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BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE



ANNUAL REPORT
1970 on the work of the
Public Health Services

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

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

1918

1918

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1918



BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE

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Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector
of the Borough, 1970

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BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE



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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Also Medical Officer of Health for New Town District and High Wycombe Rural District Councils, Ards and Districts School Medical Officer, Bucks County Council)

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

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DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

* I.H.P.A.M. W. WOODWARD, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health as to the Public Health Services (General) 5 - 18

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector as to the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough, 1970. 19 - 59

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ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
1 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

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* Qualified Public Health Inspectors in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations and for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

+ Certificated by the Royal Society of Health as Smoke Inspector.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Senior Clerk : Mrs. K. Munday

PUBLIC ANALYST

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
1 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

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

I have pleasure in submitting my 26th Annual Report on the
Health Service of the Borough.

The estimated population of the Borough in mid 1970 was
57,770 only 410 more than in the previous year. As births
exceeded deaths by 700 this suggests that people are moving
out of the town.

Births numbered 1,177, 7 fewer than in 1969. Of the 1,177,
77 were illegitimate, 18 fewer than in the previous year or
6.5% of the total.

477 deaths occurred, an increase of 13. Most deaths were
due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system. These
accounted for 209 (45%). Next in order were cancer, 99
(21.3%), and diseases of the lungs and respiratory systems,
95 (20.4%). Of the cancer deaths 24 were in respect of
lung cancer.

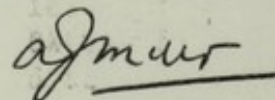
There were 21 deaths of infants aged under one year and of
these 14 were less than a week old. The infantile mortality
rate was 18 per 1,000 births which is exactly the National
rate.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was negligible,
only two reaching double figures, pulmonary tuberculosis 21,
and measles 14. Of course it was not a measles year so it is
premature to credit immunisation with this low incidence.
The figures over the next few years will need to be awaited
before an opinion can be given on this.

In conclusion I express my thanks to Mr. Shapter and his
Staff for all the assistance so freely given throughout the
year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant



Medical Officer of Health

August 1971

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

32 Octagon Parade
High Wycombe
August 1971

SECTION I

STATISTICS :

Area	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar General's estimate) ...	57,770
Number of Dwelling Houses	18,444
Rateable Value as at 1.4.70	£ 4,129,786
Product of a Penny Rate (Actual 1969/70) ...	16,100

RAINFALL :

Pann Mill, Easton Street	772.8 mm
Mill End Road Pumping Station	768.0 mm

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS :

<u>Live Births</u>				Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...
	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Legitimate	1100	585	515	20.4
Illegitimate	77	39	38	Adjusted Rate
	<u>1177</u>	<u>624</u>	<u>553</u>	19.2

<u>Stillbirths</u>				Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births
	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Legitimate	14	5	9	13.0
Illegitimate	1	-	1	

<u>Deaths</u>				Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...
	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
	477	266	211	8.3
				Adjusted rate ... 9.8

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

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

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

Total number of deaths		21
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births		18
Number of legitimate infant deaths		19
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births		17
Number of illegitimate infant deaths		2
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births		26
<u>Neo-natal death rate</u>		
Number of deaths of children under 4 weeks (10 males, 4 females)		14
Rate per 1,000 live births		12
<u>Early Neo-natal death rate</u>		
Number of deaths of children under 1 week (9 males, 3 females)		12
Rate per 1,000 live births		10
<u>Perinatal mortality rate</u>		
Number of deaths in first week	12	
Number of stillbirths	<u>14</u>	
	Total	26
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births		22

DEATHS (ALL AGES) :

Deaths from - Cancer		99
Measles		Nil
Whooping Cough		Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea		1
Total Tuberculosis deaths (all cases)		1
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)		0.029
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis deaths		1
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate		0.029
Total non-Respiratory Tuberculosis deaths		Nil
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate		Nil
Total Respiratory Deaths (excluding Tuberculosis)		88
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)		1.84

INFANT MORTALITY :

Twenty-one infants under the age of twelve months died during 1970, giving an infantile mortality rate of 18.0 per 1,000 live births.

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

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
England & Wales	21.4	21.4	20.9	20.0	19.0
High Wycombe	15.0	16.2	17.5	17.2	16.5

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
England & Wales	19.0	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0
High Wycombe	9.4	8.0	16.0	13.0	18.0

CAUSES OF DEATH :

		1969		1970	
		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
B.1	Cholera	-	-	-	-
B.2	Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-
B.3	Bacilliary dysentery and amoebiasis	-	-	-	-
B.4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-	-	1
B.5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-	-	1
B.6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	1	1	-	-
B.7	Plague	-	-	-	-
B.8	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
B.9	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
B.10	Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	-	-	-	-
B.11	Meningococcal infection	-	-	1	-
B.12	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
B.13	Smallpox	-	-	-	-
B.14	Measles	-	-	-	-
B.15	Typhus and other rickettsioses	-	-	-	-
B.16	Malaria	-	-	-	-
B.17	Syphilis and its sequelae	-	-	-	-
B.18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	2	-
B.19(1)	Malignant neoplasm - Buccal Cavity, etc.	2	-	3	-
B.19(2)	Malignant neoplasm - Oesophagus	2	1	-	1
B.19(3)	Malignant neoplasm - stomach	7	2	9	3
B.19(4)	Malignant neoplasm - intestine	2	5	6	4
B.19(6)	Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	19	2	20	4
B.19(7)	Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	13	-	6
B.19(8)	Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	3	-	-
B.19(9)	Malignant neoplasm - prostate	5	-	3	-
B.19(10)	Leukaemia	1	4	3	1
B.19(11)	Other malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue	10	14	16	19
B.20	Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	1	4	-	1
B.21	Diabetes mellitus	3	4	-	1
B.22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	-	1	-	-
B.46(1)	Other endocrine, nutritional - and metabolic diseases	-	2	-	2
B.23	Anaemias	1	1	-	1
B.46(3)	Mental disorders (excluding Tuberculosis)	-	-	2	2
B.24	Meningitis (excluding Tuberculosis)	-	1	-	-
B.46(5)	Other diseases of nervous system	2	3	2	3
B.25	Active rheumatic fever	-	-	-	-
B.26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	4	2	5

