda Water	-	1	1	-
Stewed Steak	1	1	2	-
Steakettes	1	-	1	-
Sugar	-	2	1	1
Sweets	2	4	6	-
Tinned Meats	-	1	1	-
Toast Spread	-	1	1	-
Tomatoes	1	-	1	-
Vinegar	1	-	1	-
Wines & Spirits	17	-	17	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>14</b>

## Unsatisfactory Samples

### Cake

Both samples were sent to the Public Analyst on complaint from the purchasers. One sample was affected by mould growths and the circumstances of the case were investigated and a warning sent to the retailer and manufacturer concerned with advice to improve rotation of stocks.

The second case was one in which the almond oil contained in the cake was rancid. This case was also taken up with the retailer and manufacturer. No formal action was taken.

### Concentrated Lemonade

In this case there was an excess of preservative but a formal sample of the same consignment showed no excess and no formal action was taken.

### Soup

This was a sample of a commodity labelled as "Mushroom Soup" and contained in a paper packet. The Public Analyst reported that it was a sample of soup mix and commented "As soup is a liquid, articles such as this which are used for making soup should be described as a soup mix in the same manner as a mixture for making a cake is described as a cake mix." It was understood that the question of this type of labelling was being taken up by The Public Analysts nationally and no further action was taken.

### Milk

(1) A sample of milk brought to the office on complaint of added water was submitted to the Public Analyst. It was known that it might show a deficiency in fat because part of the fat had been consumed. This deficiency was confirmed by the Analyst but no added water was present. Following up samples also proved satisfactory and the suspicions of the complainant unfounded.

(2) Five samples of milk showed a deficiency in fats or solids not fat. Such samples were taken together with five others as "Appeal to Cow Samples" following up on suspected samples analysed in the Department's own Laboratory. Taking the ten samples as a whole, however, the average content was satisfactory and up to standard. No formal action was taken but on notification to the farmer concerned action was taken to improve the quality throughout the herd.

(3) This was also a complaint concerning the suspicion of added water to milk sold for consumption on the premises. No such



added water was confirmed though there was a slight deficiency in solids not fat. As some of the milk had been consumed before being sent for analysis this deficiency was of no consequence, the importance of the analysis being merely to establish the presence or otherwise of added water.

(4) A sample of milk in a dirty bottle on being sent to the Analyst revealed the dust as being "general dust and dirt in congealed milk." Although none of the dust was present in the milk an offence had been committed against the Milk and Dairies Regulations and Legal Proceedings were instituted.

### Pies

Acting on the complaint that a Pork Pie was mouldy the pie was sent to the Public Analyst who reported this to be so. The manufacturers, however, suggested that the discolouration was due to a copper derivative. Further examination by the Public Analyst revealed this as well as the mould. Proceedings were instituted but the Defendants pleaded not guilty to the pie being affected by mould and the case was dismissed by the Magistrates on the grounds that the case had not been proved.

### Sugar

A sample of sugar was submitted for analysis after a complaint from a householder that the sugar had a peculiar taste. Analysis revealed that the sugar contained a small percentage of salt. The sugar refiners were contacted and it was obvious that the salt could not have found its way into the sugar at the factory. Having looked into all the circumstances of the case it was considered that this may have occurred at the home of the purchaser and no further action was taken.

### (c) FOOD CONDEMNATIONS (OTHER THAN MEAT AT SLAUGHTERHOUSES)

Among numerous articles of food condemned were the following:

Vegetables (canned)	58 tins
Fish (canned)	17 tins
Fish (Wet)	9½ stone
Fruit	281 tins
Ham	40 lbs. 13 ozs.
Meat (canned)	128 tins
Meat (fresh)	465¼ lbs.
Milk	19 tins
Soups	12 tins
Tomatoes	94 tins
Poultry	86 lbs.



Condemned food is taken to the Corporation's Tip and the destruction of each consignment is supervised by a member of the Department. All tins and packages are broken open before disposal.

(d) LABORATORY TESTING OF MILK

127 samples of milk were tested in the Department's Laboratory for the percentage of fat and solids not fat.

