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WYCOMBE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1970

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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1970

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1970

CHAIRMAN:-

MR.H.CHURCH, B.E.M.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-

MISS J.H.C.COUPER

HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 20th MAY,1970

CHAIRMAN:-

MR.G.SPEAR

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-

MISS R.GRAY

The Chairman of the Council -	Mr.H. Church, B.E.M.
The Vice Chairman of the Council -	Miss J.H.C.Couper
The Chairman of the Housing Committee-	Mr.W.Crossley
Mr.J.D.Brimacombe	Mrs.M.A.H. Nickson
Mrs.D. Brock	Mr. A.J. Plumridge
Mr.J.G.Davison	Mrs.D.A.Richardson
Mrs. M.L.Haywood	Mrs.P.M.Sharp
Mr. H.G.Hook	The Revd.G.W.Young

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The Chairman of the Council -	Mr.H. Church,B.E.M.
The Chairman of the Health Committee -	Mr.G.Spear.
The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee -	Miss R. Gray.
The Chairman of the Housing Committee -	Mr.W.Crossley.
Mrs. M.E. Young	(to 7th December, 1970)
The Revd. G.W. Young	(from 7th December, 1970)

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.

AND

Medical Officer of Health:-

High Wycombe
Borough Council

and

Marlow Urban
District Council

Main Address:-

32, Octagon Parade,
High Wycombe

Telephone:-

Office:-H.W. 32861
Home:- H.W. 27338

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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

J.P.PERRY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Retired 22.9.70)

OFFICE ADDRESS:- Bellfield House
80, Oxford Road,
High Wycombe, Bucks

Telephone H.W. 21031

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

N.J.BILLINGTON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Appointed 5.10.70)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE

DISTRICT INSPECTORS

B. CURTIS M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 15.11.70)
N.C. SKEDGE B.Sc.(Hons), M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
G. SMITH M.A.P.H.I.
G. YOUNG M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL INSPECTOR

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

STUDENT INSPECTOR

T.A.STAVELEY

CLERKS

MISS S.E.BALL
MISS R.M.SPENCER

RODENT CONTROL

SENIOR RODENT OPERATOR
E.V.BOWLER
RODENT OPERATOR
MRS. H. BEAGLEY



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WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Bellfield House,
80, Oxford Road,
High Wycombe.

September, 1971

To the Chairman and Members of
Wycombe Rural District Council:

Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the
year 1970.

Once again there was a sharp increase in the estimated
population of the district - at 70,660 exactly 1,100 above
that of the previous year.

Births numbered 1,312, 8 more than in 1969 and the birth
rate per 1,000 of the resident population was practically
constant at 18.6.

There were 551 deaths so that the increase in the
population by natural processes was 761.

Of the deaths there were 261 from diseases of the heart
and circulation, 124 from cancer and 87 from diseases of
the respiratory organs. 20 infants died during the first
year of life, the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live
births being 15 compared with the national rate of 17.

There was very little in the way of infectious disease, the only disease reaching double figures being measles which produced 90 notifications. With vaccination against this now available it is likely that future years will see a substantial diminution of incidence of this common disease of childhood.

There were only six notifications of tuberculosis and only one death. There has been a tremendous reduction in the incidence and morbidity of this disease but unfortunately it has been replaced by lung cancer as the scourge of humanity.

Indeed nowadays most illness is not accidental as in the past but is brought on by people themselves by indulgence, smoking, drinking and overeating, not forgetting venereal disease.

The year 1970 marked the retirement from office of Mr. J.P.Perry, Chief Public Health Inspector, after forty years service with the Authority and it is appropriate to put on record appreciation of the excellence of his work and his devotion to duty over so many years and at the same time to welcome his successor Mr.B.R.Nagle.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.J.MUIR

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS

Area in acres	71,232
Population (1961)	51,252
Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1970	70,660
Number of inhabitable houses on 31st Dec,1970	22,562
Rateable Value as at 31st March,1971.....	£3,368,906
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 31st March,1971	13,859
General Rate in the Pound	12/11
Rate Product (net) including Grants	£2,188,589

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Number	1,312
Rate per 1,000 Population	18.6
Comparability Factor98
Adjusted Birth Rate.....	18.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	5
Stillbirths.	
Number	15
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births	11
Total live and still births	1,327
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	20
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	15
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	16
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).....	12
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births ...	11
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & still births)	22
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births...	0.0

DEATHS

Number of deaths	Male	292
	Female	<u>259</u>
Total		<u>551</u>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	7.8
Comparability Factor	1.10
Adjusted Local Death Rate	8.6
Death Rate of England & Wales	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY

20 infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	12	8	20
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>

This represents a mortality rate of 15 per 1,000 related births compared with 18.0 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate is 12 which is the same as the national rate.

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. Enteritis & other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-	1
2. Malignant neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	2	-	2
3. Malignant neoplasm-Stomach	7	3	10
4. " " Oesophagus	3	-	3
5. " " Lung Bronchus	27	5	32
6. " " Breast	-	16	16
7. " " Uterus	-	1	1
8. " " Intestine	5	6	11
9. Benign & unspecified neoplasms	1	2	3
10. Leukemia	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm - Prostate	5	-	5
12. Other malignant neoplasms including neoplasms of lymphatic & haematopoietic tissue	23	14	37
13. Diabetes Mellitus	1	3	4
14. Avitaminoses etc.	-	1	1
15. Other endocrine, nutritional & metabolic diseases	1	-	1
16. Anaemias	-	2	2
17. Appendicitis	1	-	1
18. Other diseases of nervous system & sense organs	2	2	4
19. Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	2	5
20. Hypertensive disease	2	4	6
21. Ischaemic heart disease	79	63	142
22. Other forms of heart disease	14	12	26

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
23. Cerebrovascular disease	24	33	57
24. Other diseases of the circulatory system	13	12	25
25. Influenza	3	3	6
26. Pneumonia	24	27	51
27. Bronchitis, emphysema	17	8	25
28. T/B including late effects	-	1	1
29. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	4	5
30. Cirrhosis of liver	-	1	1
31. Peptic Ulcer	3	1	4
32. Other disease of the digestive system.	1	6	7
33. Nephritis & nephrosis	1	2	3
34. Other diseases of the genitourinary system	1	4	5
35. Symptoms & ill defined conditions	-	1	1
36. Diseases of the musculo-skeletal system & connective tissue.	1	1	2
37. Congenital anomalies	4	3	7
38. Birth injury, difficult labour & other anoxic & hypoxic conditions	5	5	10
39. Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	1	3
40. Motor vehicle accidents	7	3	10
41. All other accidents	2	3	5
42. Suicide & self inflicted injuries	2	2	4
43. All other external causes	1	1	2
TOTALS	292	259	551

CANCER DEATHS

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)

Males	76
Females	48
	<u>124</u>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1970	124
1969	110
1968	124
1967	102
1966	112
1965	76
1964	92

The following organs were affected:-

Buccal Cavity	2
Oesophagus	3
Stomach	10
Intestine	11
Lungs	32
Breast	16
Uterus	1
Prostate	5
Other Sites	37
Benign & Unspecified Neoplasms...	3
Leukemia	4
	<u>124</u>

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	.017
Total Deaths - Tuberculosis	1.
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	.017
Total Deaths - Non Respiratory Tuberculosis.	-
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	-
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis).....	87
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	10.9

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR, 1970

District	Population Census 1961	Registrar General's estimated Population mid-1970	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population
Wycombe Rural	51,252	70,660	18.6	7.8
England & Wales	46,071,604	48,987,700	16.0	11.7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1970

	Total Cases Noti- fied	Un- der 1 yr.	2 yr.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25+ yrs.	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	90	7	11	7	11	9	38	6	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	4	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infectn.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	104	7	11	8	11	10	43	8	2	3

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES DURING THE YEAR - 1970

Age Periods	TUBERCULOSIS - New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	1	-	-
25-44	-	1	-	-
45-64	1	1	-	1
65+	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	1	4	-	1

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR - 1970

Age Periods	TUBERCULOSIS - Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-
65+	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	-	1	-	-

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

All persons under forty are eligible and also those above that age who may be at special risk. 1,143 immunisations were given in Wycombe Rural District Council area and 38 boosters.