		<u>1969</u>		<u>1970</u>	
		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
B.27	Hypertensive disease	8	5	3	4
B.28	Ischaemic heart disease	68	43	72	41
B.29	Other forms of heart disease	12	14	7	6
B.30	Cerebrovascular disease	17	21	28	36
B.46(6)	Other disease of the circulatory system	7	12	2	5
B.31	Influenza	4	4	2	1
B.32	Pneumonia	18	14	26	29
B.33(1)	Bronchitis, emphysema	21	6	20	4
B.33(Rem)	Asthma	-	-	-	-
B.46(7)	Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	4	4	2
B.34	Peptic ulcer	2	-	1	1
B.35	Appendicitis	-	1	-	-
B.36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	2	1	2
B.37	Cirrhosis of liver	2	-	1	1
B.46(8)	Other diseases of the digestive system	2	3	1	4
B.38	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	5	-
B.39	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	-
B.46(9)	Other disease of the genito-urinary system	2	3	1	1
B.40	Abortion	-	-	-	-
B.41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	-	1	-	-
B.46(10)	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	-	-	-	1
B.46(11)	Diseases of the musculo-skeletal system	-	-	-	3
B.42	Congenital anomalies	1	4	2	2
B.43	Birth injury, difficult labour, and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	2	5	7	-
B.44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-	1	2
B.45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	1	-	1
BE.47	Motor vehicle accidents	6	3	7	3
BE.48	All other accidents	5	2	3	5
BE.49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	4	-	2	-
BE.50	All other external causes	1	1	-	2
Totals :		248	216	266	211

S E C T I O N I I

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 follows :-

<u>General</u>	The General Hospital, High Wycombe Amersham General Hospital Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury. Marlow Cottage Hospital
<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 headquarters are at the Municipal Health Centre.

By the end of the year all the Nursing and Midwifery staff were attached to general practices and attend the patients of these practices no matter where they live rather than restrict themselves to a particular area in the town.

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.

S E C T I O N I I I

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. Peters Church Hall
Micklefield
Mondays
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

St. Anne's Church Hall
Wycombe Marsh
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Methodist Church Hall
Rutland Avenue
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

St. Birinus Church Hall
Cressex Road, High Wycombe.
1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Community Centre
West Wycombe
4th Wednesday
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

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

St. Andrews Church Hall
Totteridge
Thursdays
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Methodist Church Hall
Deeds Grove
1st & 3rd Fridays
2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Immunisation and Vaccination
Clinic

Municipal Health Centre
Tuesdays
9.30 - 11.0 a.m.

Also by computer appointment at all Child Welfare
Centres

Dental Clinic

Municipal Health Centre
(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.
Fridays 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinics

Municipal Health Centre
Mondays 10.0 - 11.0 a.m. (appointments)

(b) Administered by Regional Hospital Board

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal	Outpatients Department Wycombe General Hospital Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10.0 - 11.0 a.m.
Tuberculosis Clinic	Chest Clinic Wycombe General Hospital Wednesdays and Fridays 9.0 a.m. - 12.0 noon
Venereal Diseases	Wycombe General Hospital Mondays and Wednesdays Females : 2.30 - 4.0 p.m. Males : 4.30 - 6.0 p.m.

(c) Administered by Other Bodies

Family Planning Clinic (Family Planning Association)

4 Harlow Road

Mondays 6.30 - 8.0 p.m.
Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.0 p.m. (Vasectomy)
Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.0 a.m. (Sub-fertility)
Thursdays 12.00 - 1.30 p.m. (I.U.D.)
2.00 - 3.30 p.m. "

Young Persons Clinic

Mondays 6.30 - 8.00 p.m.
Wednesdays 12.15 - 1.45 p.m.

6 Harlow Road

Mondays 1.15 - 2.45 p.m.
Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15 a.m.
6.15 - 7.45 p.m.
Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.15 a.m.
6.15 - 7.45 p.m.
Thursdays 6.15 - 7.45 p.m.
Fridays 9.45 - 11.15 a.m.
12.30 - 2.00 p.m.

LABORATORY SERVICES

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

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1970

	Notified Cases	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Age unknown
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis :-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Post infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis :-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	14	-	4	3	1	1	5	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	14	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	6	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Totals:	55	1	4	4	1	1	11	3	7	23	-

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus
 Immunisation against these diseases is carried out with a combined vaccine but occasionally single or dual vaccines are used.

1,245 children were immunised against diphtheria,
 1,242 against tetanus and 1,084 against whooping cough.
 1,342 children had re-inforcing doses.

(c) Vaccination against Measles

During the year 1,322 children were vaccinated against Measles.

(d) Vaccination against Smallpox

There were 904 primary vaccinations compared with 1,004 in the previous year. Re-vaccinations numbered 152.

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

All the secondary schools, including private, were visited and vaccination was offered to the 13-year old group. In the area of the Divisional Executive 2,109 children were tested of whom 1,786 were negative and were vaccinated.

(f) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Oral vaccine only is now used and vaccination is incorporated in the normal clinic routine.

(g) Tuberculosis

21 cases of pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified compared with 15 and 5 respectively in 1969. There was one death from the pulmonary form of the disease.

(h) Isolation Hospitals

Beds for infectious diseases cases are available at Aylesbury, Reading and Maidenhead.

T A B L E I
TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			GRAND TOTAL
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January 1970	121	70	191	32	18	50	241
No. first notified during 1970	15	6	21	7	3	10	31
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. removed from Register during 1970							
(a) Died	2	-	2	-	-	-	2
(b) Removed from District	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
(c) De-notified	2	4	6	-	-	-	6
No. remaining on Register on 31st December 1970	131	72	203	39	21	60	263

T A B L E I I
DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Deaths	1	2	-	3	1	1	2	1	3	1

T A B L E I I I

AGE-GROUPS OF NEW CASES AND OF DEATHS

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
20-25	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	2	2	3	1	-	-	-	-
35-45	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	15	6	7	3	2	-	-	-

The above Table gives in detail the number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons on the Register (either from tuberculosis or other cause) notified during 1970.

S E C T I O N V I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 : SECTION 47

During the year no action was necessary.

Public Health Inspectors Office,
6 Eaton Street,
High Wycombe.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of High Wycombe

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report of my department is to a large degree a statistical report, but I have endeavoured to give interest by way of clarification and explanation. Perhaps in one or two cases I have included somewhat contentious remarks.

On studying the report I am sure that one will see that, although it is broken down into sections on the various aspects of our work, there is to a very great extent an overlapping of one section into another and in this respect the organisation of the department is such that each Public Health Inspector is responsible for all the duties within a district and not one inspector covering a particular sphere of duties. In this way, not only is there a greater interest in the work, but

ANNUAL REPORT

There is also a saving in staff, for I am sure it is realised that once sections of the department are formed, each section requires a "head" and must have assistants - also,

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

It may be that for the year 1970 the little word of the sound of "Local Government Re-organisation" because under this term and others previously used, it has been either hovering in the background or coming to the fore and retreating again for many years. However, I believe that it will not be unfair for us to comment on one or two matters now that it appears to be a reality.

