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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1962

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

Chief Public Health Inspector:
J.P. FERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

W Y C O M B E
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

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1908

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF

THE

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

AND

SAFETY OF THE

1908

WILLIAM H. WALKER, M.D.,

CHIEF OF BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

AND

WILLIAM H. WALKER, M.D.,

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1962

Chairman:

Mr F. Hales

Vice-Chairman:

S/Ldr. B. Lock

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May, 1962.

Chairman:

Mr G.B. Lee

The Chairman of the Council
The Vice-Chairman of the Council
The Immediate Past Chairman of the Council
The Chairman of the Finance Committee
The Chairman of the Public Works Committee
The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee
The Chairman of the Town Planning and Plans Committee
Mr A.J. Billinghamurst Mrs A.S. Laing
Mr E. Burrows Mr H.F. Nixey
Mrs C.M.L. Campbell Mrs F.H. Pitcher
Mrs A.M. Conoley Mr G. Spear
Miss J.H.C. Couper Rev. H.H. Vickers
Mr E.C. Halsey Mrs D.M. Walker
Mr H.A. Harris Mr R. Walker
S/Ldr H.B. Jefferies Mr R. Wooster



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The Chairman of the Council
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The Chairman of the Farm Planning and Plant Committee
Mr. A.J. Billingham
Mr. E. Burton
Mr. G.H. Campbell
Mr. A.M. Conroy
Miss J.R.G. Goppy
Mr. E.G. Halsey
Mr. H.A. Harris
Mr. H.B. Jaffarides
Mr. A.S. Jaffe
Mr. E.T. Hilly
Mr. W.M. Hyster
Mr. G. Hyster
Rev. H.H. Vickers
Mr. D.M. Walker
Mr. H. Walker
Mr. R. Weaver

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

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

(Also Area and Divisional School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough and
Marlow Urban District Council).

Main Office Address: Municipal Health Centre,
High Wycombe. Tel. H.W. 4031/2
Home Tel. H.W. 1338

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

P.E. DOYLE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.A., D.P.H.

(Also Assistant County Medical and School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough
and Marlow Urban District Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J.P. FERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

B.R. NAGLE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspectors:

J.D. HACKFORD, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

S.A. LATIMER, C.R.S.H.

A.H. TRANTUM, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. Resigned Dec. 1962.

Clerks:

MISS R.M. SPENCER

MISS S.E. BALL

Rodent Operatives:

E.V. BOWLER

MRS D. KIBBLES

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

October 1963.

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

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health Service for the year 1962. Statistical tables are set out in the following pages and give interesting information about population and mortality trends.

Once again the population has increased, the Registrar General's mid-year estimate was 53,100 an increase of 1,080 on that of the previous year. There was a surplus of 485 births over deaths so that inward exceeded outward migration by 595.

There were 992 live births - an increase of 46 and although there was a rise in the population the birth rate rose from 18.2 to 18.7 per 1,000.

Deaths numbered 507 an increase of 61 and there was a corresponding rise in the death rate which was 9.5 per 1,000, compared with 8.6.

There were 17 infant deaths an increase of 5 and this meant an increase in the infantile mortality rate which was 17.1 per 1,000 compared with 12.7 previously. 14 deaths took place in the first week of life and as the causes of such deaths are closely related to those giving rise to still births one cannot anticipate that the infantile mortality rate can be reduced much further until more is known about the means to prevent such intrauterine deaths.

507 deaths took place during 1962 and as always most were due to disease of the heart and circulatory system - in other words a wearing out of the machinery - 237 so died or approximately 47%. The next most important causes were cancer and respiratory disease which caused 94 and 57 deaths respectively.

Of the 94 cancer deaths 22 (19 male, 3 female) were in respect of lung cancer and in the present state of our knowledge these are the only ones which possibly could have been prevented.

Of course it is not suggested that smoking is the only cause of lung cancer otherwise it would not be possible for a non smoker to get it as some undoubtedly do.

General air pollution appears to increase the incidence of lung cancer but at all levels of pollution cigarette smokers run a risk which increases with the number smoked and even in the very rural areas heavy smokers develop it 15 - 20 times as often as non smokers. In fact two years ago the highest death rate from lung cancer in the world was recorded in Jersey a place where there is no atmospheric pollution but where, however, more tobacco per head of population is consumed than anywhere else! It is noteworthy that there is no excess mortality from this disease in those exposed to pollution from motor vehicles e.g. policemen, mechanics and transport employees, so that should dispose of the theory that petrol and diesel oil fumes are an important cause.

As long ago as 1957 the results of nineteen enquiries in many different countries had been published - those all shewed the dangers of excessive cigarette smoking and Doll and Hill who followed up the subsequent history of 40,000 men and women whose names appeared on the Medical Register of 1951 estimated that the chances of a life long heavy smoker dying of lung cancer are 1 in 8 - the corresponding figure for a non smoker being 1 in 300!

It is difficult to suggest what measures should be adopted to cope with this situation other than trying to dissuade youngsters from acquiring the habit. The average age of these cancer victims at death was 64.5 years and perhaps the ordinary adolescent of 20 would rather look forward to forty odd years with his 'gaspers' than to fifty odd without.

These days a noteworthy feature of the statistics is the low incidence of infectious diseases. At one time typhoid, diphtheria, scarlet fever and latterly even poliomyelitis figured prominently and the "fever van" was a common sight in the district taking patients to the Isolation Hospital. Nowadays diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, typhoid and scarlet fever have been practically abolished or have lost their virulence so much so that in 1962 the only infections of any numerical importance were 64 measles and 9 scarlet fever!

Although infectious diseases have assumed less importance there is still much to be done in the prevention of mental ill health and in housing and care of the aged and it is with these problems that the preventive services are becoming increasingly involved.