MEASLES VACCINATION

1,502 children were vaccinated against measles

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

In 1970, 1,232 children were vaccinated against diphtheria, 1,284 against tetanus and 1,211 against whooping cough. 1,306 renewals were given.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

Since 1954 vaccination against tuberculosis has been offered to 13 year old pupils. In 1970, 2,109 children in the Wycombe Division were tuberculin tested and 1,786 negative reactors were vaccinated.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

984 vaccinations were performed during 1970, and re-vaccinations numbered 124.

TUBERCULOSIS

6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There was one death from pulmonary disease.

HOSPITALS

Hospitals available to local residents are as follows:-

General	-	High Wycombe Amersham Stoke Mandeville Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury Battle Hospital, Reading Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow Marlow Cottage Hospital
Maternity	-	Shrubbery Maternity Home Townlands Hospital, Henley Amersham General Hospital Canadian Red Cross Hospital
Fevers	-	Maidenhead Isolation Hospital Slade Hospital, Oxford
Mental	-	St. John's Hospital, Stone

AMBULANCE SERVICES

These are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council. The local station is at West End Street, High Wycombe.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was necessary under the provisions of this Act.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1970

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

DISTRICT	Estimated Gallonage Removed
1. Monks Risborough, Askett, Gt. & Lt. Kimble Kimblewick, Marsh, Terrick, Butlers X, Ellesborough, Dunsmore, Cadsden, White- leaf, Green Hailey, Owlswick, Meadle, Princes Risborough	2,397,000
2. Bledlow, Saunderton, Horsenden, Bledlow Ridge, Radnage, Spriggs Alley, Chinnor Hill, Longwick, Ilmer.	2,578,000
3. Downley, Piddington, Lane End, Wheeler End, Bolter End, Cadmore End, Ibstone, Stokenchurch, Water End, Studley Green, Horsley Green, Beacons Bottom, Fingest, Frieth, Turville, Turville Heath, North End.	2,613,000
4. South End, Hambleden, Fawley, Skirmett, Medmenham, Bovingdon Green, Marlow Common, Loudwater, Wooburn Moor, Wooburn Green, Wooburn Common, Cores End, Hawks Hill, Berghers Hill, Bourne End, Hedsor, Heavens Lea, Harvest Hill, Flackwell Heath, Winchbottom, Handy Cross, Booker, Gt. & Lt. Marlow.	2,831,000
5. Hazlemere, Penn, Tylers Green, Gt. Kingshill, Widmer End, Four Ashes, Cryers Hill, Spurlands End, Naphill, Walters Ash, Hughenden Valley, Speen, Lacey Green, Loosley Row, Hampden Row, Parslow Hillock, Bryants Bottom, North Dean, Bradenham, Gt. Hampden.	2,510,000
TOTAL	12,929,000

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R
1 9 7 0

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

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my first annual report on the Environmental Health Services for the year 1970.

The year has been, in many ways, a memorable one from the public health point of view. Mr J.P. Perry retired after 40 years loyal service with this Council, and his last report, coming as it did in European Conservation Year, gave an extremely interesting account of the dramatic improvements in the local sanitary circumstances of the Wycombe Rural District since the thirties - The Life expectancy of a child born in 1970 is 75 years - a vast improvement on those pre-war days.

He went on to highlight the reasons for the promotion of European Conservation Year 1970, and concluded that health is not merely the absence of disease, but the positive concept of health in a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.

The fact is that the massive technological development and advancement over the last 100 years, coupled with the population "explosion", have combined to pollute the air, land and water to unacceptable levels.

Fortunately technological development not only brings pollution in its wake, but also has the answer to its control. It is just that the two have got out of phase. Pollution Control costs money, and affluent societies will have to pay more for their consumer durable "necessities."

This state of affairs has happily now been recognised by many countries. In Gt. Britain a Standing Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has been appointed, and has already published its first report.

Britain was also fortunate and unique, in having on the statute book, laws to control pollution as long ago as 1863, which together with the Public Health Act of 1875, the first of the comprehensive public health control laws, have been broadened progressively to produce a form of co-operation from industry and the public alike not seen anywhere else. We can certainly lay claim to having some of the most effective and practical anti-pollution legislation in the world.

Whilst there is no room for complacency, with so much still to be achieved, most levels of pollution are on the way down in Britain.

The natural environmental systems have a great, but not infinite capacity to dilute, break down and re-circulate pollutants, and it is up to us to continue to redress the balance of nature, by using the very technology that helped to create the unacceptable levels of pollution.

Pollution is of course also closely related to population, and with the explosive growth rates during the last hundred years, some authorities feel that this is the biggest factor in the pollution of our environment.

The other main cause for concern, is the provision of adequate housing, through urban renewal, by rebuilding, and repair and improvement of existing houses, not only for homeless families and the growing population, but also for the people living in structurally unsound houses and those houses lacking in basic amenities. According to the Registrar General's projection for Great Britain, a total population of 64.6 millions for the year 2000 is expected.

From this figure it is possible, due to the downward trend in the size of households, to project a household need in the year 2000, for 22.2 million dwellings, as against 18.7 million dwellings in Great Britain at the end of 1970. This requirement of 3.5 million houses is in addition to the 2.1 million houses at present unfit, and taking no account of the burden of housing that is deficient in amenities, and/or likely to become unfit during the next 30 years.

An additional factor increasingly to be taken into consideration is that rising incomes for younger couples will bring a desire for more space, more privacy, and more amenity value, than a great deal of existing housing can ever hope to offer.

The satisfactory house in a satisfactory environment must be the aim. Otherwise general Improvement Areas will not be worthwhile - traffic curtailment and a few green trees do not create a satisfactory neighbourhood, if the housing stock is too far gone to improve properly, to a fitness standard worthy of 2000 A.D.

There is no doubt that rent control, originating in 1915, but more particularly since 1945, has been responsible for much of the decay in the Nation's older housing stock. By the autumn of 1970 it became obvious that the provisions in the Housing Act of 1969 for the new more generous Improvement Grant schemes, coupled with a small measure of rent increase, spread over a number of years, was not sufficient incentive to the landlords of the privately rented sector of housing. Less than 4,000 controlled dwellings lacking basic amenities have been improved since 1969.

Some 3 million houses were let on unfurnished tenancies in England at the beginning of 1966 OR 20% of the total stock of houses, and in the last five years this figure has fallen by 500,000 at the rate of 1% per year to a figure of 15.4%.

The majority of landlords own one or two houses and many of them are poorer than the controlled tenants, who enjoy an average rent of 85p per week outside London, whilst the average regulated or "fair rent" for de-controlled houses is approx. 1.85 x the Gross Value. The average weekly rent of Local Authority dwellings outside London is £2.18 p, and of course most of these are subsidized at the moment.

Small wonder that as privately rented houses become vacant, the houses are sold for owner/occupation, which is the other major factor in the silent revolution going on in housing. Nearly $8\frac{1}{4}$ million houses in England are owner/occupied and the number has been increasing at an average of about 1% per year since 1951.

In 1914, the percentage of owner/occupiers was approximately 10%.

By 1951 the proportion had increased to about 30%. By the end of 1970 the figure is an impressive 51.4% of the total stock of houses in England.