I have already referred to the fact that many duties overlap and perhaps it would be better to suggest that they are knitted together to form one whole as "environmental health". In this case "environmental health" is extended beyond the condition of places of working, eating, sleeping and recreation; it includes the protection of the consumer himself within these places, both from the point of view of health and of fairness in dealing.

One subject for debate is that "Food and Drugs" work should be carried out by the County Authority. "Food and Drugs" is not defined but in some quarters it is held to be

TABLE III
AGE-GROUPS OF NEW CASES AND OF DEATHS

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
20-25	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	2	2	3	1	-	-	-	-
35-45	4	-	<u>ANNUAL REPORT</u>					
45-55	3	2	<u>of the</u>					
55-65	-	-	<u>CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR</u>					
65 and over	<u>for the year 1970</u>							
Total	19	6	7	1	-	-	-	-

The above table gives in detail the number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons on the Register (either from tuberculosis or other cause) notified during 1970.

SECTION VI

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1965, SECTION 17

During the year no action was necessary.

Public Health Inspectors Office,
8 Easton Street,
High Wycombe.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of High Wycombe

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report of my department is to a large degree a statistical report, but I have endeavoured to give interest by way of clarification and explanation. Perhaps in one or two cases I have included somewhat contentious remarks!

On studying the report I am sure that one will see that, although it is broken down into sections on the various aspects of our work, there is to a very great extent an overlapping of one section into another and in this respect the organisation of the department is such that each Public Health Inspector is responsible for all the duties within a district and not one inspector covering a particular sphere of duties. In this way, not only is there a greater interest in the work, but he is able to link one duty with another. There is also a saving in staff, for I am sure it is realised that once sections within a department are formed, each section requires a "head" and must have assistants -also, of course, reflected in salary adjustments.

It may be that one is becoming a little tired of the sound of "Local Government Re-organisation" because under this term and others previously used, it has been either hovering in the background or coming to the fore and retreating again for many years. However, I believe that it will not be amiss for me to comment on one or two matters now that it appears to be a reality.

I have already referred to the fact that many duties overlap and perhaps it would be better to suggest that they are knitted together to form one whole as "environmental health". In this case "environmental health" is extended beyond the condition of places of working, eating, sleeping and recreation; it includes the protection of the consumer himself within those places, both from the point of view of health and of fairness in dealing.

One subject for debate is that "Food and Drugs" work should be carried out by the County Authority. "Food and Drugs" is not defined but in some quarters it is held to be

Public Health Inspector Office
meaning the work defined in the Food and Drugs Act as being specifically for a Food and Drugs Authority as opposed to a District Authority. This in general terms, is the provisions for sampling food and watching the quality, labelling and advertising of food; the registration of premises where milk is pasteurised or retailed and the sampling of milk for bacteriological quality.

Generally speaking the officer dealing with matters at a County or District level is of no consequence when considering the question of which authority should carry out duties but many environmental matters and questions of standards need no "Committee Policy" and become a matter of enforcement, advice or persuasion, backed up by sound technical knowledge and administrative ability. In this case, therefore, the officer himself becomes a relevant consideration.

Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act deals with the offences in the sale etc. of food which is not of the nature, substances or quality demanded and it is this section which is used in connection with complaints of mouldy food, foreign objects in food, etc., in other words, where the substance and/or quality is affected. Many complaints received in this respect are now very clearly linked with that of hygiene or hygienic practices (stock rotation is even allied to the hygienic practice of cleansing shelves) and it would seem to me that this is better dealt with at a district level by the Public Health Officer trained in and enforcing food hygiene standards.

Are not practices relative to the control of food poisoning allied to the purity of food, and is it not sensible that the bacteriological purity and the chemical purity should be carried out by the same officer? The Public Health Inspector, through the District Authority, registers the premises and samples the product in the case of ice cream, why not, therefore, in the case of milk?

High Wycombe, of course, is a "Food and Drugs" authority and it is my opinion that the service to the public (which after all is the most important consideration in this matter) is better carried out by leaving "Food and Drugs" administration with other general food administration; we have had an opportunity of seeing how well one works within the other.

The remoteness of the County is a matter to be reckoned with - if a county authority does not feel remote from the people whom they serve, why are divisional and

sectional offices set up in the larger areas of population within a county district? Why is it that I receive almost as many complaints with regard to food (manufactured outside of the Borough) as does the appropriate County Officer who serves a much larger population, if remoteness is not the answer? In following up complaints of manufactured food, the district authority officer is as unbiased as any county officer. Indeed, in future I sincerely believe that more work in the field of quality and labelling of food will need to be done at the place of manufacture rather than sampled at the point of sale to the consumer - in the same way as in weights and measures administration the important point in packaged and tinned foods is that the weight and measure is correct at the point of packaging or canning, and tests of equipment at that point are all important.

In the case of food packaging, therefore, the Public Health Inspector at a district level will be able to keep the manufacturer "up to scratch" as easily and as efficiently as the officer of any county district.

Having said this I trust that the following pages of my report will be of interest and use.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. F. SHAPTER

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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

Principal Acts

Public Health Acts, 1875 - 1961.
Housing Acts, 1930 - 1969. (Unhealthy Areas, Unfit Houses,
demolition, improvement, repair, etc.)
Food and Drugs Act, 1955. (Including provision re sampling.)
Clean Air Act, 1956 and 1968.
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

Other Acts

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.
Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963.
Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957 (Sections 50, 51
and 52).
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.
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 Acts, 1937 and 1961.
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.
Oil Burners (Standards) Act, 1960.
Pet Animals Act, 1951.
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.
Rent Act, 1968.
Shops Act, 1950 - 1965.
Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1954 - 1958.
Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.
Trades (Misdescription) Act 1968.

PUBLIC HEALTH (GENERAL)

COMPLAINTS

It is the duty of every Public Health Inspector to make a tour of his district from time to time in order to see whether there are any nuisances which require abatement, but whilst this observance indicates a general picture of the environment, information received from the Public by way of complaint brings to light more specific matters. During the year 702 complaints were received concerning various matters and they are listed below.

All complaints were investigated and, where justified, action, usually of an informal nature, was taken in order to abate the nuisances. On the other hand, some complaints were not justified as being complaints of a statutory nuisance but, nevertheless, informal action on behalf of the complainants was used where it was considered that some improvement might result. 46 Informal notices and 1 Statutory Notice were served.

<u>Complaints Received</u>	<u>1970</u>
Accumulations and rubbish	44
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	20
Caravans	2
Clean Air	60
Drainage	73
Dust and obnoxious smells	34
Food and food hygiene	101
Houses in multiple occupation	11
Insect Pests	177
Noise	70
Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance	51
Miscellaneous	59
	<hr/>
	702
	<hr/>

The following notes on complaints received may be of interest.