In conclusion I thank Mr Perry and all the Public Health Staff, my fellow officials and the Council for their help and encouragement during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.J. MUIR

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	71,232
Population (1961) census.....	50,831
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1962.....	53,100
No. of inhabited houses on rate book (31st March, 1962).....	15,479
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1962.....	£703,836
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1st April, 1962.....	£2,872

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number.....	992
Rate per 1000 population.....	18.7
Comparability Factor.....	0.95
Adjusted Birth Rate.....	17.1

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births..... 4.7

Stillbirths

Number.....	16
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	15.8

Total Live and Still Births..... 1,008

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)..... 17

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births.....	17.1
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births...	15.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	42.5

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)..... 14.1

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)..... 14.1

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)..... 28.3

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.....	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	-

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	261
		Females	-	246
				<u>507</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....				9.5
Comparability Factor.....				1.12
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....				10.64
Death Rate of England and Wales.....				11.9
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....				0.046

INFANT MORTALITY.

17 infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	12	3	15
Illegitimate.....	1	1	2
	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>

This represents a mortality rate of 17.1 per 1,000 related births compared with 21.4 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 14.1, compared with a county rate of 12.5.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis.... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes 0

TABLE OF DEATHS.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	0	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	1	0	1
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0	0
8. Measles.....	0	0	0
9. Other infectious diseases.....	0	1	1
10. Cancer, Stomach.....	9	6	15
11. Cancer, lungs.....	19	3	22
12. Cancer, breast.....	0	8	8
13. Cancer, uterus.....	0	2	2
14. Other cancers.....	26	21	47
15. Leukeamia, aleukaemia.....	0	3	3
16. Diabetes.....	1	0	1
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	32	40	72
18. Coronary diseases, angina.....	49	28	77
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	10	11
20. Other heart diseases.....	17	30	47
21. Other circulatory diseases.....	16	14	30
22. Influenza.....	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia.....	18	18	36
24. Bronchitis.....	12	7	19
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	1	1	2
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	3	3	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	4	3	7
28. Nephritis, nephrosis.....	3	1	4

Table of Deaths. (contd).

<u>DISEASES.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	4	0	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.....	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	19	34	53
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	17	2	19
34. Other accidents.....	4	5	9
35. Suicide.....	2	5	7
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0	0
All causes...	261	246	507

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and still) Births.</u>	
	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Wycombe Rural District.</u>
(a) Maternal causes, excluding abortion.....		Nil
(b) Due to abortion.....		Nil
(c) Total maternal mortality.....	0.35	0.00

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males.....	54
Females.....	40
Total.....	<u>94</u>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1962.....	89
1961.....	89
1960.....	99
1959.....	81
1958.....	77
1957.....	84

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach.....	15
Lungs.....	22
Breast.....	8
Uterus.....	2
Other Sites.....	47
Total.....	<u>94</u>

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	0.019
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.019
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.00
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis).....	57
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis).....	1.07

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1962.

District	Population Census 1961	Registrar-General's estimated Population mid-1962	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births
Bucks County	486,183	505,130	19.2	9.6	0.046	17.9	12.5	0.10
Total Urban	240,990	251,590	20.3	9.1	0.064	16.5	10.8	0.19
Total Rural	245,193	253,540	18.2	10.1	0.028	19.5	14.3	0.00
Wycombe Rural	50,831	53,100	18.7	9.5	0.019	17.1	14.1	0.00
England and Wales			18.0	11.9	0.066	21.4	15.1	0.35

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1962.

	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25+	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever.....	9	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis:-											
Paralytic.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	64	2	5	5	7	10	31	2	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:											
Infective.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Infectious.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Paratyphoid Fevers.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	76	2	5	5	7	10	39	2	3	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1962.

(a)

(b)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
55	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

The current procedure is for three doses of oral vaccine to be given at monthly intervals - preferably beginning at the age of six months. Three drops of the vaccine are given in syrup or - with older children - on a lump of sugar. A boosting dose is given at the age of five years. Supplies of vaccine have been ample and parents have been keen to take advantage of this service. In 1962 the number of notifications of poliomyelitis in England and Wales was the least for fifty years. It appears that in this country we are well on the way to eliminating this disease as a major hazard.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA,
WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

In 1962 changes were made in the immunisation schedules. Poliomyelitis vaccine was given orally at six months of age and this meant a delay in giving protection against diphtheria and whooping cough.

During the year 414 primary immunisations against diphtheria were done and 891 boosting doses were given.

373 children were immunised against whooping cough and 499 had injections against tetanus.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

During 1962 there were several outbreaks of smallpox in the country - fortunately none locally. This had the effect of boosting considerably the number of primary vaccinations, there being 1767 compared with 603 in the previous year. Re-vaccinations were 815 compared with 23!

B.C.G. VACCINATION (TUBERCULOSIS).

The scheme for testing and vaccinating the 13 year old children attending private and maintained schools was continued during the year. In all 1,565 children were vaccinated or 90.6% of the number tested - 9.4% having given a positive response.

The percentages positive in previous years were:-

1958.....	19.7
1959.....	14.2
1960.....	8.0
1961.....	9.0
1962.....	9.4

In the last few years there has been a remarkable reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis and B.C.G. vaccination has played its part in the reduction particularly in the adolescents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year only seven cases of pulmonary and two non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There was only one death in a population of over 53,000 - a most satisfactory position which a few years ago not even the most optimistic could have hoped to attain. It is not so very long ago that sanatoria had long waiting lists of pulmonary cases and the children's wards were full with sufferers from bone, joint and glandular disease.

The great improvement can be put down to a better standard of living, the use of antibiotics and chemo thereapy and in the case of children the pasteurisation of milk and the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle.

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals available to local residents are as follows:-

General:-

High Wycombe War Memorial
Amersham General
Stoke Mandeville
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.
Battle Hospital, Reading.
Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow.