It seems that home ownership will now be the aim of the majority of households and it is forecast that the percentage of owner/occupiers will rise by a further 10% by the end of the seventies.

Towards the end of 1970, the Government were promising a radical change in the whole system of housing finance, which would create the right financial conditions for a final drive on the unfit houses, and the rest of the 2.5 million privately rented houses in England desperately in need of renovation and improvement. The proposed new National Rent policy should not only raise unfurnished private house and council house rents to new "fair rent" levels over a number of years, but will bring the 2.5 million tenants of the private houses into local authority rent rebate or allowance schemes as well.

With private landlords able to obtain a fair return on their investment, local authorities will be able to require "fair repair" for a "fair rent", which together with the encouragement of an improvement grant and/or a loan for the applicant's share of the costs, should gradually remove dilapidation, disrepair and lack of basic amenity from the housing scene.

This represents a new deal in housing and is based on:-

- (a) "Fair" rents for all unfurnished tenants who can afford them;
- (b) A rent allowance for those who cannot;
- (c) Concentration of Exchequer subsidies on Local Authorities with the worst housing areas, so as to finance a final assault on the slums.

The following report gives a summary of the work carried out by my Department during the year. The numbers of visits recorded by the Public Health Inspectorate to Food premises, Offices and Shops and Factories, were all up on last year, and were the result of a systematic survey of their areas by the district inspectors. In addition they all began to take a major part in the survey of houses under the new Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Act, 1969.

These additional visits and surveys represent a maximum effort in all fields and have been supplemented by hundreds of unrecorded personal and telephone interviews. I wish, therefore, to thank all members of my staff, without whose loyal services, the results given in the report would not have been possible.

In conclusion, Madam Chairman, my thanks are due to you, and all the members of the Council for the help and support you have given me.

I also wish to record my appreciation of the help and encouragement of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee, and of Dr Muir, and to thank the other Chief Officers of the Council and members of their Departments to whom, on many occasions both I, and members of my staff, have turned for information or assistance.

I have the honour to remain,

Madam Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B.R. NAGLE

Chief Public Health Inspector

- C O N T E N T S -

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Housing—The Private Sector



Housing Improvement



Before conversion – Two unfit cottages to be repaired and improved, to form one satisfactory house.



After completion – provision of modern kitchen and bathroom in ground floor extension. Dampproofing of walls and floors and renewal of internal fabric

HOUSING - THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

In Gt. Britain to-day there are over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million people living in dwellings which are not only unfit, but sited in a deficient environment. Another $4\frac{1}{2}$ million people live in houses which though not unfit, lack one or more of the basic amenities, and are in need of repair.

There was a net increase in the total stock of houses during 1970 of 243,000, making a total of 18,731,000. The downward trends in the provision of new houses, and the demolition or closure of unfit old houses continued. These trends must be stopped. Existing rates of building and demolition must be maintained and even raised again, if the present unfit houses are to be cleared by 1990 to 2000.

This will have to be backed by extensive programmes for the improvement of houses which are worth saving, and it is encouraging to note that 56,068 more houses were improved in Gt. Britain than in 1969.

Housing Act, 1969.

It has been clearly established that it is sound social and economic sense to prevent old houses deteriorating into slums and to avoid as far as possible, the breaking up of an established and well integrated community by the clearance and redevelopment of the whole area. Houses which are beyond repair must go as quickly as possible. Older houses which are fit, or can be made so, must be modernised and then kept in repair.

In England and Wales Improvement Grants approved for private owners went up from 76,384 in 1969 to 110,533 in 1970, - a 44% increase but generally Councils have still not reached a satisfactory rate of improvement.

In areas of housing where private tenanted accommodation predominates, as I have indicated in my introduction, owners are not taking up Improvement Grants. It is to be hoped that the long awaited reform of housing, the new national rent policy, and the rent rebate scheme for private tenants will encourage and enable owners to invest money in the improvement of their properties if they can see a "fair return" on their investment.

Within 2 months of the launching of the Housing Act, 1969, this Council, determined to improve the greatest possible number of houses, to the highest possible standards throughout the Rural District, charged the Health Committee with the responsibility for this new drive for the Improvement and Repair of older houses. An interdepartmental team was set up between the Engineer & Surveyor and the Chief Public Health Inspector on the one side and the Clerk of the Council and the Treasurer on the other, to deal with the expected increase in applicants. In addition to the National Publicity Campaign a statement of intent, was given to the Local Press, and letters were sent to all owners of houses in the Council's informal improvement areas. This Council's keynote is maximum help and encouragement to applicants within the rules laid down by the Act - the essential feature is that upon an enquiry being made to the Council, the applicant is supplied by the Chief Public Health Inspector with a detailed "Outline Schedule of Works" after a thorough inspection of the property concerned, indicating the improvements and repairs for which the Council will pay grant at that particular house, together with full details of how to submit the scheme for approval.

This first advisory visit, and the subsequent "schedule of works" has been found essential to clear up doubtful points, remove misconceptions and encourage a comprehensive scheme of proposals. This is a time consuming but vital stage, which ensures that the official application, when submitted to the Surveyor is in the correct form and capable of efficient processing to the approval stage. It also ensures that the improvement and repair proposals are adequate and produces the highest possible standard in each case.

During 1970 no less than 222 houses were the subject of "Outline Schedules of Works. This is a tremendous achievement and represents a 300 per cent increase in effort over the year before, on the part of the inter-departmental team.

This approach is paying dividends on the lines envisaged in Circular 46/71 issued by the Department of the Environment and this Council's record is second to none in the County, in their application of the Improvement Grant provisions.

35 Standard Grants and 27 "discretionary" Improvement Grants were paid in 1970. Altogether 1,096 properties have been given grants since 1954. The number of grants paid in each year are as follows:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Improvement Grants.</u>	<u>Standard Grants.</u>
1954	11	
1955	55	
1956	54	
1957	58	
1958	59	
1959	96	3
1960	59	32
1961	55	25
1962	34	31
1963	52	43
1964	34	59
1965	17	38
1966	24	35
1967	6	39
1968	11	49
1969	16	39
1970	27	35

Since the coming into operation of the new more generous provisions of the Housing Act, 1969, in October, 1969, the numbers of properties which have been the subject of an official "Outline Schedule of Improvements and Repairs" qualifying for grant aid are as follows up to the period ending 31st July, 1971.

Improvement Grants.....	317
Standard Grants.....	116

The majority of these will be paid during 1971 - 72.

Clearance or Rehabilitation and Improvement of
Unfit Houses.

As a result of Circular 92/69, from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, which requested Local Authorities to increase their attack on the unfit housing that remained, both the Health and Housing Committees set up a joint Health Housing Co-ordination Sub-Committee to co-ordinate the work of re-housing people from unfit houses.

At the end of 1970 I reported that of the balance of 190 houses reported as unfit in 1969, 52 had been vacated since 1st April, 1970, and 45 families re-housed by the Council.

The state of fitness of older houses is however a fluctuating problem and needs constant revision. The Housing Act 1969 requires Local Authorities to carry out further surveys of houses in their districts, and I intend to make a start on the inspection of older houses throughout the district during 1971.

Action has proceeded throughout the year to deal with unfit houses and as a result 53 houses were the subject of formal housing action, further details of which are given in the table on Page 25.

Housing Improvement



Three end cottages the subject of housing action to secure improvement and repair of the whole of the terrace.



Four cottages improved to a high standard under one ownership. The two end of terrace cottages then sold for owner/occupation.

Housing Improvement



Typical pre-1900 older houses ideal for improvement and repair.



Provision of modern kitchen and bathroom with separate internal W.C. in semi-detached house built 1900. Rear door, moved to new intervening lobby, obtains better arrangement of kitchen and work sequence, and allows for larger window.