Drainage

The 73 complaints received included those concerned with combined drainage or private sewers and those matters were transferred to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

Dust and Obnoxious Smells

Of these it may be noted that only two referred to the by-products plant. It was well managed, kept clean, and the raw material brought to it was of high standard and not itself offensive. This has proved that the by-products plant could, in fact, be run without nuisance to the neighbourhood even though houses were built in rather closer proximity than was anticipated when the by-products plant was first erected.

Several of the complaints of smell referred to the cooking from various establishments throughout the town and these were dealt with by the installation of extractor plants or high flues.

Insect Pests

The number of complaints under this heading included those of wasp nests, 105 of which were cleared and, in addition, 18 packets of powder were issued.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

There were few complaints of houses in multiple occupation.

Noise

The complaints of noise were generally concerned with those from factory premises. Several complaints were received concerning one particular factory and as a result of action taken by this department, considerable improvement was made for people in the neighbourhood. The investigation involved late night sound measurements over a period to ascertain the true condition. The complaints also concerned different sources of noise and a process of elimination was necessary.

Noise nuisances are perhaps the most difficult complaints to deal with, the "one person complaint" being sometimes a result of the susceptibility of that person to a particular sound level and frequency. "Noise" cannot be defined and the reasonableness or otherwise and the circumstances of the sound sources have all to be taken into consideration.

GENERAL HEALTH MATTERS

Infectious diseases - visits made	10
Library books disinfected	40
Wasps nests cleared (plus 18 powder given)	105
Houses treated for other insects	3
Advice given in other cases (insects)	17
Houses disinfested	14
Drains cleared	23

Infectious diseases visits were concerned mainly with the follow-up of persons who had been in an area where there was "infectious" disease. In some cases the visit was necessary because of the absence of a valid vaccination certificate.

WATER SUPPLY

In no legislation concerning food is water classified as a food and yet it is an ingredient of many foods and also provides the medium in which a mixture of ingredients can be turned into a composite article for further cooking.

The amount of water which is drunk simply as water without any addition to it is, no doubt, comparatively small, and more raw water is partaken in its use with other foods or drink. It is, therefore, important that the water supply should be of the purest, especially as not all foods in which water is used in the preparation, are cooked.

However, the 18 samples of water taken within the Borough during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford all proved very satisfactory and, indeed, the four samples of water which was raw water, taken from the main wells supplying the Borough, resulted in its being of the highest purity both chemically and bacteriologically. High Wycombe is well served as far as the quantity and quality of its water are concerned. Despite the fact that the residents of the Borough are paying more for water than when it was under the Corporation's ownership, it must be considered as one of the cheapest commodities which can be purchased. Nevertheless, it is a precious liquid and not one which should be subjected to pollution at source; well, spring or watercourse.

The water in swimming pools, however, is not recommended for drinking!! Because of the possible contamination which it receives from the bodies which exercise in it, it must be chlorinated at a greater concentration, and yet not be such as to cause damage to eyes. Twenty-two samples were taken

from the Council pools during the year and these were all satisfactory.

In addition, 38 samples of water were taken on behalf of the Bucks County Council from swimming pools at schools. Five of these samples were not of the standard which one would expect of such swimming pools, but information and advice were given to effect a quick improvement. No single pool had a series of bad samples.

The object of sampling water is, of course, in order to check upon the methods which are being carried out to render the water safe. It is not a routine matter, purely to build up a number of statistics and it has been shown quite clearly that sampling followed by advice, as necessary, has served a useful purpose and made swimming water safe throughout the town.

TALKS ON PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK

Several talks and lectures were given during the year at schools, ladies meetings and to Student Nurses. Most have been illustrated by colour slides. These talks were educational as well as, I hope, entertaining and invitations from other societies, clubs and associations would be welcomed.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) MILK SUPPLY

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.

Registration

There are sixty-two registered distributors of milk within the Borough; most of the registrations relate to shop premises where the sale of milk is small. The bulk of the milk supply emanating from four registered pasteurisers whose premises are outside the Borough.

Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations 1963-5.

Licensed Premises

The following new Licences were issued in 1970:-

Dealer's (Pre-packed Milk) in respect of

(a)	Pasteurised	6
(b)	Sterilised	3
(c)	Ultra Heat Treated	3

The total number of Licences now held is 74.

Bacteriological Sampling

269 Samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford. Details of the results are as follows:-

	<u>Samples</u>	<u>Failures</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Supplier A	92	14	15.2
B	33	-	-
C	57	5	8.8
D	87	3	3.4
	<u>269</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>8.2</u>

It is pleasing to report that there was a notable improvement in the quality of milk supplied to the Borough during 1970. Though there were still failures in the methylene blue test, there were only twenty-two as against fifty last year. The number of samples (269) being, by

coincidence, the same number. It remains to be seen whether this improvement will be maintained in 1971, but it would appear that the constant representations to those concerned are, at last, having some effect.

(b) FOOD SAMPLING

Analysis by the Public Analyst

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

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Almonds (ground)	-	2	2	-
Beverages	1	4	5	-
Cake Mix - Rock Cakes	-	1	-	1
Cheeses	2	7	9	-
Chicken Sandwiches	-	1	1	-
Christmas Pudding	-	1	1	-
Cream	-	3	3	-
Desserts	-	1	1	-
Essences	-	1	1	-
Fats	1	8	9	-
Fruit (Fresh)	-	7	7	-
Fruit (Dried)	-	12	10	2
Honey	-	2	2	-
Ice-Cream	-	4	4	-
Jellies	-	14	13	1
Lemon Curd	-	1	1	-
Marzipan	-	3	3	-
Meat Extracts	-	2	2	-
Meat Tinned	-	3	2	1
Milk	2	2	2	2
Pies (Meat etc.)	2	2	3	1
Potato Flour	-	1	1	-
Packaged Meals	-	3	3	-
Proprietary Medicines	-	7	7	-
Pumpernickel and Rye Slices	-	1	1	-
Rice (Parboiled Brown)	-	1	1	-
Sauces	1	1	2	-
Sausages	1	-	1	-
Sausage Rolls	-	1	1	-
Slimmers Biscuits	-	1	1	-
Soft Drinks	1	12	12	1
C/F	11	109	111	9

FOOD SAMPLING (continued)

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
B/F	11	109	111	9
Soup	-	1	1	-
Spices	-	5	5	-
Spirits	1	-	1	-
Sweets	-	3	3	-
Toffee Apples	-	1	1	-
Vegetables (Dried)	-	1	1	-
Totals:	12	120	123	9

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Of the 94 complaints received 26 concerned matter foreign to the product and 24 were of mould. Seventeen of the complaints of mould referred to bakery products of one form or another - bread and meat pies accounting for 11.