Maternity:-

Shrubbery Maternity Home
Amersham General Hospital
Canadian Red Cross Hospital

Fevers:-

Stoke Mandeville and
Maidenhead Isolation Hospitals

Mental:-

St John's Hospital, Stone.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are based on the station at West End Street, High Wycombe. With the increasing population of the districts served consideration is being given to the need to provide extended facilities.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - No formal action.

DETAILS OF WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following table:-

Parish	Supplied direct by pipes into houses		Supplied by Standpipes	
	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton..	614	1,964	3	18
Bradenham.....	42	325	-	-
Chepping Wycombe Rural..	2,970	8,452	27	98
Ellesborough.....	295	1,025	3	12
Fawley.....	59	260	3	11
Fingest.....	583	2,320	10	38
Hambleden.....	433	1,780	8	29
Hampden, Gt & Lt.....	112	435	4	14
Hedsor.....	44	175	-	-
Hughenden.....	2,025	6,770	13	54
Ibstone.....	97	348	2	9
Kimble, Gt & Lt.....	267	929	2	7
Lacey Green.....	393	1,641	3	12
Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....	180	736	2	7
Marlow, Gt.....	692	1,947	14	61
Marlow, Lt.....	270	1,133	6	18
Medmenham.....	127	895	3	10
Radnage.....	209	596	3	9
Princes Risborough.....	2,042	6,596	4	12
Stokenchurch.....	827	3,132	5	18
Turville.....	106	445	8	21
West Wycombe Rural.....	613	2,278	8	20
Wooburn.....	2,528	7,875	22	61
Totals.....	15,528	52,057	153	539

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1962.

I am also indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following figures:-

Dis- trict		Estimated Gallons Removed
1	Speen, Lacey Green, Great and Little Hampden, Butlers Cross, Terrick, Ellesborough, Loosley Row, Parslows Hillock, Bradenham, Dunsmore, Bryants Bottom, North Dean, Main Road, Friars Gardens, Orchard Close, Warrendene Road, Hampden Road and Perks Lane.....	3,290,850
2	Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Bledlow, Longwick, Meadle, Ilmer, Saunderton, Kimble, Marsh, Horsenden, Askett, Whiteleaf, Pictonville and Owlswick.....	2,654,600
3	Tylers Green, Penn, Hammersley Lane, London Road, Queensmead, Fassetts Road, Norwood Road, Robinson Road, Whitehouse Lane.....	2,311,750
4	Stokenchurch, Water End, Radnage, Bledlow Ridge.....	3,086,000
5	Naphill, Walters Ash, Coombe Lane, Boss Lane, New Rd, Trees Rd, Trees Ave	2,741,500
6	Great and Little Marlow, Sheepridge, Frieth, Ibstone, Fawley, Hambleden, Cadmore End, Turville, Skirmett, Medmenham, Fingest, Bovington Green, North End, South End.....	2,575,650
7	Hazlemere, Holmer Green, Dasiwood Hill, Horsleys Green, Studley Green, Beacons Bottom, Terriers, Eastern Dene.....	2,105,800
8	Great Kingshill, Widmer End, Four Ashes, Cryers Hill, Spurlands End, Western Dene.....	1,796,500
9	Wooburn, Wooburn Green, Cores End, Hawks Hill, Berghers Hill, Bourne End, Kingsmead Road, Hedsor, Heavens Lea, Harvest Hill, Wooburn Moor, Flackwell Heath, Well End.....	1,751,800
10	Downley, Piddington, Lane End, Wheeler End, Bolter End.....	1,614,350
Spare	In all District.....	1,226,300
	Total	26,155,100

RAINFALL 1962.

I am indebted to the Director of the Forest Products Research laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1962.

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough

Station: 333 feet above sea level

Month	Monthly Rainfall Inches	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall	
			Date	Amount Inches
January.....	4.13	20	21st	.70
February.....	.44	11	12th	.13
March.....	1.48	10	28th	.77
April.....	2.46	18	8th.	.52
May.....	1.75	17	20th	.56
June.....	.21	4	28th	.10
July.....	1.98	12	26th	1.29
August.....	3.10	14	6th	1.39
September.....	4.51	14	4th	1.33
October.....	1.37	11	25th	.51
November.....	3.10	17	2nd	.86
December.....	1.68	14	8th	.37
Totals.....	26.21	162		

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1962

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

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the
Environmental Health Services for the year 1962.

I desire to pay a sincere tribute to the Chairman, Vice-
Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their
help and ever ready co-operation in all matters affecting the
sanitary conditions of our district.

My thanks are especially due to the members of my staff
for their helpful and loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.P. PERRY.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

FOREWORD.

I have pleasure in submitting this Report on the Environmental Health Services. Although the work of the department is not spectacular it is essential to the health and well being of our community.

Regular attention has been given to the continued drive for repairs, renovations and improvements in housing generally, to the safety of food and water supplies, the supervision of factory boiler-plant with consequent reduction in the pollution of the air we breathe, the reduction of noise where complaints arise, the abatement of public health nuisances thus ensuring more comfortable living conditions, and, generally to the many facets of environmental hygiene and sanitation which have so varied an application in an area such as ours.

All too often this work is taken for granted and not properly evaluated. It is necessary therefore to reflect that the slums, the avoidable sickness, the epidemics of water-borne and milk-borne disease and other infections, the uncleanness, adulteration of foodstuffs, the bad working conditions for men, women and children that prevailed a century ago have largely been eliminated.

Despite the standards achieved, the safeguarding of public health demands constant vigilance and sustained effort. This is evident when regard is had to the present day hazards associated with new techniques including the use of antibiotics, hormones, vacuum, irradiation for food preservative purposes, the increasing use of poisonous substances against agricultural pests, the numerous synthetics developed for use as rodenticides and herbicides, and, the comparatively new hazard to health, man-made radiation both for military and industrial purposes.