The average contents were as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids not fat</u>
Channel Island	4.6	8.88
All grades other than Channel Island	3.7	8.64
All grades	3.9	8.68

Over 100 samples were taken from churns of milk as supplied to the dairy in order to check on the quality of milk before bulked in the Pasteurisation Plant. Of this churn-sampling seven samples failed in fat content only, thirteen in solids not fat only, and three in both fat and solids not fat. Except in one case, however, the failures were not so far deficient as to cause the necessity of an immediate follow-up, the total consignment from any particular farm being well within the standard. In one case formal following up was necessary, but in this case the formal samples in bulk were satisfactory and this is reported on under the formal sampling report.

(e) ICE CREAM

Four new registrations were made for the storage of ice-cream and the sale of ice-cream. There are now 173 registered premises within the Borough.

Three registrations relate to the manufacture of ice-cream and in all cases complete cold mix powders are used.

Fifty-nine samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows:-

Grade I : 51 samples  
Grade II : 5 samples  
Grade III : 3 samples

It would be exceedingly pleasing to report that no sample fell into a category below Grades I and II, but as the reports do not show successive failures in a particular type of ice-cream the results as a whole are satisfactory, particularly as it will be noted that no sample fell into provisional grade IV. Samples



were taken from retail shops, cafes and mobile vehicles.

(f) OTHER REGISTERED PREMISES

There are forty-nine other registered food preparing premises within the Borough, mainly for fried fish and sausage manufacturing. No established bacteriological sampling is in force for the products prepared at these establishments.

(g) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-1960.

Inspections and re-inspections of premises relative to these Regulations were carried out during the year. The attendance of occupiers was drawn to various provisions as follows:

Lack of hot water supply	6 cases
Lack of sinks	4 cases
Lack of wash-hand basins, soap & towel	6 cases
Lack of lighting or ventilation	4 cases
Lack of cleanliness	22 cases
Disrepair	3 cases
Other provisions	3 cases

Food Hygiene

The Food Hygiene Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1956. After six years it would appear that some shop owners, management or personnel are not yet fully aware of the provisions, too idle to carry them out, or just not bothered!

A case taken before the Magistrates Court during the year related to a bakehouse in which ten charges were alleged. As some of these charges related to cleanliness of the different parts of the premises a total of twenty-four contraventions was involved. Two of the charges were admitted but a plea of not guilty was made on eight charges relating to the cleanliness of the various rooms of the bakehouse. The evidence included a description of cobwebs on ceilings and across windows, floors encrusted with dust, old stale dough and dirty crumbs on baking trays and cupboards. The charges were proved and the total fines amounted to £200 with 10 guineas costs.

Perhaps there is a need for further education of the Food Handler, and perhaps also a need to use stronger action than the informal action which has been used in the past? There is no doubt that there will always be a minority of persons who will fail to attain the standard, but it must be realised also that in many cases the standard set by the Food Hygiene Regulations falls short of the standard adopted in many establishments. Perhaps therefore the time has come for a further revision of our Food Hygiene Regulations to improve the basic standard which is



surely not a high one at the present time. It must be commented, of course, that the public are able to enforce a standard by refusing to purchase food where the standard of hygiene is not to their liking. Or does the saving of a halfpenny here or there rank of more importance? And has not the time come when certain foods should be banned from sale in an open market.

The pre-packing, deep freezing and refrigeration of many foods has no doubt assisted in the hygienic method of handling many commodities, but it has also brought with it a variation of added preservatives, chemicals and the risk of mould growths. The importance of the packing depends on where and how it is packed - if the packing centre is not of a good hygienic standard then the added cost of pre-packing is not worth while. The Public Health Inspector in the district of the packing establishment carries responsibility beyond his own district. The final operation before sale is also important, as if a pack has to be broken down into smaller amounts, there may be little benefit from pre-packing!

(h) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The Tables below set out the statistics relative to the work on meat inspection, an important duty of the Department. The table of animals slaughtered shows that in the complete year the total is near that of 1959. The figures for 1960 were less than the average owing to the closure of one slaughterhouse for a period during which alterations were carried out.