Housing—Controlled Tenancies



Pre-1939 semi-detached house, with bathroom and w.c., the subject of an application for a "fair rent". Controlled rent £1,26½ per week. Proposed regulated rent £5 per week exclusive of rates.



Pre-1900 unfit terraced cottages let at 23½p per week. Extensive repairs and improvements required, but rent too low to allow other than emergency repairs.

HOUSING - SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

(1)	Number of houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.....	53
(2)	Number of houses the subject of closing orders.....	37
(3)	Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.....	22
(4)	Number of houses the subject of undertakings not to use for human habitation when vacated.....	7
(5)	Number of houses the subject of undertakings to repair.....	4
(6)	Number of houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners.....	2
(7)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	11
(8)	(i) Number of demolition orders revoked...	2
	(ii) Number of closing orders determined...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936.

(1)	Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of informal/formal notices.....	22
(2)	Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure connection of soil drainage systems to sewers.....	9
(3)	Houses the subject of informal/formal action to secure conversion of P.C's into W.C's.....	1
(4)	Houses the subject of formal/informal action to secure provision of food stores..	10

Summary of House Repairs and Sanitary
Improvements effected, 1970.

(a) Interior of Houses.

Rising dampness eliminated.....	40
Penetrating dampness eliminated.....	41
Condensation eliminated.....	3
Ceilings replastered.....	39
Walls replastered.....	37
Sinks provided.....	2
Defective windows repaired.....	71
Floors repaired or renewed.....	33
Doors repaired and made weatherproof.....	28
Staircases repaired.....	13
Provision of handrail to stairs.....	5
Defective skirting boards repaired or renewed...	10
Fireplace or Range renewed or repaired.....	10
Provision of cooking facilities.....	8
Provision of ventilated food store.....	10
Ventilation to larder provided.....	2
Increased window area provided.....	5
Artificial lighting provided.....	2
Cold water storage tank ballvalve renewed.....	1

(b) Exterior of houses.

House roofs repaired.....	26
Walls repointed and/or repaired.....	39
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired.....	24
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired.....	14
Rainwater tank cover renewed.....	1
Chimney stacks repointed and/or repaired.....	14
Damp-proof course provided.....	40
External woodwork repaired.....	4
External woodwork repainted.....	18

(c) Drainage and Sanitation.

Front and/or rear paving to house provided.....	9
Defective, leaking or overflowing cesspools repaired or renewed.....	12
Drains/sewers cleansed from obstruction.....	6
Drains and sewers renewed or repaired.....	6
Houses provided with a satisfactory drainage system.....	5
Water closet and or W.C. structures repaired or renewed.....	11
W.C. plumbing repaired.....	5

(d) Miscellaneous.

Accumulations of refuse etc. removed.....	2
Nuisance from insects and pests abated.....	16
Fuel Store provided.....	5

WATER SUPPLIES

In Gt. Britain today over 99% of the population has a supply of potable mains water. There are therefore few incidences of disease from waterborne agents. Water hygiene has not, because of its past success, become of lesser significance and importance, but remains a cornerstone of the preventive health service.

The Government are supporting further research into de-salination processes, bunded reservoirs in areas like the Wash, and into treatment of river waters.

The growing demand for water and the need for conservation was spotlighted in the late fifties, resulting in the formation of the Water Resources Board with a responsibility to see that available water was deployed to the best effect to all users.

This increasing demand for water is creating problems for statutory undertakers. In many areas adequate supplies from unpolluted sources are not always available at an economic cost and it is becoming accepted practice to obtain domestic supplies from rivers containing a high proportion of sewage and industrial waste effluents.

The future pattern of organisation in the clean and dirty water field is the subject of considerable discussion, and it is possible that the functions of the river authorities, the sewage disposal authorities and the water supply authorities will be merged in one organisation within the foreseeable future.

It is estimated that the demand for water will double by the end of the century. Suggestions for meeting this demand include estuarial barrages, river abstraction schemes, more surface reservoirs, large scale re-use of effluents and industrial wastes and desalination projects. Health considerations must govern the speed and extent at which these trends occur.

Local Water Supplies.

In our own district a public water supply is available to practically all householders throughout the area. Such a fundamental provision for the health and comfort of the community is all too often taken for granted.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to determine the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies in their districts. Constant surveillance is exercised to ensure that water supplies are not subject to contamination, and water sampling is frequently carried out by the Public Health Inspectorate.

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 in the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year 1970. Regular bacteriological examinations have been made of both raw, and water going into supply. All waters were chlorinated before distribution.

None of the water distributed contained fluoride above 0.1 p.p.m. and none of the water is plumbo-solvent.

As may be expected there has been a further increase in the demand for water, and works carried out recently in the district to improve supplies for the Board include completion of the final stages of development of the Bourne End Station. This source is now capable of producing 5 million gallons per day. Another scheme is in progress at Medmenham designed to initially abstract 4.0 million gallons per day and at a later date to increase this to 8.0 million gallons per day. At Radnage a 24" borehole has been put down to enable water from this borehole to be taken into supply.

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Reports received from the Company also confirm that their water supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Bacteriological samples are taken at least weekly from all pumping stations, reservoirs and towers, along with others from the distribution system; chemical samples are also taken frequently.

The fluoride content is negligible, (less than .02 p.p.m.) and 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 house-holders to make a special contribution towards the cost of extending the water mains.

Water Sampling.

(a) Private Water Supplies.

During the year 24 samples were taken by the Public Health Inspectors from private water supplies serving houses, food premises and factories.

Based on the classification suggested by the Ministry of Health for non-chlorinated piped supplies only 9 results could be considered satisfactory after bacteriological examination and/or chemical analysis.

Owners of the properties with water supplies not conforming to a satisfactory standard were requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient supply.

(b) Public Water Supplies.

During the year 16 samples were taken by the Public Health Inspectors from the public mains in the various parishes throughout the Rural District, for bacteriological examination. All proved to be satisfactory.

(c) Number of Inspections.

A total of 47 visits were made in connection with samples of private and public supplies of water, and extensions of public water mains to serve isolated groups of houses.

Food Hygiene



Clean food premises and equipment and clean food handlers are vital to the production and sale of clean food.

Proper stock rotation, and some form of National date stamp or coding system for perishable foods, is essential if the sale of mouldy, stale or unfit food is to be reduced.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Food Handlers

Those who prepare and handle food whether commercially or in the home are an important source of contamination. The hands can all too easily transfer germs from the human body to food and the result may occasionally be disastrous.

Everybody who handles food at any stage of its journey ought to understand the importance of personal hygiene, and especially the washing of hands after using a sanitary convenience or blowing one's nose.

Alongside personal hygiene in importance comes hygienic handling of the food itself. Most food poisoning organisms are killed by thorough cooking. In the refrigerator they may survive but cannot grow to harmful proportions. In between the temperature of the oven and that of the refrigerator is the gentle warmth of the kitchen and this is the condition in which germs thrive and multiply. The danger is even greater if the food having been cooked is stored overnight and then warmed before use next day.

Other important measures to prevent food poisoning include clean premises and equipment. Good premises however are not sufficient, the food handlers must play their part in the drive for cleaner, safer food, indeed it is true to say that theirs is the major role.

It must be remembered that clean food handlers can produce clean wholesome food in premises with little equipment, but food prepared in kitchens with the most elaborate fittings may be unsafe if staffed by dirty food handlers.

Food hygiene cannot be accomplished by punitive action alone. The human element is a vital factor, and the Public Health Inspector's major role in this field must be in educating food handlers, at their place of work.

Education must play an ever increasing part in promulgating healthy environmental conditions generally.

Education in its widest sense, including public lectures, newspaper and magazine articles, radio and television programmes, food guides, exhibitions etc.