The need to control the emission of ionizing radiations has been fully recognised at the outset and not largely ignored as with earlier sources of pollution or contamination of air, water and food.

Nevertheless 1962 was the worst year on record for fall-out, and the amounts of strontium in human diet were greater than at any time since detailed records were first kept in 1958. The majority of the dose received by the body comes from food contaminated by the fall-out.

Fall-out contains many radioactive materials and the two which have given rise to the greatest concern for the health of the individual are strontium 90 and iodine 131. Both these materials are liable to become concentrated in certain parts of the human body, strontium 90 in bone and iodine 131 in the thyroid gland. In addition radiation may produce genetic effects and in this connection the most important components of fall-out are caesium 137 and carbon 14.

Radioactive contamination in human diet does not however exceed the maximum permissible levels for the population set by the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the Medical Research Council.

International agreement is urgently needed however in order to prevent nuclear tests which if persisted with can threaten the survival of the individual and the survival of the race.

The work of the Council is reflected to some extent in the report submitted under the following sections:-

SECTION 'A'	HOUSING
SECTION 'B'	WATER SUPPLIES
SECTION 'C'	SANITATION
SECTION 'D'	PEST INFESTATION CONTROL
SECTION 'E'	SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES
SECTION 'F'	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS
SECTION 'G'	ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT
SECTION 'H'	MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSING.

Generally.

Housing still remains one of our greatest social and public health problems. In essence, the problem is to secure by all available methods the adequate provision of housing accommodation of the right type in the right place and within the financial means of those needing it.

In this aspect of environmental health work the work of the Public Health Department is concerned with maintaining and improving housing standards, securing the demolition of houses where improvement is impracticable, and controlling and solving the varying questions of unsatisfactory accommodation and overcrowding.

In previous annual reports I have drawn attention to the inadequacy of the present penal standard of fitness ignoring as it does such matters as provision of bath, hot water supply, internal water closet, heating of rooms and artificial lighting. Improvement of the existing standard is urgently needed.

The curtailment of Council house building has retarded the re-housing of families from unfit houses. The Council's recently approved new building programme is therefore most welcome having regard to the need to accelerate the re-housing of such families.

Improvement Grants.

Subsidising the property owner from public funds dates from 1926, but the Act introduced in that year for this purpose was not a great success.

The 1949 Housing Act resurrected the scheme in a greatly improved form. Few authorities however showed active interest in the improvement grant provisions of the Act.

The Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954 introduced measures designed to further encourage owners to obtain grants. No major changes in procedure occurred however until 1957 when the Rent Act stabilised the method of fixing rents.

In 1958, the previous legislation became merged into one enactment and the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 became the reference work for grant schemes. The grants scheme had gradually got under way and in 1958 grants were being made at the rate of 30,000 per year. Between 1949 and 1959 there had been a gradual awakening of interest of local authorities and landlords in schemes to assist both in raising the standard of existing dwellings.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, not only introduced some striking changes in the discretionary grant system, but set up an entirely new feature, namely standard grants.

From 1949 onwards every attempt has been made to persuade owners to use grant aid to improve their properties. Each amendment has given further incentives. Despite this it is generally accepted that the progress being made with improvement work is not satisfactory. The standard grants scheme has been rather more successful than the discretionary scheme, but progress under both schemes has been below the rate required. Although the rate of improvement with grant aid rose to 135,000 houses a year in 1960, in 1962 only 115,000 houses were improved with grant.

In the preceding report I stated that since persuasion has clearly failed there appears to be a case for compulsion. This could be achieved by replacing the present inadequate standard of fitness in the Housing Act, 1957, by the improvement standard used for discretionary grants and known as the twelve point standard.

Repair notices could then include the provision of all modern amenities, grant aid could be offered at the same time, plus, probably a loan to help the owner meet the remaining cost.

Our legislators however are not prepared, as yet, for such drastic action. In 1962 the Minister of Housing & Local Government sent a circular to local authorities urging them to try and stimulate owners to make greater use of the grants available, and intimated that where they met with resistance he would be prepared to consider the use of compulsory purchase powers.

As a result of this circular I was instructed by the Council to prepare a pilot scheme for an area within which all the owners of properties would be asked to improve their houses. A survey of the area which included 140 houses was proceeding at the end of 1962 and an analysis of the survey and the ensuing action taken to secure the improvement of houses in this area will be given in the next annual report.

During the year the Council approved applications comprising 42 discretionary grants and 39 standard grants.

Housing Action.

Formal housing action has proceeded during the year under review and twenty-six properties were dealt with as individual unfit houses in order to secure either their repair, closure or demolition.

In addition action was taken under various provisions of the Public Health Acts whereby housing defects were remedied and food stores and yard paving provided. Details relating to this work are as follows:-

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 5, 10 & 12 of the Housing Act 1957:-
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, (informal notices).... 4
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs..... Nil
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice..... 3
- (b) Proceedings under Sections 16, 18 & 23, of the Housing Act, 1957:-
- (1) Number of dwelling houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957..... 26
 - (2) Number of dwellings the subject of closing orders.... 5
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made..... 16
 - (4) Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings not to use for human habitation when vacated..... 4
 - (5) Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings to repair..... 1
 - (6) Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners..... 16
 - (7) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders..... 6
 - (8) Number of demolition orders revoked..... -
- (c) Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936:-
- (1) Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of informal/formal notices..... 72
 - (2) Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure connection of soil drainage systems to sewers. 146
 - (3) Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure conversion of pail closets into water closets..... 52
 - (4) Houses the subject of formal/informal action to secure provision of food stores..... 31

Rent Act 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made during the year under review.

Applications for certificates have however been small in number since the Act came into force, a total of forty-eight having been received since the introduction of the Act.

SECTION 'B'

WATER SUPPLIES.