Not all complaints were justified. Mould in cheese, for instance, is not one about which one can be unduly concerned - a matter of this sort is best taken up with the retailer concerned. On the other hand, some complaints concerning food reached the department because of poor public relations policies at the retail shops; not having obtained satisfaction the complainants brought the food to the Public Health Inspector, with the hope of "having something done about it".

Some complaints were made in order that a full investigation might be made - the complainant believing that if merely returned to the shop, the food would be replaced but no further investigation would be made and maybe the canner or manufacturer would not even be told about it.

The public's trust in this department was, therefore, fulfilled and full investigation, including analytical reports either by our own analyst or a company's analyst often being called for. Legal Proceedings were not generally considered necessary but some were pending at the year's end.

(continued) 1931-1932

Unsatisfactory Samples

Cake Mix - Rock Cakes

This informal sample of cake mix showed that it was a packet containing sweetened self raising flour requiring fat as well as egg to be added, plus currants, to make fruit cakes.

Whilst it may be accepted that liquid egg should be added to form the mix it is considered that, as fat is a vital ingredient and can be included in a packet, it should be present in the packet if the product is to be called a "cake mix". The matter was, therefore, being pursued at the year's end.

Dried Fruit

The two samples of dried fruit which were not genuine were test samples taken in order to ascertain whether an excess amount of mineral oil had been added. The dried fruit from which these samples were taken had not been put onto the retail market.

Jelly

The sample of jelly was one in which pictures of fruit were depicted on the labelling but the article contained no fruit juice. This was being pursued at the year's end.

Tinned Meat

This sample was sent following a complaint of discolouration on the meat. It proved to be a dye used in meat marking on imported meat but was "prohibited colouring matter". Representations to those concerned resulted in assurances that additional safeguards would be taken in future.

Milk

These samples arose through the use of unwashed bottles. Having investigated the circumstances of these cases it was found not possible to take legal proceedings, but the matter was taken up with the firms concerned, and emphasis placed on the need for even more scrutiny of washed bottles.

Meat Pie

This sample, shown as not genuine, was one which contained material described by the Analyst as being part of a bandage; legal proceedings resulted.

Soft Drinks

This sample contained cyclamates and on investigation it proved to be rather old stock. The change of legislation to disallow cyclamates in food which came in force on 1st January, resulted in some retailers being left with stocks of fruit drinks and, whilst in many cases manufacturers took back bottles, there were some cases where they remained on sale. A check on some shops resulted in such products being withdrawn from sale. There appeared to be some ignorance of the change of law with some small retailers.

(c) FOOD CONDEMNED (OTHER THAN MEAT AT SLAUGHTERHOUSES)

In accordance with usual practice, unfit and spoiled foods from retail shops are surrendered to the local authority in return for a certificate of condemnation or destruction. This is often necessary in the case of refrigerator breakdowns and other spoilage. During the year the following food was destroyed as unfit or unsaleable.

Meat at Retail Shops	2 cwt. 32 lbs.
Cooked Meat & Meat Products	81 lbs.
Canned Meats	1 cwt. 33 lbs.
Other Canned Foods	15 cwt. 56 lbs.
Fish (Fresh)	56 lbs.
Fruit & Vegetables (Fresh)	80 lbs.
Other foods	7 cwt. 80 lbs.
Frozen food (Cabinet breakdowns)	3 ton 15 cwt. 74 lbs.
	<hr/>
	5 ton 4 cwt. 44 lbs.
	<hr/>
Soft drinks etc.	45 galls.
Ice Cream	82 galls.

In no case has it been necessary to condemn a whole consignment of food.

(d) LABORATORY TESTING OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

154 Samples of milk were tested in the department's laboratory for the percentage of fat and solids-not-fat. Analysis in our own laboratory is a considerable financial saving in analyst's fees. The chemical quality of milk continues to be very good, the following figures showing results well above the presumptive standards of 3% fat (4% Channel Islands) and 8.5% solids-not-fat. In this matter we are fortunate that a continental practice of skimming to a standard does not take place in this country.

The average contents were as follows:-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids-not-fat</u>
Channel Island	76	4.6	9.4
All grades other than Channel Island	78	3.6	8.7
All grades	154	4.1	9.1

(e) ICE CREAM

Five registrations were made for the storage and sale of ice-cream. There are now 154 registered premises, some registrations having been deleted from the Register by reason of the property being demolished or change of use. There is now only one registration for the manufacture of ice-cream and this relates to a small output. Cafes, which need no registration, continue to make ice-cream in continuous freezers from complete cold mixes.

116 Samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows:-

Grade I	=	55 samples
Grade II	=	24 samples
Grade III	=	12 samples
Grade IV	=	25 samples

Samples falling into Grades III and IV are considered unsatisfactory, though not necessarily injurious to health; the methylene blue test being one to give an indication of the number of bacteria rather than the type.

The samples of Ice Cream were taken from a variety of sources and types and the following table gives the division between soft ice cream made from continuous

freezers and other ice cream in the form of wrapped bricks, bars or gallon cans.

Source of Sample	Vehicles				Premises				
	Grade	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft Ice-Cream		15	4	-	11	1	-	1	1
Other Ice-Cream		13	3	3	9	26	17	8	4

In view of the increased number of samples taken, the number of Grade IV samples from soft ice cream vehicles is a percentage decrease, as compared with 1969 (32.3% as against 58.8%). Unfortunately, the samples of other ice-cream in the form of bricks, gallon cans etc., which fell into Grade IV increased. The sampling of these products was increased from 2 in 1969 to 28 in 1970, due to the difference in trading methods of the ice cream vendors.

The fact must be made clear that those samples falling into Grade III and IV are not from the long established well known ice cream vendors who carry out stringent bacteriological control in the course of the manufacture of ice cream or ice cream mixes. These samples were taken from retailers comparatively new to the town and whose cold mixes come from less well known suppliers.

Some samples from the mixes from which the ice cream was made, as well as cans of ice cream, were classified in groups III and IV and these cases were referred to those manufacturers and to the Local Authority area concerned.

(f) OTHER REGISTERED PREMISES

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

(g) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955-1960 AND
FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES)
REGULATIONS 1966

A total of 1928 visits and inspections were made in connection with food hygiene and the number of contraventions found are set out below. There is a total of 505 food premises

in the Borough and 34 food stalls and hawkers carts (excluding milk and bread delivery vehicles).

Many of the contraventions were caused by changes in trade, many persons are still ignorant of the need for wash basins, not only to comply with the law but because of their importance in food hygiene. Obviously more education in this field is needed.