To achieve food hygiene success by public education is a long term policy. The less spectacular method of imparting knowledge is in the course of routine inspection of food premises, when bad practices and faulty techniques can be observed and corrected on the spot.

In this sphere of work the public health inspectors have been actively engaged advising traders on the application of the Food Hygiene Regulations, in order to ensure, where necessary, improved conditions and practices where food is being prepared, stored or sold for human consumption.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

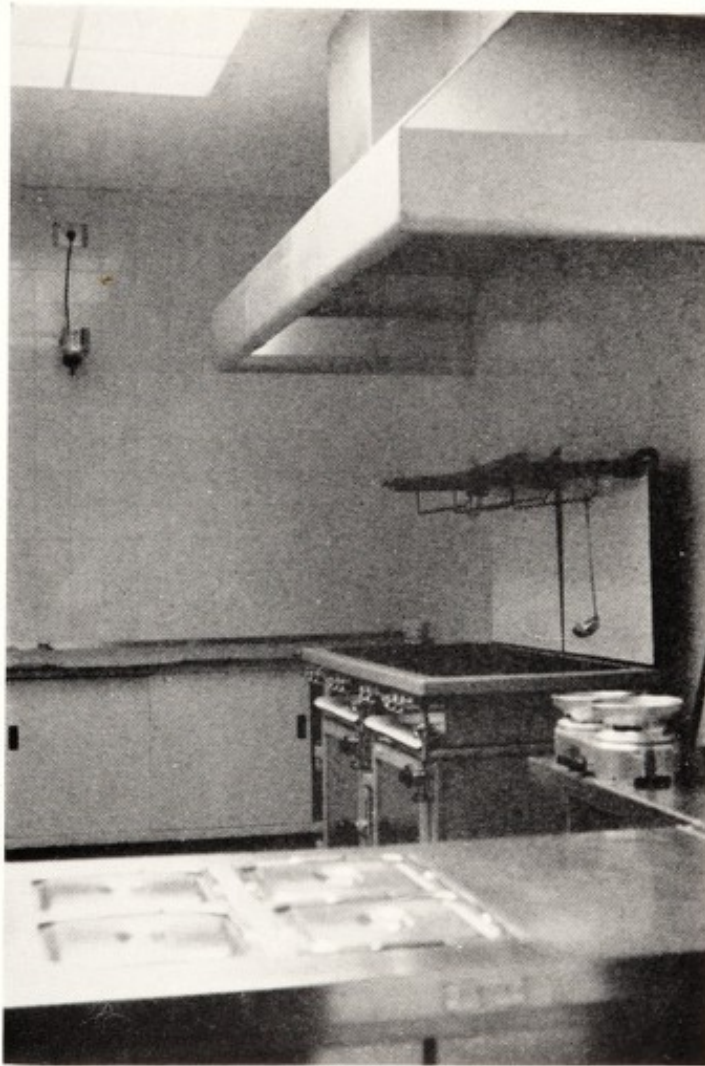
Since the introduction of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations there has been a marked improvement in the food hygiene standard of food shops and catering establishments both in regard to the condition of the premises and the food handling practices.

In progressing towards clean food, much has already been done by the food trade by way of improved food quality, packaging and display, of food.

There is still room for improvement however, and in this connection, the public can play an important part. The discriminating customer will buy in shops which are clean and bright, where the goods are attractively displayed and properly protected, and where the assistants have clean overalls. The same may be said of restaurants. The more discerning the shopping housewife is the more efficient and hygienic the shopkeeper's method must be.

During the year 571 visits were made to the two poultry packing stations one of which is in full time production, averaging 43,800 birds per week, 36 visits were made to bake-houses and baker and confectioner's shops, 74 to butcher's shops, 19 to fried fish shops and fish-mongers, 32 to green-grocers, 84 to cafe, hotel, factory canteen and transport cafe kitchens, 208 to general grocers, 165 to licensed premises and clubs. 89 visits were made to ice-cream premises and vehicles.

Clean Catering



The better the kitchen and equipment, the easier it is to obtain a high standard of food hygiene, with educated food handlers.

Clean Catering



38 visits were also made to food hawkers, 14 to market stalls, 144 to food shops in connection with the inspection of unsound foods, 19 to dairies and milk distributors, 1,184 visits re inspections of meat and slaughterhouses making a total of 2,677 visits to food premises during the year.

Frozen Foods.

The considerable increase in the sales of chilled and frozen produce means that there are large quantities of food which to produce their optimum standard of fitness should be maintained at temperatures well below 50° F. There is evidence that there are in existence many sales refrigeration units which provide no more than an appearance of cold storage and are not effective for the purposes intended.

It has been estimated that in 1968 there were about 45,000 out of date frozen cabinets still in use, and it would perhaps seem that there is too much emphasis on the sale of frozen foods as a field of marketing rather than refrigeration being used for the protection it gives to the foods displayed.

Containers should be fitted with a device which discloses any material rise in temperature which has occurred and could result in a deterioration in the safety, food value, flavour or appearance of the food in question.

Temperature regulations are also necessary to require that meat products, cooked or partly cooked food be stored below 40° F, dairy products should be stored in their proper chill range (up to 42° F) frozen food should be maintained below 20° F and quick frozen foods below 0° F. Indicating thermometers for refrigeration units should be mandatory.

Home Deep Freezers.

There has been a rapid increase during the past few years in the number of domestic deep freezers now in use and the trend is likely to continue as the price of food rises. The dangers regarding frozen food already elaborated on above apply just as much to a deep freeze in the home as in the shop and it is to be hoped that the housewife is well aware of this.

Registration of Food Premises
Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955

32 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

Ice Cream

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959 permit the use of a complete cold mix powder or liquid providing that after reconstitution the liquid mix must then be frozen into ice-cream within one hour. As far as the soft serve freezers are concerned this has created problems in that although the freezers have hoppers which keep the mix at a temperature below 45°F the mix may be retained in this manner for indeterminate lengths of time and thus break the law in not being frozen into ice-cream in one hour.

Providing the vehicle is properly constructed, maintained and vehicle and equipment thoroughly cleaned daily in accordance with a strict code, by the operator, there would appear to be no great risk to public health in this respect.

More adequate safeguards could be obtained however if powers to licence such vehicles under the present provisions of Section 21 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 were introduced. Regulations under this section have never been made and with the increase in the sales of soft ice-cream particularly from mobile vehicles, there is a need that they are first examined before operation.

In this district 95 premises are registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, two for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and 93 premises for the storage and sale of ice cream.

Fourteen vehicles used for the sale of "soft ice-cream" operate from premises in the district. Regular visits are made and samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors from the vehicles before they leave the depot. The samples were generally placed in Grades 1 and 2 which is a satisfactory result.

Bacteriological Examination of
Ice-cream by Methylene Blue
Reduction Test.

Samples of Ice-cream	From Mobile Vans				From Premises			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Test Grade								
Soft ice-cream	30	5	3	2	-	-	-	-
Other ice-cream	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
Total number of all samples.....	45							

Where samples were placed in Grade 3 and 4, immediate checks were made on the "method", machines or plant concerned and further samples taken.

Bacteriological Examination of
Foods, Food Premises and Equipment
using Swabbing Techniques.

65 swabs were taken for bacteriological examination in the Department's own laboratory using the agar sausage technique.

The swabs were taken mainly from canteens, cafes and shops and some beef and sheep carcasses at slaughterhouses, and the results were used to show food workers where extra attention was required in cleaning and sterilizing operations.

2 swabs were taken for examination by the Public Health Laboratory.

2 samples of cooked ham were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory. There are no prescribed bacteriological standards in the cooked meat field, but regular surveillance is maintained by the Public Health Inspectorate into the preparation, storage and exposure for sale of these high risk products.