The importance of a pure and adequate water supply cannot be over emphasised. The improved standard in the purity of public water supply together with the more adequate sources have contributed towards eliminating diseases and the prospect of the longer life of to-day.

Whilst to-day water borne diseases have been reduced to insignificant proportions, the possibility of disease from water must never be overlooked. Local authorities have the statutory duty to determine the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies in their districts.

The undermentioned water undertakings operate in the Council's district:-

Bucks Water Board
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water
Company.

Bucks Water Board.

Reports received from the Board indicate that the water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year 1962.

Bacteriological examinations of raw and treated water are made weekly of all sources supplying the area. The raw water from the Monks Risborough & Saunderton sources has occasionally shown the presence of coliform organisms. The waters are not plumbo-solvent. All waters are chlorinated.

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Reports received from the Company indicate also that their water supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations are made at frequent intervals, the sources which supply part of the Wycombe Rural District being tested two or three times weekly. No contamination was detected during the year at the pumping stations concerned. The water is not plumbo-solvent.

Piddington Water Supply.

A private supply of water at Piddington serves 112 houses and a factory. Supervision of the chlorinating plant to treat the supply has continued throughout year and samples taken at weekly intervals have been submitted for bacteriological examination. One sample showed slight contamination with coliform organisms. Repeat samples taken immediately after the report was received proved to be satisfactory.

Chemical analysis has shown the water to be of good chemical purity and satisfactory. The water is not plumbo-solvent.

Other Sources.

There are comparatively few houses which are not within reach of public water mains. The occupiers of some houses, however, still derive their water from wells and rainwater tanks. In certain cases individual properties are away from water mains, in other cases owner-occupiers with limited incomes are reluctant to incur the cost of a main water supply where the mains are not within a reasonable distance, whilst the occupiers of other dwellings have a prejudice in favour of their individual supplies as compared with a main water supply.

Supplying main water to houses which are isolated presents a financial problem which is often overcome by asking householders to make a special contribution towards the cost of extending the water mains, together with contributions from the Council and the water undertakers.

Water Sampling.

Surveillance of private water supplies has continued throughout the year. Of the 51 samples collected and submitted for chemical/bacteriological examination 21 were reported upon as not conforming to a satisfactory standard. Owners of properties were accordingly requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient supply. In some cases water mains were not within a reasonable distance and the Council approved main extensions of minor character.

Twenty-nine samples from public water supplies throughout the district were taken during the year. All proved to be satisfactory.

SECTION 'C'

SANITATION.

Drainage schemes for the areas of Wooburn, Penn, Tylers Green, Hazlemere, Hughenden and Stokenchurch were completed during the year 1962.

Thus the concept of sewerage the whole of the district has been brought appreciably nearer. Areas remaining to be sewerage include Lane End and district, Lacey Green, Loosley Row, parts of Kimble and Longwick, Ellesborough and parts of Bledlow Parish, Marlow Bottom, Bovingdon Green and Bledlow Ridge.

Cesspools and septic tanks have now been eliminated on a large scale resulting in a reduction of nuisances from overflowing sewage, increased protection of public water supplies from possible contamination at source, improved standards of cleanliness of certain watercourses and householders enjoying a more liberal use of their sanitary facilities.

The installation of sewers has also given impetus to house improvement. Many owners are providing bathrooms, hot water supplies and other facilities which are to-day regarded as essential and satisfy modern standards of comfort and convenience.

In certain cases, however, owners are not proceeding to connect their properties to the sewers. The Public Health Inspectors have therefore been engaged on checking the drainage systems of such premises, and where found to be defective or insufficient, appropriate action has been taken to enforce the connection of the soil drains to the sewers. In many cases also, action has been taken to secure the conversion of pail closets into water closets.

SECTION 'D'

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

Pests in the form of insects, rats and mice have always been enemies of the human race and although a great deal has been done to bring them under control the war against them still continues. Science has placed in our hands chemical weapons of great power and efficiency but continual efforts are necessary to keep these pests at bay.

We in this country do not suffer so greatly from the deprivations of insect and rodent pests as many people in other parts of the world. In large areas of the world insects take a fearful toll in terms of ill health and death, misery and economic loss.

We are fortunate in not being exposed to the worst ravages of these pests but we still have our problems. The danger of the spread of disease cannot be discounted completely - we must always be on the alert. Apart from the ill health hazard, insect pests, rats and mice do considerable damage to property and destroy large quantities of food.

Pest control is a serious and important subject and requires a good deal of technical knowledge and skill to be performed efficiently. Its importance is reflected in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which clearly defines the duties of owners and occupiers of premises and local authorities in the work of pest extermination. Rodent control is a community responsibility, and in this connection occupiers of premises can play an important part by reporting immediately any infestation which occurs in order that action may be promptly taken.

Workable Area Committee.

The Council is a constituent member of the South Bucks & East Berks Workable Area Committee and meetings of the Committee have been held at regular intervals.

The Committee, comprised of representatives from Local authorities, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and other interested organisations, is a most useful medium for exchange of views of pest destruction work.

Research work is continuously carried out by personnel of the Ministry in order to discover more effective material and methods for pest destruction and members of the Committee are kept informed of these developments.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

		Local Authority	Dwelling houses	All other premises	Total	Agricultural
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District		17	15,740	909	16,668	340
No. of properties inspected as a result of	Notification	-	318	46	364	35
	Survey	17	263	77	357	192
	Otherwise		5,840	1,534	7,374	62
No. of properties inspected as a result of notification found to be infested by	Major Common Rat	-	-	-	-	-
	House mouse	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor Common Rat		236	34	270	27
	House mouse		25	8	33	6
No. of properties inspected as a result of survey found to be infested by	Major Common Rat	2	1	-	3	1
	House mouse	-	-	-	-	1
	Minor Common Rat	3	141	61	205	144
	House mouse	2	10	16	28	156
No. of properties otherwise inspected found to be infested by	Major Common Rat	-	-	-	-	-
	House mouse	-	-	-	-	-
	Minor Common Rat	-	42	6	48	4
	House mouse	-	15	3	18	-
No. of properties treated by the Local Authority		5	470	57	539	194

SECTION 'E'

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Generally.