The Food Hygiene Regulations contain provisions such that more than sixty-five contraventions could occur at one food establishment- taking the premises as a whole; if requirements for each room and each set of equipment is added to this, the number increases. An inspection of premises, therefore, calls for detailed knowledge and quick observation. Some tolerance for minor matters may be given but important matters cannot be treated lightly. Fortunately, as far as actual handling of food was concerned in 1970 no serious unhygienic practices were found, most contraventions being easily and quickly remedied.

It is pleasing to note that occupiers of new food premises often seek advice before opening and a discussion with a Public Health Inspector before work commences is by no means uncommon and is certainly encouraged.

List of Contraventions Found

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Stalls and Vehicles</u>
Lack of wash-hand basins	10	8	2
Lack of hot water supply	22	14	8
Lack of sinks	8	7	1
Lack of lighting and ventilation	5	5	-
Lack of cleanliness	11	11	-
Disrepair	6	6	-
Other provisions	39	14	25
	<u>101</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>36</u>

SHOPS ACT 1950 - 65

The work under this Act is generally carried out at the same time as an Inspector is engaged on other duties of the Department and visits are not recorded separately unless special visits are made. The total of 125 visits, therefore, does not indicate the total amount of work carried out. Regular investigation on the hours of closing was not considered necessary but, where breaches of the closing hours or trading was suspected, special observation and visits were made.

Number of Contraventions Found	
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	1
10	1
11	1
12	1
13	1
14	1
15	1
16	1
17	1
18	1
19	1
20	1
21	1
22	1
23	1
24	1
25	1
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107	1
108	1
109	1
110	1
111	1
112	1
113	1
114	1
115	1
116	1
117	1
118	1
119	1
120	1
121	1
122	1
123	1
124	1
125	1
Total	125

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

A total of 984 visits and inspections were carried out in connection with the 633 registered premises, 194 of these were full inspections. Much of this work was necessary because of the opening of shops in the new town centre and the many changes which had taken place elsewhere, there being 98 new registrations.

A number of contraventions were found (as listed below) with ventilation and first aid being the two most common. The condition of stairs, floors and passages also ranks high in the list and this is a matter to which particular attention is paid in the prevention of accidents. There were only three contraventions relating to machinery; sources of danger obviously receiving the attention necessary. There were no offences relating to hoists and lifts.

Urgent action was, however, necessary in the case of a warehouse where the racking was bending dangerously. When the danger was pointed out to the management the shelving was cleared quickly and the stock reduced to allow for safety measures to be taken. It was not considered necessary to institute legal proceedings in view of the prompt action taken on the advice of my staff.

Notices were served drawing attention to the various contraventions of the provisions of the Act, as are listed below:-

<u>Section</u>	<u>Number of Contraventions Found</u>
4 Cleanliness	29
6 Temperature	10
7 Ventilation	42
8 Lighting	8
9 Sanitary Conveniences	4
10 Washing Facilities	32
11 Supply of drinking water	21
12 Clothing Accommodation	3
16 Floors, passages & stairs	28
17 Fencing exposed parts of machinery	3
24 First Aid and General Provisions	41
Other Matters	213
	<hr/>
	Total: 434
	<hr/>

ACCIDENTS

As in 1969, thirty accidents were reported involving thirty persons. In other words, 0.45% of the persons employed were involved in accidents which kept them from work for a minimum of three days. There were no serious accidents, though one could have resulted from the racking and shelving reported above. Twenty-six of the accidents were investigated, though they included minor fractures at body extremities, strains through lifting heavy objects, and cuts and abrasions.

Detailed classification is as follows:-

Fractures	5
Bruising	6
Strains and Sprains	9
Cuts and Abrasions	8
Scalds	1
Splinters	1

and parts of the body affected:-

Toes, Feet and Ankles	3
Fingers, Hands and Wrists	7
Back (Strains only)	5
Arms and Legs	6
Ribs	2
Head	1
Face	1
Shoulder	2
Chest	1
Hip	1
Abdomen	1

The following pages contain the report as submitted to the Department of Employment and Productivity. The statistics contained therein, as indeed those given above, relate to the premises where the administration of the Act is the responsibility of this District Authority. They do not include, therefore, details of, for example, offices in factory premises, local authority and government offices, situated within the Borough and under the supervision of the Factory Inspector.

Period Covered 1st January to 31st December 1970

TABLE A

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
OFFICES	31	200	56
RETAIL SHOPS	56	346	116
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES.	4	43	6
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, CANTEENS.	7	43	16
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	-	1	-
	<u>98</u>	<u>633</u>	<u>194</u>

TABLE B

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

984

TABLE C

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

<u>Class of workplace</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
OFFICES	3230
RETAIL SHOPS	2484
WHOLESALE DEPARTMENTS, WAREHOUSES	443
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.	336
CANTEENS.	49
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	2
	<u>6544</u>
TOTAL	
TOTAL MALES	2761
TOTAL FEMALES ...	3783

TABLE D

EXEMPTIONS - NIL

TABLE E

PROSECUTIONS - NIL

TABLE F

INSPECTORS

No. of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act 6

No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection NIL with the Act.

H O U S I N G

(a) HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

329 Visits or inspections were carried out in houses in multiple occupation. 17 Directions were placed on houses in order to control the number of occupants in accordance with the facilities available. No notices to provide extra facilities were served. Inspections have revealed that more houses have become single family units but other houses have been taken over for multi-occupation, as the serving of 17 Directions would indicate. The position of re-letting rooms after rehousing families was also watched, where contraventions against the Direction might take place, but this is an exceedingly difficult matter.

(b) CLEARANCE AREAS

No areas were declared during the year but most of the inspections of houses in the Slater Street/Duke Street Area were carried out in preparation for the declaration of that area in 1971.

76 Families were rehoused from clearance areas and a further 77 houses demolished.

The tables on the following pages show the areas from which rehousing took place as well as other clearance action taken during the year. Table III gives a summary of completed areas.

Individual Houses

School Cottages, Kingsmead Road (6 houses) and Paradise Place (8 houses), were dealt with informally.

(c) REPAIR

Twenty-two houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action and three as a result of formal action.

(d) IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

It is pleasing to note that 60 applications were received in 1970, though they were mainly from owner/occupiers. The increase, no doubt, being due to the Housing Act 1969; it is hoped that, with new incentives to owners and to owner/occupiers, there will be a new interest in the improvement of houses. The figures shown under Clearance work indicate

that this Borough has not lacked in clearing those houses which were unfit according to housing standards. Truly there are many which could be classed as having bad internal arrangement as well as some defects but many can, by the improvement of adding modern amenities and some repair, provide adequate accommodation for small families in which good homes can be made.