10 samples were taken from the spinchiller and or processing waters in the Poultry Packing Plants.

Food Complaints.

21 complaints were received relating to unsound food and food containing foreign matter. These complaints are probably only the tip of the "ice-berg" as there is no doubt that a lot of complaints are settled directly between the complainant and the manufacturer and/or retailer.

A complaint regarding porage oats revealed the pack to be 2½ years old, but as the complainant could not remember where or when she had purchased the product no further action was taken.

4 cases of mouldy bread were investigated and in every case it was bad stock rotation or "sale and return" systems that were at fault.

A piece of metal found by a schoolboy in a pork sausage turned out to be part of the bullet used to kill the pig. Proceedings were taken in this case and the defendants found guilty.

Investigations were carried out on all the complaints and these resulted in 3 prosecutions. In the remaining cases cautionary letters were sent to the retailer or manufacturer, and in appropriate cases warning letters were sent to both parties.

50% of the complaints were in relation to mouldy food and this highlights the need for good stock rotation in shops, accompanied by a legible date stamping system which is at least known to the retailer, if not to the customer.

Foreign Matter and Mould
in Food.

Commodity	Foreign Matter in Food		Mouldy Food Number
	Number		
	Home pro- duced Food.	Imported Food.	
Milk.....	3	-	1
Butter.....	-	-	-
Cheese	-	-	1
Bread.....	-	-	4
Canned Meat.....	1	-	-
Cooked Meat.....	1	-	-
Meat Pies.....	1	-	1
Fish.....	-	-	-
Fruit.....	-	-	-
Jam.....	-	-	-
Vegetables.....	-	-	-
Cereals.....	1	-	-
Sweets.....	-	-	-
Confectionary...	-	-	1
Other Foods.....	4	-	2
Totals.....	11	-	10

Number of prosecutions under Section 2.. 3

Number of prosecutions under Section 8.. Nil

Total amount of Fines and Costs Imposed =
£100. 25.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Details relating to food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations are as follows:-

Premises	No. of pre- mises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of pre- mises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
A. Bakehouses ...	11	11	11
B. Butchers	21	21	21
C. Cafes & Canteens	35	35	35
D. Dairies & Milk Distributors..	5	5	5
E. Registered Ice Cream Premises	90	90	90
F. Fishmongers...	7	7	7
G. General Food Shops.....	126	126	126
H. Greengrocers..	16	16	16
J. Food Hawkers & stalls.....	17	2	2
K. Licenced Prem- ises & Clubs..	112	112	112
Totals.....	440	425	425

Regulation 16 requires premises to be provided with a wash-hand basin, with hot and cold water supplies and soak, nailbrush and towel.

Regulation 19 requires premises to be provided with a sink or sinks, where open food is handled.

Food Hygiene - Details of Notices Served

		Number	
		Offences	Convictions
1.	Part II. General requirements , equipment etc.....	44	Nil
2.	Part III. Requirements relating to persons engaged in the handling of food	11	Nil
3.	Part IV. Requirements relating to food premises, sanitary accommodation, sinks etc.	13	Nil
TOTALS		68	Nil

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles)
Regulations, 1966

		Number	
		Offences	Convictions
1.	Part II General requirements, equipment etc.....	20	Nil
2.	Part III Requirements relating to food handlers and the handling of food.....	11	Nil
3.	Part IV Requirements relating to markets and stalls and delivery vehicles.....	17	Nil
		48	Nil

FOOD PREMISES

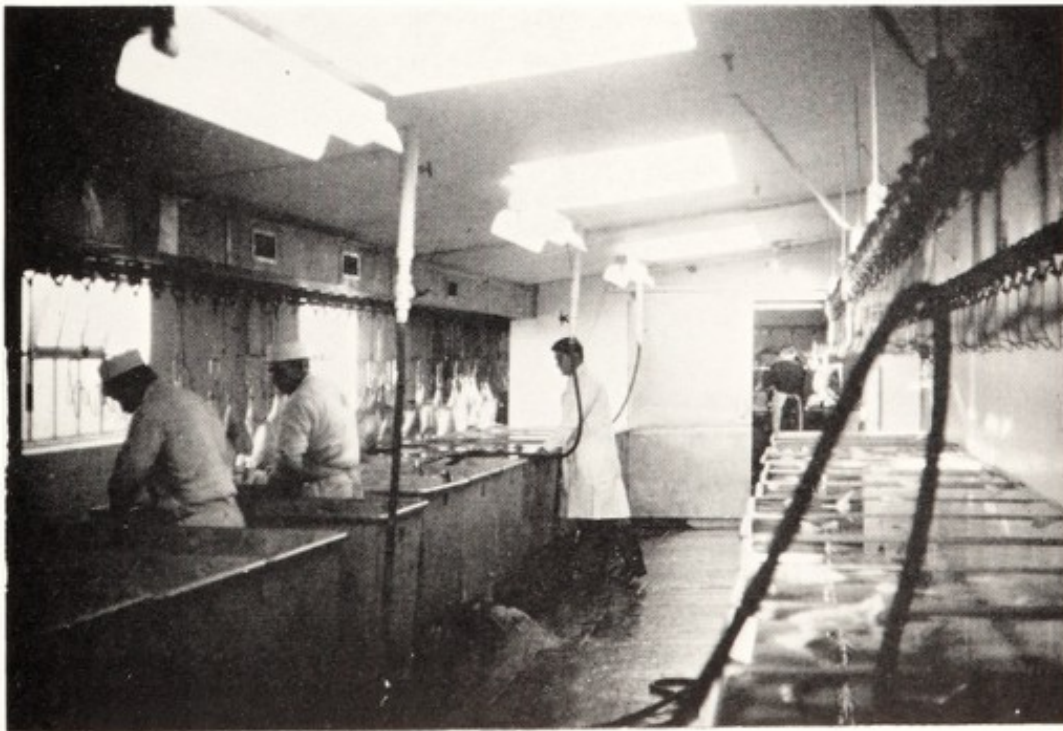
List of Improvements and/or Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied during 1970

Food premises cleansed and/or redecorated	21
Food equipment cleansed	8
Food premises repaired, (floors, walls, ceilings, w.c's and windows)	21
Wash basins provided	4
Nail brushes and/or soap provided	23
Sinks provided	9
Provision of constant hot water and cold water supply....	10
Provision of intervening ventilated space between W.C. and food room	2
Sanitary accommodation otherwise improved or repairs.....	-
Refuse receptacles provided	-
Premises made rodent proof.....	2
Rodent infestation treated	45
Food exposed to contamination removed	5
"Wash hands" notices displayed on request	13
"No Smoking" notices displayed on request	1
Proper facilities for hanging outdoor clothing provided .	3
Impervious surfaces provided to worktops and counters ...	6
First aid kit provided	3
Unwrapped foods placed behind glass and not exposed to contamination from customers	5
Artificial lighting provided	4
Food equipment provided	-
Open food raised not less than 18" above ground	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	7

Food Hygiene



Control of food handling.



Control of hygiene in poultry packing stations.

Milk & Dairies.

Administration of the law relating generally to the nation's milk supply has always been a large and important part of the duties of local authorities, and although by the coming into operation, on the 1st October, 1949, legislation whereby the responsibility for the process and practice of the production of milk, i.e. by the dairy farmer at the dairy farm, was transferred from local authorities to the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries, the vast business of the distribution of milk, i.e. from the producer to the consumer, remains the responsibility of local authorities.

A major step towards ensuring the safety of the nation's milk supply was in 1962 when a programme was completed and the whole of England and Wales became a "specified area."

This means that all milk sold by retail for human consumption must be sold as specially designated milk, viz. Pasteurised, Sterilised or Untreated. Another heat treatment process was given recognition in 1965, when it became legal to sell ultra-high temperature treated milk, or "long life" milk.