It is generally accepted that the consumer is becoming more discerning in the matter of food quality and more complaints are being made to local authorities as a result of this attitude.

Although the majority can be dealt with by informal action, some cases warrant legal proceedings. Dirty bandages, rodent droppings, cigarette ends, pieces of metal and other objectionable material in food need to be dealt with by statutory action.

In a rather different category foreign bodies may comprise pieces of string, labels and small amounts of grease which are increasingly the hazards of the modern food manufacture and packaging and such cases need considering on their merits.

The personal touch has largely disappeared from the food trade especially on the manufacturing side and the tendency is for the customer to seek the local authority's help in dealing with complaints. Food hygiene publicity has also played its part in making the public more particular and it is significant that in general people seem to be more concerned with hygiene than quality and quantity.

Retail Premises.

Most premises now appear reasonably clean and modern to the untutored eye but the handling of certain commodities still leaves much to be desired. In particular the indiscriminate handling of cooked meats is often observed. Perishable foods such as hams, blocks of corned beef and rolls of luncheon meat are frequently displayed at atmospheric temperature. Perishable foods of this nature which are on display at atmospheric temperature during the day and are then refrigerated at night soon acquire a profuse bacterial flora. Constant refrigeration is most desirable and until legislation is forthcoming to this effect the attention of retailers should be drawn to the necessity for keeping the quantity of cooked meats displayed to a minimum unless there are refrigerated counters or refrigerated display cabinets.

Bakehouses.

The advances in the general structural improvement of food premises have not been so evident in small bakehouses as they have been in other retail trades. No doubt the small bakers have found it difficult to compete with their large scale competitors.

It is now known that bakehouses deal with two imported materials known to be sources of salmonella infection namely dried and frozen bulked egg and desiccated coconut. The treatment of such products at the source of production or at the point of arrival in this country to ensure safety to consumers is a problem which requires resolving at an early date.

Grocers' Shops.

Great changes have occurred in the grocery trade in the postwar years. There has been a decline in the number of small grocers shops and a marked increase in self-service shops with most goods pre-packed. To some extent this has relieved the grocer of his responsibilities in connection with the goods he sells, the exception being the perishable foods in which he deals.

Lack of storage space is still a problem in many grocers' premises. In many cases grocery shops need as much space for storage and food preparation as the actual sales area itself.

Food Hygiene.

The Food Hygiene Regulations became operative on the 1st January, 1956. It has been stated that food hygiene is recognised in the food and catering industries as sound commercial practice.

Much has been accomplished by way of improvement to structures and provision of equipment. There has been a marked advance in the use of pre-packed foods and the use of refrigeration, particularly deep freeze. But in spite of these attainments much remains to be done before we can say that food hygiene has succeeded to the extent that food care is practised by everyone.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

A summary of the work of the department in connection with visits to food premises is as follows:-

Number of visits.....	1,360
Food rooms redecorated.....	27
Food rooms repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, windows)...	23
Wash-basins provided.....	7
New sanitary accommodation provided.....	6
Provision of constant hot water supply.....	5
Rodent infestation dealt with.....	31
Additional ventilation provided.....	4
Refuse receptacles provided.....	22

Ice-cream.

The ice-cream trade is well known for its use of purpose made vehicles and in the training of the personnel who man them. No doubt this is in large measure due to stringent legal requirements and the comparatively few firms who hold the controlling interests, and who realise that hygienic equipment and handling must be at their very best both for customer attraction and customer safety.

Soft ice-cream is in heavy demand. The dispensing machines require emptying and immediate cleansing and sterilisation at the end of each day and it is only possible to carry out this operation satisfactorily at properly equipped depots, under adequate supervision by personnel who have been trained in the routine and who appreciate the need for the utmost care.

Five new registrations of premises for the sale of ice-cream have been approved during the year under review and the number of registered premises now total 141.

Supervision in connection with the sale of this commodity has been exercised by inspection of premises and sampling of ice-cream for bacteriological cleanliness. Premises generally were found to be in good condition and samples conformed to a satisfactory standard.

Milk & Dairies.

Dairy herds are now free from tuberculosis and the vast majority of dairy farmers hold a full licence to produce and sell tuberculin-tested milk. It is expected that the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food will terminate tuberculin-tested licensing, and the testing of producers' milk for hygienic quality will be handed over to the dairy industry. There will be new Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the "tuberculin tested" designation will disappear.

It has been suggested that the tuberculin-tested pasteurised milk will be replaced by a new grade of milk which presumably would have a fat content somewhere between ordinary pasteurised milk and the premium milks such as "Chammel Islands".

Complaints.

Complaints received in connection with foodstuffs purchased included:-

- Fly in meat pie
- Dirt in veal, ham and egg pie
- Dirty milk bottle
- Mouldy sausages
- "Dirt" in bread (proved to be charred dough)
- Mouse dropping in beef chipolates
- "Dirt" in bread (proved to be edible oil)

All the cases were investigated and after full consideration no formal action was taken. Warnings were sent to the retailers or manufacturers where the circumstances warranted such action.

Slaughterhouses.

In previous annual reports I have commented on Section 3 of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958, which necessitated the Council to submit and report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food on the slaughterhouse facilities which would become available to meet the requirements of the district, and acceptance of that report by the Minister.

In approving the report the Minister prescribed 1st July, 1962, as the date from which all slaughterhouses in the district must comply with the new construction regulations.