It is said that "many a good tune has been played on an old fiddle!" It must surely be true too that many a good home has been made in an old house.

The 1969 Housing Act provides for rent increases where houses are provided with standard amenities and in good state of repair, "having in mind the age, character and locality of the dwelling". The judgement required to meet those words of the Act can be based only on the experience and expertise which public health inspectors gain in the general inspection of their districts.

In connection with the Act, 14 Qualification Certificates were issued to Landlords, permitting a fair rent to be decided by the Rent Officer. One cannot, therefore, say that in this area Landlords jumped to take advantage of the Act, or conversely that tenants pestered their landlords for improvements and repairs.

Application was made for two discretionary grants during the year.

The tables on the following pages set out action with regard to housing matters.

(e) COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Borough.

TABLE I
STANDARD GRANTS

Year	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	Totals
Applications Received	11	48	49	30	43	32	22	27	37	19	26	60	404
Dwellings Improved	-	17	44	20	25	26	22	18	32	24	29	28	285
Amenities for Grant													
Bath	7	32	41	24	37	31	17	24	33	15	20	41	322
W.H. Basin	8	33	43	25	43	24	17	21	34	16	23	50	337
W.C.	6	22	35	18	37	22	16	14	32	14	12	34	262
Hot Water	9	42	46	27	44	34	22	30	35	18	25	53	385
Food Store	5	15	26	17	32	31	19	28	28	10	6	-	217
*Sink	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Totals:	35	144	191	111	193	142	91	117	162	73	87	182	1528
Amenities Installed													
Bath	-	14	31	16	17	19	18	13	28	23	27	18	224
W.H. Basin	-	13	37	16	22	15	19	17	29	18	26	25	237
W.C.	-	12	20	7	19	16	18	9	27	21	20	13	182
Hot Water	-	16	42	20	23	25	23	17	29	24	29	27	275
Food Store	-	5	25	14	19	24	15	8	22	23	22	1	178
Sink	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	-	60	155	73	100	99	93	64	135	109	124	84	1096

† Deleted as standard amenity 1969.

* Not included as a standard amenity until 1969.

TABLE II

Clearance Area Programme during 1970, including further action on Areas declared previously.

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1970	Total	
Gordon Road (No.1)	1961	A.P.	-	-	4	4	-	3	-
Victoria Street (No.1)	1960	A.P.	-	-	3	3	-	3	-
West End Road (Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4)	1964	C.P.O.	1965	1966	35	33	-	30	33
Gordon Road (No.3)	1964	A.P.	-	-	4	4	-	3	-
West Wycombe Road (No.3)	1966	C.P.O.	-	-	4	4	-	3	4
Slater Street (No.1) & Gordon Road (Nos. 4 & 5)	1967	C.P.O.	1967	1967	22	20	-	16	19
London Road (Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4)	1967	C.P.O.	1967	-	21 + 3 not unfit	24	-	21	22
Kent Street/Park Street	1967	C.A. C.P.O.	1967	1968	48 + 14 not unfit	59	4	54	52
c/f					141 + 17 not unfit	151	4	133	130

TABLE II (continued)

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1970	Total	
b/f					141 + 17 not unfit	151	4	133	130
Desborough Street (No.1)	1967	C.A. C.P.O.	1968	1968	31 + 2 excl.	32	12	21	19
Desborough Street (No.2)	1967	C.P.O.	1968	1968	50 + 2 excl.	53	14	27	11
Shaftesbury Street(No.1)	1967	C.P.O.	1968	1968	3 + 7 excl.	10	1	8	-
Victoria Street (No.1)	1967	C.P.O.	1968	1968	20	18	5	14	20
Desborough Street/ Victoria Street	1967	C.P.O.	1968	1968	9	9	2	2	3
Desborough Avenue	1968	C.A. C.P.O.	1968	-	59 + 7 not unfit	63	22	43	12
Lane End Road (No.1)	1969	C.P.O.	-	-	14	12	9	9	-
c/f					327 + 24 not unfit + 11 excl.	348	69	257	195

TABLE II (Continued)

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1970	Total	
b/f					327 + 24 not unfit + 11 excl.	348	69	257	195
Ford Street (No.1)	1969	C.A.	-	-	4	4	1	1	-
Totals:					331 + 24 not unfit + 11 excl.	352	70	258	195

A.P. = Agreed Purchase
 C.O. = Clearance Order
 C.P.O. = Compulsory Purchase Order
 * As confirmed.

TABLE III

Areas in which action was completed before 1970

AREA	Date of Declaration	No. of Families re-housed by Local Authority	No. of Houses Demolished
(a) <u>Totals for Areas completed prior to 1.1.63</u>		155	175
(b) <u>Other Areas</u>			
Mill Street (No.1)	1958	4	4
George Street (No.1)	1959	1	3
Oxford Road (No.1)	1957	17	19
Baker Street (Nos.1 & 2) and George Street (No.2)	1960	61	70
Bridge Street (No.3)	1962	5	6
Richardson Street	1958	113	124
Bridge Street (No.2)	1958	40	59
West Wycombe Road (No.2)	1961	3	4
Railway Place	1961	35	39
Pennington Road) Duke Street No.1)	1958	91 2	98 4
Totteridge Road	1961	2	3
Oxford Road (No.2)	1961	50	59
Queen Street (No.1)	1961	19	24
Bowerdean Road (Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4)	1965	36	34
Desborough Road (No.1)	1965	10	12
Central Area Redevelopment	1960/1	37	48
Gordon Road (No.2)	1961	2	3
Totals:		683	788

H O U S I N G A C T 1 9 6 9

Q U A L I F I C A T I O N C E R T I F I C A T E S

Improvement Cases

Number of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(2) under consideration at end of period	17
Number of certificates of provisional approval issued	6
Number of qualification certificates issued under section 46(3)	Nil

Standard amenities already provided

Number of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(1) under consideration at end of period	29
Number of qualification certificates issued under section 45(2) in respect of:-	
(i) dwellings with rateable value of £90 or more in Greater London or of £60 or more elsewhere	13
(ii) dwellings with rateable value of £60 to less than £90 in Greater London or of £40 to less than £60 elsewhere	1
(iii) dwellings with rateable value of less than £60 in Greater London or less than £40 elsewhere	Nil

Exemption for low-income tenants from section 54

Number of certificates issued under section 55	Nil
--	-----

C L E A N A I R

(a) Domestic Smoke

Regrettably, because of the temporary shortage of solid smokeless fuel, no additional Smoke Control Area became operative in 1970. However, the No.17 order, which was the original No.17 area with part of No.18 area, was declared and submitted to the Minister and at the year's end confirmation by the Department of Environment was awaited. The order affected 2012 dwellings over 670 acres.