There are 28 milk distributors registered with the Council in compliance with the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.
The Slaughterhouses, (Hygiene)
Regulations, 1958.

Regular inspections are carried out at each of the three private slaughterhouses operating in the district regarding the cleanliness and repair of premises and equipment. Due to the nature of the business there is a constant wear and tear on premises and it is necessary for constant vigilance to avoid rapid deterioration.

The occupiers of the slaughterhouses have been encouraged to provide water pressure spray guns which greatly assist in daily cleansing of walls and floor etc., and they have been using the spray guns for washing down beast carcasses now, for some 7 years without any adverse comments forthcoming from the trade and for over 2 years in respect of sheep carcasses.

The traditional wiping cloth was legally banished in November 1968 and special individual "wet-strength" paper towels, in the form of a roll, dispensed from a metal container fixed to the walls of the slaughterhouses, have proved to be the answer to the problem of producing a clean and dry sheep carcass in small slaughterhouses not equipped with "Coldair blast" cooling rooms.

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 6 slaughtermen were renewed during the year.

Inspections were made daily at each of the two larger slaughterhouses, and as required at the small slaughterhouse, under the above Acts and Regulations. Particular attention was paid to the provision of adequate water supplies and bedding etc., in the lairages. Animals were generally not kept long enough in the lairages to require feeding as required by the Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

Meat Hygiene and Inspection Services

The Meat Inspection Chart indicates the number and different classes of animals slaughtered and inspected and the number of animals affected with:-

- (a) Tuberculosis
- (b) Cysticercus Bovis
- (c) Diseases other than Tuberculosis and
Cysticercus Bovis

The technique of meat inspection used is in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, and 100 per cent meat inspection was maintained and a total of 13,293 animals were inspected.

Tuberculosis was absent in cattle, but 0.34% 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.

The incidence of diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis in cattle excluding cows, and sheep and lambs has fallen steeply to 40.4% and 5.1% respectively from 60.4% and 31.4% and the figure for pigs has fallen to 11.2% affected. The latter representing mainly livers affected with Ascaris Lumbricoides and to a lesser extent lungs affected with congestion, pleurisy and/or pneumonia.

The records show that out of the total of 1,823 beasts sheep and lambs and pigs affected by diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis, the major proportion of those animals were affected in the liver by either Fasciola hepatica in the case of the beasts and sheep, or the round worm Ascaris Lumbricoides in the case of pigs.

Cysticercus Bovis was found in 36 cattle excluding cows and none in cows. The technique of inspections used for cysticercus bovis is as recommended in the Practice Notes on the subject, by the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

Causes of condemnation other than Tuberculosis and cysticercus bovis include:-

Abscesses; actinomycosis; actinobacillosis; general parasitical condition of livers and lungs (e.g. fascioliasis T. echinococcus, T. marginata, muellerius capillaris, ascaris lumbricoides), cirrhosis, telangiectasis; pericarditis; peritonitis; pneumonia pleurisy; bruising; pathological emaciation; septicaemia; myaemia; jaundice; metritis; mastitis; n. necrosis; septic omphalophlebitis; nephritis; melanosis, oedema and carcinoma.

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
1. Offal at Slaughterhouses	7	7	58
2. Carcase meat at Slaughterhouses	1	2	97
3. Meat at Retail Shops	-	1	51
4. Canned Meats	-	-	18
5. Other Foods	-	-	3
6. School Canteens			51
	8.	12.	54

Meat Inspection



Post-mortem inspection and control of slaughterhouse hygiene.

Poultry Inspection



Turkeys after evisceration and before packing and freezing.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole
or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,439	53	197	6,298	4,306
Number not inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	2	13	Nil	6
Part carcasses or organ condemned..	986	23	7	324	483
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	40.4%	47.1%	10.1%	5.1%	11.2%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part carcasses or organ condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.34%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Part carcass or organ condemned	36	Nil	Nil		
Carcasses refrige- rated.....	5	Nil	Nil		
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci	1.4%	Nil	Nil		

POULTRY HYGIENE AND INSPECTION SERVICES

The annual output of broilers in Gt. Britain reached a figure of some 200 million birds processed, packed and frozen, ready for sale last year.

To achieve this result the basic aim has been to convince the housewife that poultry ranks with lamb, beef and pork as a year-round dish.

The trade now produces enough prepacked birds at very competitive prices to put chicken on the menu in every household six or seven times a year.

Important though efficient distribution and merchandizing are in the marketing operation, it is the capacity and capabilities of the processing equipment and methodology that really determine how far the industry can go towards meeting the demand for poultry that is comparatively cheap and of time saving convenience to the housewife, and in this respect there has been a move to prepacked cut chicken portions.

This very competitive industry therefore, now merits far greater attention by the public health inspector particularly with regard to the supervision of standards of hygiene during processing, and the inspection of the final product as to its fitness for human consumption.

There were two poultry processing premises within the district at the beginning of the year and a system of inspection of the poultry slaughtered in these premises was initiated in accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations. The number of birds killed and the number condemned as unfit for human consumption are as follows:-

<u>Broiler Processing Plant</u>	
Number killed	2,233,956
Number condemned	14,648
Weight of broilers condemned...	34,079 lbs.
<u>Turkeys Processing Plant</u>	
Number killed	44,337
Number condemned	88
Weight of turkeys condemned ...	1,375 lbs.

The turkey processing plant was closed down in May, 1970, due to a rationalisation programme, within the Company concerned.

Clean Air



Modernisation of Plant Conversion to North Sea Gas with oil as stand-by fuel.



Modernisation of Plant. Installation of special feeder mechanism to utilise factory wood waste as main fuel.

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 - 1968

The Wycombe Rural District Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air.

The Society was founded in 1899. It did valuable work during the early years and brought together informed opinion to fight for the Clean Air Act, 1956. In 1959 the Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, with the first International Clean Air Congress.

37th Clean Air Conference of the Society

This important event was held at Southport from the 20th - 24th October 1970. This annual Conference was well attended and included a number of overseas delegates. The exhibition held in conjunction with the Conference consisted of exhibits from various fuel industries, incinerator and chimney constructors, boilers and domestic heating systems, and air pollution information of all kinds.

Praise for Smoke Control Progress

Mr. Eldon Griffiths, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Ministry of Environment praised Britain's towns for going over to smoke control.

Speaking of the improvements made in the London District he said " I doubt whether we will ever see a great smog like that of 1952 which many claim was responsible for 4,000 deaths that year."

He went on to explain the Government's policy in relation to smokeless fuels and gave an assurance that the Government was undertaking a four point plan to ease the problem of the shortage of smokeless fuel.

On the subject of Clean Air this is a field in Mr. Griffith's opinion in which England leads the world.

European Conservation Year

Sir Kenneth Hutchinson, F.R.S., the Society's President said that 1970 is European Conservation Year and many organisations and individuals and eventually the governing bodies in most European Countries having finally wakened to the fact that if their countries are to survive in anything like conditions fit to live in, then they will severally and collectively have to do what the National Society for Clean Air has been doing for 70 years, identify their problems, get organised to deal with them and find the resources to do so.

The interest shown by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh in the work of European Conservation Year and his support of the British Year has been of great value in making the public generally aware of what is involved in pollution and all that is required for the conservation of the environment. The appointment of a Royal Commission, under the Chairmanship of Sir Eric Ashby, will ensure that the various activities are co-ordinated and, hopefully, money be found for essential research and development.

Britain's Achievement

We in Britain have achieved an enviable position by demonstrating how the air of a big city can be cleaned up although this does not give grounds for complacency whilst so many of our industrial areas remain as they are. It is estimated that in the last 15 years there has been a 55 per cent reduction in the smoke emitted in the U.K. The north of England can claim only 45 per cent, but the south of England is better at between 50 per cent and 55 per cent and in London the reduction is more like 75 per cent.