The three private slaughterhouses in the Council's district were made to comply with the new construction regulations by the prescribed date and slaughtering of animals is now regularly carried out at these premises.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 and 1954 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

These Acts and Regulations are for the purpose of preventing cruelty and ensuring that no animals shall be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse except by a person licensed by the local authority.

The licences of 10 slaughtermen were renewed during the year.

Poultry Packing Stations.

There are two establishments in the area in which poultry are processed on an extensive scale.

The birds are killed, bled, put into plucking machines, singed, eviscerated, eviscerated carcasses washed and placed into chill-tanks. The carcasses are then placed in diaphane envelopes and subsequently loaded into blast freezers. The birds emerge in a hard frozen condition and are packed in cartons in readiness for distribution.

These poultry packing stations have been the subject of frequent inspections and they are claiming an increasing proportion of the inspectorate's time.

Meat Inspection.

The following table indicates the number and different classes of animals slaughtered, and the number of animals affected with tuberculosis, cysticercosis bovis and diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis bovis.

Tuberculosis was all but absent again in cattle, as the figures of 2 cows affected in the internal organs, and 1 beast affected in the head nodes, will show. 2.9% of the total number of pigs inspected were found to have either Bovine or Avian Tuberculosis lesions, or lesions of a bacillary necrotic nature or the corynebacterium equi type, in the submaxillary nodes of the head.

Unfortunately, the time necessary to establish the true nature of the lesions, microscopically and bacteriologically at the Laboratory is too long to be of other than professional interest and it is the practice to condemn the pig's head, and examine the rest of the carcass and organs in detail before passing them as fit for food.

The incidence of diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis would appear to be fairly high again, but the records show that to a great extent, the figures represent parasitical damage to livers of cattle, sheep and pigs, leaving the whole carcass fit for food.

However, the fairly high percentage of livers condemned throughout the country due to fascioliasis in the case of cattle and sheep, represent a considerable loss to the butcher, and the nation as a whole.

Cysticercosis bovis was found in 78 cattle, 4 of which were cows. The technique of inspection used is as recommended by the Memorandum 3 Meat, and the Practice Notes on the subject, by the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

The total carcase weight condemned was 19 cwt. 3 qtr. and in the case of offal was 4 tons. 6 cwt. 2 qtr. 12 lbs.

Causes of condemnation other than Tuberculosis and cysticercosis included:-

Abscesses; actinomycosis; actinobacillosis; general parasitical condition of livers and lungs, (e.g. fascioliasis, muellerius capillaris, ascaris lumbricoides) cirrhosis; telangiectasis; pericarditis; peritonitis; pneumonia; pleurisy; bruising; pathological emaciation; septicaemia; puerperal pyrexia; pyaemia; jaundice; metritis and carcinoma, (of a calf).

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,844	260	236	8,869	3,359
Number inspected	2,844	260	236	8,869	3,359
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	3	Nil	3	1
Part carcass or organ condemned....	737	97	1	190	255
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	25.9%	38.4%	0.42%	2.2%	7.6%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part carcasses or organ condemned...	1	2	Nil	Nil	100
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	0.03%	0.76%	Nil	Nil	2.9%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Part carcass or organ condemned..	74	4	-	-	-
Carcasses refrigerated....	8	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci.....	2.6%	1.5%	-	-	-

SECTION 'F'

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Factories.

The factory premises registered with the Council number 172.

The tables submitted herewith contain statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and include the work of the Public Health Inspector in relation to factory administration as it concerns the local authority.

Matters claiming attention include cleanliness, ventilation, lighting, sanitary accommodation and means of escape in case of fire. A number of factories have canteens and are therefore subject to the provision of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Homework.

A provision of the Factories Act 1937 requires firms employing outworkers to furnish to the local authority twice yearly lists giving the names and addresses of persons carrying out specified work connected with the business of the factory at premises outside the factory.

Homes of the outworkers should conform to a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene.

The lists submitted to the Council showed that outworkers were principally employed on the making and altering of wearing apparel.

1. Inspection made for Provisions as to Health.

Premises	Number of Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities:....	10	8	1	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.....	162	96	14	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (ex outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals.....	172	104	15	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation..	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences...					
(a) Insufficient.....	7	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	9	8	Nil	3	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	19	16	Nil	3	Nil

OUTWORKS.

Sections 110 and 111.

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc....	28	-	-	-	-	-
Household Linen	7	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace curtains and nets.	6	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers.....	12	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and Upholstery....	3	-	-	-	-	-
Button Carding.	16	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades.....	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	73	-	-	-	-	-

Rag Flock.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority.

Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean material.

During the year samples of rag flock were collected and submitted to a public analyst for examination. In one case the samples did not comply with the prescribed standards and legal proceedings were instituted against the firm concerned. The defendant Company entered a plea of guilty and were fined £5.

Workers in Non-Industrial Premises,

In preceding annual reports I have stated that although there is legislative control of public health matters affecting persons in factories and workshops there is a notable omission in this respect with regard to office workers and others engaged in non-industrial employment. It is estimated that over ten million workers are inadequately protected. They are principally the people who work in shops, offices, the distributive trades, theatres, cinemas and on the railways.

Fourteen years have passed since the publication of the report on this subject by the committee under the chairmanship of Sir Ernest Gowers. During this period criticisms about conditions in which many non-industrial workers are employed and considerable disappointment has been expressed in the absence of constructive remedies by successive governments since 1949. Legislation relating to the health and welfare of office workers and others engaged in non-industrial employment is long overdue.

SECTION 'G'.

Clean Air.

Over 600 years ago coal began to be used in Britain. It was immediately disliked because of the smoke it made, but no one knew how to prevent the smoke, and it spread wider and became denser with the growth of industry and the towns. Now Britain's chimneys pour out each year 2 million tons of smoke, over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of grit and ash and 5 million tons of sulphur gases. This smoke includes black soot and droplets of sticky tar and oil.