In the Table of condemnations which follows a marked rise in the animals affected by Cysticercosis will be noted. All cases were submitted to refrigeration treatment. It is not possible to give the cause of this increase but the figures of future years will be closely watched.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Oxen	1447	1167	1780
Cows	186	268	410
Calves	93	102	137
Sheep	6781	3659	6054
Pigs	1365	1423	1409
Horses	-	-	-
	<u>9872</u>	<u>6619</u>	<u>9790</u>



	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	1,780	410	137	6,054	1,409
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	488	141	-	124	160
Percentage of the number killed affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercci	27.4	34.4	-	2.	11.4
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	1	-	-	21
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	.22	.24	-	-	1.5
<u>Cysticerccosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	14	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Cysticerccosis	.78	-	-	-	-

TABLE SHOWING CONDEMNED ORGANS OF ANIMALS - I

	Head	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Other Organs	Total
<u>Cattle</u>							
Tuberculosis	5	5	-	-	-	-	10
Abscess	2	2	14	1	139	5	163
Actinobacillosis	12	12	-	-	1	-	25
Ascaris	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cavernous Angioma	-	-	-	-	77	-	77
Cirrhosis	-	-	-	-	54	-	54
Cysticercus Bovis	14	14	3	11	1	1	44
Distomum Hepaticum	-	-	7	-	278	-	285
Hydatid Cysts	-	-	3	-	2	-	5
Inflammation	-	-	2	-	1	3	6
Injury	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Parasite	-	-	2	-	9	1	12
Pleurisy	-	-	11	-	-	1	12
Peritonitis	-	-	-	-	2	9	11
Pneumonia	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
Traumatic Peritonitis	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	33	33	47	12	567	27	719



TABLE SHOWING CONDEMNED ORGANS OF ANIMALS - II

	Head	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Other Organs	Total
<b>Sheep</b>							
Abscess	-	-	2	-	2	1	5
Cirrhosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Distomum Hepaticum	-	-	-	-	17	-	17
Hydatid Cysts	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ill Bleeding	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Parasitic	-	-	-	-	104	-	104
Pneumonia	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
	-	-	4	1	125	3	133
<b>Pigs</b>							
Abscess	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Ascaris	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Bacillosis	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Cirrhosis	-	-	2	-	22	-	24
Congestion	-	-	10	1	-	-	11
Hydronephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Ill Bleeding	-	-	23	-	5	-	28
Inflammation	-	-	1	1	-	2	4
Melanosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Milk Spot	-	-	-	-	34	-	34
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Parasite	-	-	-	-	10	-	10
Pleurisy	-	-	4	-	-	2	6
Pneumonia	-	-	16	-	-	-	16
Trauma	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis	20	20	-	-	-	-	40
	21	21	57	2	79	13	193

The weight of condemned meat and offal for the year 1961 was :

Beef not in carcase	1147 lbs.
Mutton not in carcase	15 lbs.
Perk in carcase	80 lbs.
Perk not in carcase	249 lbs.
Offal	<u>8094 lbs.</u>
	9585 lbs.

= 4 tons, 5 cwts, 2 qrs, 9 lbs.

### MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS

1878 - 1953

As is usual observations have been kept on shop displays etc., concerning the marking of goods. Nineteen definite visits were made in connection with this matter but many more were made when Inspectors were inspecting premises etc., for other purposes.

(c) REPAIR

(b) STANDARD GRANTS



## H O U S I N G

### (a) HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

During the year 402 visits or inspections were made in respect of houses in multiple occupation. At the end of the year 131 houses were known to be occupied in this manner. Notices under Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1957 were served setting out the number of persons and rooms to be used for sleeping purposes in respect of 23 houses. Evening inspections were carried out where necessary in order to follow up on Notices served.

Legal proceedings were taken in four cases where overcrowding was established in contravention of Section 90 Notices. Fines amounting to £11 were imposed with a total of fourteen guineas costs.