The following table sets out the orders already made in the Borough.

<u>Smoke Control Areas</u>	<u>Houses Planned</u>	<u>Houses erected to date</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Gomm's Wood	122	122	11.75
Deeds Grove	388	388	56.6
New Road No.1	94	94	10.65
New Road No.2	145	145	8.4
Castlefield No.1			10.9
Upper Bowerdean	443	335	39.0
Hicks Farm	1067	1067	128.3
Quebec Road	201	201	29.0
*Plomer Hill	120	120	10.0
			(Borough only)
Desborough Avenue	597	597	192.0
North Western	2187	1955	725.0
Western Area (No.12)	1270	1217	750.0
High Wycombe (No.13)	1377	1352	280.0
High Wycombe (No.14)	1292	1260	162.0
High Wycombe (No.15)	845	780	112.0
High Wycombe (No.16)	1298	1246	227.0
	<u>13446</u>	<u>10879</u>	<u>2752.6</u>

* Joint area with Wycombe Rural District Council.

Industrial Smoke

5 Notifications for the installation of new furnaces were received during the year and these installations were considered satisfactory.

Some complaints of "smutting" were received concerning one industrial plant which proved difficult to establish and which was not easy to overcome.

Delays in delivery of equipment, incorrect fixing of components, and disagreements between specialists as to the cause were unhelpful factors in endeavouring to remedy any nuisance caused. The taking of legal proceedings in this case would have served no useful purpose and, regrettably the issue was not finally settled at the year's end.

Chimney Heights Clean Air Act, Section 6.

7 Applications for approval of chimney heights were received and each was carefully considered in the light of the recommendations with regard to SO₂ emissions as well as possible nuisance in view of the particular situation of each chimney.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS 1875 - 1923

The number of registrations for the period ending 30th September 1970 was 45.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

No. of factories of all types	585
No. of inspections (including outworkers premises)	445
No. of contraventions found	16
No. of complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories	2

The report as required by the Department of Employment and Productivity is added as an appendix to this report.

In factories where mechanical power is used, the public health inspector's function is very limited and it has been suggested that, as the factory inspectorate is also partially responsible for those duties, it would be as well to leave those matters to the factory inspector. The better idea may be to give to the Public Health Inspector additional duties within factories in the field of environmental health, such as ventilation, heating, lighting and cleanliness, with which he is quite able to deal and where the remoteness of the factory inspector would be overcome. Specialist cases could be left to the factory inspectorate in the same way as specialist fume troubles are left to the alkali inspector. I have never been convinced that "means of escape in case of fire" have been dealt with any more efficiently by the fire prevention department than with local authority officers - bearing in mind that the transference of duties was coupled with regulations, whereas local authority officers had to rely on judgement.

Indeed, cases arise in other fields of our work where too great an insistence for "fire safety" would lead to workers suffering in unventilated conditions.

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	10
Total complaints received	416
(Agricultural premises	-
(Business premises	111
(Domestic premises	259
(Other premises	13
(Complaint not justified	33
Total visits by Rodent Operators	2514
Total visits by Public Health Inspectors	726

During the early part of this year great difficulty was experienced in the control and irradiation of infestations of mice, using a ready mixed warfarin bait at a concentration of 0.025%. This bait had been used successfully for a number of years in dealing with infestations of mice. Baiting techniques were carefully checked and found to be satisfactory. Consequently, the use of warfarin against the mice was suspended and the anticoagulant poison Coumatetralyl used in its place. This was obtained ready mixed at a concentration of 0.0375%. Its use gave a reasonable degree of control, but complete irradiation of infestations was difficult to achieve. The percentage of coumatetralyl was increased to 0.05% and found to be completely effective in clearing infestations. Since increasing the percentage concentration of the poison, advice has, in fact, been received from the manufacturers and suppliers recommending the use at this higher concentration where difficulty is experienced in the control of mice.

In addition to the normal work of dealing with complaints of infestations of rats and mice at houses and business premises, extensive survey and treatment was carried out to the banks of the river Wye throughout its length in the Borough. Large pockets of rat infestation were found and the rats destroyed. This is now a continuing exercise.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS 1970

Table showing legal proceedings taken, and results, during 1970:-

Acts, Orders or Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result
Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Section 2.	Sale of milk not of the substance demanded. (Foreign matter in milk.)	Fined £25.0.0d. Analysts Fees £4.14.0d. Costs £10.0.0d.
	Total fined =	£25.0.0d.
	Costs =	£14.14.0d.

V I S I T S A N D I N S P E C T I O N S M A D E

Clean Air Act:	Survey & Misc.	22
	Installations	213
	Observations & Visits	613
Factories Act:	Powered Factories	390
	Non-Powered Factories	9
	Building Sites	16
	Outworkers	30
	Miscellaneous	7
Public Health General:	Drainage	279
	Dwelling Houses (Repairs)	389
	General Environment Health	824
	Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	64
	Insect Pests & Disinfestation	114
	Moveable dwellings	19
	Noise abatement	438
	Swimming Pools	10
	Water Supply	5
Food Premises Inspections:	Food Manufacturers	53
	General Food Premises	1056
	Market Stalls & Mobile Traders	181
	Milk Shops & Dairies	11
	Cafes, Canteens & Restaurants	627
Food Condemnations:	General Premises	92
	Miscellaneous	53
Food & Drugs (Sections 2,6,etc.):	Premises Visited	222
	Following up visits	143
Trades Misdescription. (Food Only):		46
Bacteriological Sampling: (Visits & Inspections)	Milk	129
	Ice Cream	152
	Swimming Pools	43
	Water	22
	Miscellaneous	6
	C/F	6278

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE
(continued)

	B/F	6278
Housing:		
Clearance Areas		320
Repair		296
Overcrowding		18
Standard Grants		118
Improvement Area		3
Houses in Multiple Occupation		329
Rent Act		35
Qualification Certificate		11
Rodent Control:		
Inspector's Visits		726
Rodent Operators		2514
Shops Act (Observations & visits):		125
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act:		12
Explosives Act:		63
Pet Animals:		5
Animal Boarding Establishments:		6
Miscellaneous Duties:		392
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:		588
		<u>11839</u>

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following Tables give the prescribed particulars required under the provisions of Section 153(1) of the Factories Act 1961 with respect to matters under Part I and VIII of that Act.

PART I OF THE ACT

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

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforce by Local Authority.	13	9	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	572	390	10	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	34	16	-	-
Totals:	619	415	10	-

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	15	28	-	1*	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1*	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	16	29	-	2	-

* Already being dealt with at time of notification.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in Aug. list Section 133(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.	28	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and Upholstery	21	-	-	-	-	-
Carding etc., of buttons etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	49	-	-	-	-	-