Homes are responsible for more smoke and industry for more grit. House smoke contains more tar and is particularly harmful because it is discharged at a low level.

Smoke in the air cuts off health-giving sunlight and daylight. It encourages bronchitis, coughs and catarrh. Smoke blackens and corrodes buildings and materials and creates gloom, dirt and squalor.

To remedy this social evil smoke can be avoided both in industry and the house by using smokeless fuels, electricity, gas and oil.

The drive to abolish smoke is now backed by the Clean Air Act. This Act gives the local authority power to deal with the domestic smoke problem by making an order, which must be confirmed by the Minister, declaring the whole or any part of its district as a "smoke control area". Such an area containing dwelling houses, industrial and commercial properties or a mixture of all three, would become a smoke free area in so far as any emission of smoke would constitute an offence under the Act.

Railways.

The reduction of railway smoke is progressing as the British Transport Commission implements its modernisation schemes.

Industry.

The prevention of industrial smoke raises many technical problems, Considerable sums however are being spent on plant improvement and industry is generally recognising its obligations to reduce air pollution.

Domestic.

The domestic chimney is responsible for more than half the total smoke from all sources, and for the first time local authorities can now control domestic smoke. Smoke control orders are the means provided by the Act for dealing with the domestic smoke problem.

Improvements in this sphere are however evolving. New and efficient appliances are replacing the old type of fire grate. Smokeless fuels are ousting coal, and gas, electricity and oil fuel are being used increasingly.

Control Measures.

Control measures which the Council are at present operating in order to prevent atmospheric pollution include:-

- (1) Action where necessary against the emission of dark smoke and securing the minimum emission of grit and dust.
- (2) Ensuring that new industrial furnaces are not installed unless they are capable so far as practicable of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (3) Regulating the height of chimneys in connection with the erection or extension of industrial buildings.
- (4) Implementing byelaws which require all new buildings to be equipped with smokeless fuel appliances.

- (5) One smoke control order made jointly by the Council and a neighbouring local authority is now operative in connection with a new housing estate, part of which is in the Council's district, and part in the area of the neighbouring authority.

Road Vehicle Pollution.

Growing public concern over smoke and fumes from diesel vehicles has led to a new Government regulation to control the excess fuel device; a Private Members Bill, withdrawn after the second reading; a statement on the subject by the National Society of Clean Air and a report by the Institution of Road Engineers.

The problem is being widely studied.

SECTION 'H'

MISCELLANEOUS.

Caravans.

Implementation of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960, has steadily proceeded during the year under review.

This Act designed to strengthen the powers of local authorities and planning authorities to control the siting of caravans, and to ensure that caravan sites are properly equipped and run necessitated a survey of all caravan sites in the district.

When planning permissions are given site licences have to be issued and conditions prescribed in order to regulate the sites and secure satisfactory conditions. The staff of the Public Health Department has been extensively engaged in this and in the year 1962 the sites were the subject of 748 visits.

38 licences were issued relating to the stationing of 84 caravans. Since the commencement of the Act a total of 136 licences have been approved thereby permitting 239 caravans to be occupied.

As stated in previous reports it is said that caravan sites are an admission of failure to build houses or make available houses at prices which the people can afford. Most of the people living in caravans would prefer to be in houses.

Agricultural (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Certain provisions of this Act require local authorities to determine the sufficiency of sanitary conveniences for the use of workers on agricultural units, and by notice secure additional sanitary accommodation where there is inadequate provision.

During the year 1962 inspection of agricultural units continued, and 5 occupiers were requested to provide sufficient sanitary accommodation for their employees.

Hairdressers.

The Council have adopted Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act which provides for the registration of hairdressers and barbers.

The Council have now made byelaws under the same Act for the purpose of securing cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

At the end of the year there were 31 premises registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdressing.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals and Marine Stores.

There are 12 premises within the rural district where the business of dealing in old metals is transacted and the premises are registered in accordance with Section 88 of the Public Health Amendments Act 1907. Dealers are required to keep records in relation to the articles they purchase.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals making provision for the licensing of pet animal shops and imposing conditions for the animals to be accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner.

One shop was licensed during the year under review.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliance not fitted with a suitable guard.

No contraventions of the Act have been observed.

Licensing of Game Dealers.

The Council granted five licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Infectious Diseases.

Thirty-five visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases obtained and recorded, contacts checked and disinfection of rooms and bedding carried out.

Noise.

Nuisance from noise is an everyday experience - aircraft, pneumatic drills, road traffic, over-loud radio sets are but a few of the causes. It is understandable that with more knowledge of the availability of technical and administrative measures of control and measurement there is an increasing demand for its abatement.

Like most forms of nuisance, much of the noise suffered is either unnecessary or capable of prevention, and, because it may curtail sleep or otherwise affect health, it is only right that the hand of the local authority should have been strengthened by the appearance on the Statute Book of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

This Act however has certain limitations and it is considered that it will not be effected until the law fixes noise levels. A Committee, set up three years ago under the Chairmanship of Sir Alan Wilson has submitted a final report to the Minister of Science on the nature, sources and effects of the problem of noise.

It is expected that a White Paper will be issued recommending maximum acceptable levels of external noise. Further control measures could be suggested as for example noise control areas and compulsory sound insulation of buildings.

In the interim period local authorities and their officers have the difficult task of dealing with complaints and having to determine where noise interferes with ordinary physical comfort of human existence sufficiently to become an actionable nuisance.

During the year 46 visits were made in connection with alleged noise nuisances. In the cases where statutory nuisances were confirmed, appropriate action was taken in order to secure abatement of the nuisances.

CONCLUSION.

This report gives some indication of the work of the Council towards improving environmental hygiene standards in the district.

There are problems still to be overcome. Constant vigilance and action is therefore necessary by central government and local authorities supported by an informed public in order to maintain and improve upon the standards we now enjoy.