### (b) CLEARANCE AREAS

The following Table will show the work of the clearance of houses during the year and it will be noted that only 58 houses were declared as Clearance Areas. These consisted of one area of 39 houses (Railway Place Clearance Area), the remainder being made up in lots of three or four houses, the latter being dealt with by agreed purchase on being offered to the Corporation or by negotiation in order to avoid the necessity of formal action. The re-housing of persons from other areas continued as did the demolition of houses in areas already dealt with. An enquiry into the Oxford Road (No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order was held on 15th May, 1961.

To some extent the programme of clearance of unfit houses was interrupted and this is emphasised by the fact that only 64 houses were declared as unfit in 1959.

To compensate for this position, however, 49 houses were certified as unfit in the Declaration of Unfitness Order in connection with the Central Areas Redevelopment. Confirmation of the Railway Place Clearance Area (Compulsory Purchase) Order and the Unfitness Orders are awaited.

### (c) REPAIR

Forty-nine houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action and seven as a result of formal action.

### (d) STANDARD GRANTS

Forty-nine applications were received during 1961 for the installation of standard amenities. This is only one application



in excess of the applications for 1960, and this is rather disappointing. In seven cases no Grants were payable and two applications were withdrawn.

Work was completed on forty-four houses during the year. The Table below sets out the details with regard to the standard amenities.

	<u>Baths</u>	<u>Food Stores</u>	<u>Hot Water</u>	<u>Wash-Basins</u>	<u>W.Cs.</u>
Applications for	41	26	46	43	35
Completed 1961	31	25	42	37	20
Completed 1961 (Council houses)	-	-	74	75	-

Total amenities applied for, 1961 = 191.

Total amenities installed during 1961 = 304.

(The figures relative to Council houses have been supplied through the courtesy of the Borough Engineer & Surveyor.)

It is disappointing that as far as private houses are concerned very few of the applications or completions relate to tenanted houses.

Address (No.)	Date of Declaration	Date of Completion	Category	Remarks
St. Peter's (No. 1)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 2)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 3)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 4)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 5)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 6)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 7)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 8)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 9)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 10)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 11)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 12)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 13)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 14)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 15)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 16)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 17)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 18)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 19)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 20)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 21)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 22)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 23)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 24)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 25)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 26)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 27)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 28)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 29)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 30)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 31)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 32)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 33)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 34)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 35)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 36)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 37)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 38)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 39)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 40)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 41)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 42)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 43)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 44)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 45)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 46)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 47)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 48)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 49)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	
St. Peter's (No. 50)	1959	1961	C.P.O.	



TABLE 1

Clearance Area Programme during 1961, including further action on Areas declared in 1957 to 1960.

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families of	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1961	Total	
Oxford Road (No. 1)	1957	C.P.O.	1958	1958	16 + 3 not unfit	17	nil	17	16
Pennington Row ) ) )	1957	C.P.O.	1958	1958	84 + 14 not unfit	100	nil	91	90
Duke St. (No.1) ) Richardson Street	1958	Part C.P.O. Part C.O.	1958	1959	4 124	4 130	nil 32	2 109	4 84
Mill St. (No. 1)	1958	A.P.	-	-	5	4	nil	3	-

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1961	Total	
Bridge St. (No.2)	1959	Part C.P.O. Part C.O.	1959	1960	58 + 1 not unfit	51	13	18	-
George St. (No.1)	1959	A.P.	-	-	3	1	-	1	-
Oxford Rd. (No.2)	1959	C.P.O.	1961	-	59 + 1 not unfit	58	-	4	-
Baker St. (No.1) & George St. (No.2)	1960	C.P.O.	1960	1961	62 + 8 not unfit	61	26	26	2
West Wycombe Rd. (No. 1)	1961	A.P.	-	-	2	2	2	2	2
Gordon Rd. (No.1)	1961	A.P.	-	-	4	4	-	-	-



Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1961	Total	
Gordon Rd. (No.2)	1961	A.P.	-	-	3	2	-	-	-
Totteridge Road	1961	A.P.	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
West Wycombe Rd. (No. 2)	1961	A.P.	-	-	4	4	-	-	-
Railway Place	1961	C.P.O.	-	-	39	41	-	-	-
Victoria Street	1960	A.P.	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
				Totals:	473 + 27 not unfit	485	73	273	198
Clearance Areas Redevelopment	1960/1				49	42			

A.P. = Agreed Purchase C.O. = Clearance Order  
C.P.O. = Compulsory Purchase Order

TABLE II

Areas in which action completed before 1961

A R E A	Date of Declaration	No. of Families re-housed by Local Authority	No. of Houses demolished
Bridge St. (No. 1)	1957	13	13
Kingsmead Rd. (No. 1)	1957	5	6
Denmark St. (No. 1)	1957	6	6
Abbey Barn Rd. (No. 1)	1957	7	7
Abbey Barn Rd. (No. 2)	1957	4	6
Brook St. (No. 2)	1957	30	41
Abbey Barn Rd. (No.3)	1957	8	8
Beech Road (No. 1)	1957	5	5
Lily's Walk	-	16	16
Dovehouse Road	1958	14	14
Kingsmead Rd. (No. 2)	1957	6	6
Ship Street	1958	17	19
Ford Street	1958	7	6
Phillips Row	1959	15	20
		153	173



RENT ACT 1957

Table showing work carried out during 1961 and since the above Act first came into force:

	Total in 1961	Grand Total
Applications for Certificates of Disrepair . . . . .	1	141
Decisions not to issue Certificates	-	6
Decisions to issue Certificates	1	135
((a) in respect of some but not all defects)	-	(82)
((b) in respect of all defects)	1	(53)
Undertakings to carry out repairs given by Landlords . . . . .	2	47
Undertakings refused by the Local Authority . . . . .	-	-
Certificates issued . . . . .	-	86
Landlords' Applications to the Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates . . . . .	1	18
Objections by Tenants to Cancellation	-	3
Decisions by the Local Authority to cancel in spite of Tenants' objections . . . . .	-	-
Certificates cancelled . . . . .	1	14



## C L E A N   A I R   A C T

### (a) Domestic Smoke

The Desborough Avenue Smoke Control Area was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. A number of Objections to the Order were received mainly in the form of a petition. The principal objection was the allegation that there was insufficient smokeless fuels to satisfy the needs. A local enquiry was held on 26th September, 1961 in which the necessary assurances in this direction were given. The result of the enquiry was not known by the end of the year.

(Note: The Order was subsequently confirmed during 1962)

The area comprised 192 acres and 488 houses including 177 houses where conversions of fireplaces were needed.

There are nine Smoke Control Orders in the Borough covering 304.6 acres and affecting 1,374 houses.

### (b) Industrial Smoke

Further progress was made during the year in the aim to stop unnecessary smoke from industrial boiler plants. A total of 514 visits or inspections were made in this connection and 414 observations carried out.

Towards the end of the year one of the largest furniture manufacturers brought a new boiler plant into use, wood waste being the main fuel. The plant, an extension of other wood burning plant, was especially designed and to some extent experimental, and is the largest wood burning plant in the Borough. Unfortunately the plant did not come into use without difficulties having to be overcome, and for a time residents in the neighbourhood were inconvenienced by various matters. With the difficulties overcome the plant has since been working satisfactorily.

### (c) Railway Smoke

By the end of 1961 the London Midland line to High Wycombe was almost completely served by diesel locomotives and thus the smoke nuisance from steam locomotives almost entirely disappeared. There remains only the odd goods locomotive which at times is held up at or near the station but these are not numerous and therefore not of major concern.



(d) Air Pollution Measurement

The amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air at the town centre continued to be measured by the Daily Recording Instrument. The figures obtained by the recordings in this Department are forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for inclusion in the complete atmospheric pollution survey throughout the country.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING

MATERIALS ACT 1951

Statistics for the year 1961

Licences issued to manufacture	nil
Licences issued to store Rag Flock for re-sale	7
Total number of registrations	103

Thirty-three samples of Filling Materials were taken during 1961, two of which failed the Prescribed Tests. These were informal samples, and formal samples proved satisfactory.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS 1875 - 1923

Registration of premises where explosives (fireworks etc.) are stored was carried out as required by the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1875.

The number of registrations for the period ended 30th September 1961 was 97.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary Attendant was available on twenty-four hour service throughout the year.

Statistics for the year were as follows:

No. of bodies deposited	- 88
No. of post mortems held	- 79

FACTORIES ACT 1937

No. of factories of all types	547
No. of inspections	263
No. of contraventions found	20
No. of complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories	4

P R E V E N T I O N   O F   D A M A G E   B Y

P E S T S   A C T   1 9 4 9

Agreements in force	11
Total complaints received	497
(Agricultural premises)	-
(Business premises)	125)
(Domestic premises)	324)
(Other premises)	36)
(Complaints not justified)	12)
Total visits by Rodent Operator	1613
Total visits by Public Health	
Inspectors	107



LEGAL PROCEEDINGS 1961.

Table showing legal proceedings taken, and results, during 1961:-

Acts, Orders or Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result
Food & Drugs Act 1955, Sec. 2.	Mould growth on steak & kidney pies (3)	Fined £60. Costs £5-5-0d.
Food & Drugs Act 1955, Sec. 2.	Dirty string in bread.	Fined £10. Costs £5-5-0d.
Housing Act, 1957, Section 90.	Overcrowding in house-let-in-lodgings.	Fined £5. Costs £5-5-0d.
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.	Dirty condition of bakehouse.	Fined £200-0-0d. Costs £10-10-0d.
Food & Drugs Act 1955, Sec. 2.	Dirty milk bottle.	Fined £15. Costs £5-5-0d.
Food & Drugs Act 1955, Sec. 2.	Mould in pork pie.	Case dismissed.
Housing Act, 1957, Section 90.	Overcrowding in house-let-in-lodgings.	Fined £2. Costs £3-3-0d.
Housing Act, 1957, Section 90.	Overcrowding in house-let-in-lodgings.	Fined £2. Costs £3-3-0d.
Housing Act, 1957, Section 90.	Overcrowding in house-let-in-lodgings.	Fined £2. Costs £3-3-0d.
Food & Drugs Act 1955, Sec. 2.	Sand & grit in parsley.	Fined £10. Costs £12-7-0d.
Total fines = £306-0-0d.		
Costs = £53-6-0d.		

## VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

Clean Air Act:	Survey	129
	Observations and Visits	463
	Installations	545
Factories Act:	Powered Factories	225
	Non-Powered Factories	15
	Means of Escape	23
Food & Drugs Act & Food Hygiene Regulations:	Bakehouses	109
	Butchers	141
	Fish Shops	25
	Food Condemnation	90
	Grocers & Greengrocers	233
	Ice Cream premises (not including sampling)	11
	Markets	207
	Miscellaneous	62
	Milk shops & Dairies	48
	Mobile Vendors	56
	Restaurants, Cafes	280
	Sampling: Food & Drugs	84
	Ice Cream	75
	Milk	290
	Water	45
Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection)	681	
Housing Acts:	Clearance	288
	Houses Let in Lodgings	343
	Overcrowding	59
	Repairs	142
	Standard Grants	313
Revisits	181	
Merchandise Marks Act:		19
Miscellaneous:		538
Public Health Act:	Drainage	255
	Dustbins/Refuse	60
	Infectious Diseases	12
	Miscellaneous	2
	Nuisances	140
	Streams and Watercourses	13
	Swimming Pool	12
	Verminous Premises	30
	Water Supply	4
	Entertainment	5
	Movable Dwellings	12
	Revisits	545



Explosives:		113
Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act		29
Rats & Mice:	Inspectors' Visits	107
	Rodent Operator's Visits	1,613
Rent Act:		19
Shops Act:		338

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APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

The following Tables give the prescribed particulars required under the provisions of Section 128(3) of the Factories Act 1937 with respect to matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act.

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	21	15	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	523	225	20	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	29	23	-	-
Totals	573	263	20	-



2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	No. of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	13	-	4	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	20	13	-	4	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in Aug. list Section 110(1) (c)	No. of Cases of Default in sending list to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
<u>Wearing Apparel:</u>						
Making etc.	21	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total:</b>	21	-	-	-	-	-