Shortage of Smokeless Fuel

Due to the acute shortage of fuel in the country we saw the suspension of smoke control orders. This shortage was brought about by the running down of gas plants that produced coke as the natural gas network has spread.

Fortunately the mild winter helped to keep down demand, but it is expected that it will be the end of 1971 now before the present shortage is overcome.

Rural District Pollution

The countryside outside towns is generally far less polluted, but not pollution free. Apart from the contribution of nearby villages there is a measurable amount of contamination of country air from built-up and industrial areas, especially under certain weather conditions. Variation in the concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide with the distance downwind of a town has been measured by Warren Springs laboratory using directional samplers which differentiate between air from the town and that blowing from other directions.

Air Pollution from Motor Traffic

For petrol engines, the Society Report regards modified carburettors and fuel injection systems as offering the most hope for reductions in carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Exhaust after-burners and catalysts are unlikely to provide the best solution. The way is now open for a standard European method of testing carbon monoxide emission and it is urged that the Ministry of Transport should fix limits for its content in exhausts. It is also suggested that exhaust gas analysis and carburettor adjustments should be included in annual car tests, and that diesel engines should also be tested annually for the amount of smoke produced in the exhaust gases under load conditions.

Industry

Considerable sums have been and are still being spent on plant improvement. Industry is generally recognising its obligations to reduce air pollution. Prevention of offences under the Clean Air Acts 1956-1968, calls for correct equipment, maintenance and operation of plant, the use of mechanical stoking wherever possible, and the training and certification of boiler stokers,

together with proper instrumentation, throughout the whole of the plant and processing machinery. The Public Health Inspectorate keep a close watch on the production of smoke under the provisions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958.

Control Measures in the Wycombe Rural District

The district has a population of approximately 71,000, and has several densely populated urban areas, which are growing rapidly more urban in character as the housing estates go up.

The district has 216 registered factories including a considerable number of boiler plants, furnaces, furniture wood waste incinerators, saw mills, five large paper and board mills and one poultry packing plant, with a boiler for the production of steam for processing and cleansing.

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

- (1) Action where necessary under the Dark Smoke "Permitted Periods" Regulations, against emissions of dark smoke, and securing the minimum emissions of grit and dust, with special reference to industrial boiler plants, furnaces and incinerators.
- (2) Action to abate smoke nuisances, (e.g. burning of industrial or garden refuse, use of incinerators and wood refuse burning plant at furniture factories etc.)
- (3) Ensuring that new industrial furnaces are not installed unless they are capable so far as is practicable of being operated without emitting smoke.

- (4) Regulating the height of chimneys in connection with the erection or extension of industrial buildings, or new boiler plants in existing buildings.
- (5) Implementing byelaws which require all new buildings to be equipped with smokeless fuel appliances.
- (6) One smoke control order made jointly by the Council and a neighbouring local authority is operating 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.

260 inspections with regard to smoke observations, grit observations, boiler plant inspections, smoke nuisances, complaints and interviews were made under the provisions of the Clean Air Acts 1956-1968.

A Preliminary Report on the question of Smoke Control areas in the more urban parts of the district was presented to the Health Committee on 7th December, 1970

Introduction

The control of air pollution by matter can be put into four main categories:-

1. Air pollution by domestic smoke.
2. Industrial air pollution under the control of the public health inspectorate.
3. Industrial pollution from special exempted processes under the control of the alkali inspectorate:
(None in Wycombe R.D.C.)
4. Pollution by motor vehicle exhausts.

Air Pollution by domestic chimneys

The domestic coal fire is still the worst and most dangerous part of the smoke pollution in this country.

It has been proved beyond all doubt to aggravate bronchitis and other respiratory diseases. From ordinary houses it is emitted at low level and descends rapidly to the ground, so that people breathe more of it.

Under the Clean Air Acts 1956 and 1968 the local authorities have the right to declare " smoke control areas" within which it is illegal to create smoke in heating a house or in fact any other building. Within these areas, consumers must change to smokeless fuels, i.e. electricity, gas, oil or manufactured or natural solid smokeless fuels. The Act of 1968 strengthens the position, making it an offence to sell unauthorised fuels in these areas and also empowers the Government to pressurise and if necessary direct local authorities to declare "smoke control" areas.

Local Authority grants of 70% are payable towards the cost of conversion to smokeless heating arrangements, of which amount as aforesaid the Exchequer bears four-sevenths. In 1964-65 public expenditure in Great Britain on this grant was £2.2 million. In 1969-70 it was £5.1 million. One quarter of the houses in the country are covered by smoke control, but there is still a long way to go.

When the temporary shortage of solid smokeless fuels has been alleviated, and this is hoped for by the end of 1971, the Government will bring pressure to bear on the laggard authorities in the black areas in the drive for cleaner air, to which the government are fully committed.

The Borough of High Wycombe are already committed to a smoke control programme for the whole town, which is planned for completion by 1976, and it would seem desirable that the Rural District Council should perhaps begin to think in terms of a smoke control programme, for the more densely populated areas contiguous to the borough boundaries, e.g. Downley, Loudwater, Wooburn, Hazlemere and Tylers Green and in our other centres of population e.g. Princes Risborough.

The Council agreed that as soon as practicable, a suitable smoke control programme should be prepared. It is hoped to start the necessary surveys during 1971.

SANITATION

In the Wycombe Rural district cesspools and septic tanks have been eliminated on a large scale in recent years due to the implementation of main drainage schemes in the more populated parts of the district. The provision of sewers for the parish of Ellesborough and parts of Kimble is nearing completion. The small areas remaining to be sewered include Lacey Green & Loosley Row, Medmenham and parts of Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish.

Lack of main drainage facilities perpetuate the problems of unsatisfactory drainage and sanitary accommodation, and this Council is to be congratulated upon their progress over recent years with the provision of sewerage schemes throughout the district.

In cases where owners have not connected their properties to the sewers the Public Health Inspectors have been engaged in checking the drainage systems, and where found to be defective or insufficient appropriate action has been taken to enforce the connection of the soil drains to the sewers and to ensure the conversion of earth closets into water closets where necessary.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL

At the present time it is estimated that rats and mice cause damage throughout this country to the extent of £20 million per year. The total world loss of stored cereals and rice for which rats in the main are responsible, has been estimated to be 33 million tons per year. At the same time more than 20 per cent of the crops planted by man every year is eaten or spoiled by rodents and insects before harvest. Rats are also associated with the spread of disease, and it can readily be assumed that a pair of rats will produce a progeny of one hundred and thirty per year allowing for mortality from various causes.

One of the main chemicals used throughout the world as a rodenticide-warfarin- was first introduced into Britain some 17 or 18 years ago. During the last few years there have been reported cases of warfarin resistance in a mainly rural area just outside Scotland, and more recently there have been cases in Montgomery and Shropshire on the Welsh border and the smaller adjoining area at Ludlow. Counter measures to combat the spread of resistant rats into other areas included the creation of a three mile wide barrier around the affected areas, and the use of the acute poison, zinc phosphide. This has now been abandoned and all Local Authorities have been warned to watch for warfarin-resistant rats.

A new poison known as coumatralyl has recently been given Ministry approval for use in this country against these warfarin resistant strains. With the use of long established poisons such as zinc phosphide, and fluoracetamide, for the control of rats in sewers, warfarin and now the coumarin compounds, we should be able to reduce rodent infestations to an absolute minimum.

Pest control is a most important subject and this is reflected in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which clearly defines the duties of owners and occupiers of premises. Local Authorities also have a duty to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as is practical that their district is kept free from rats and mice, and in particular -

- (a) from time to time carry out such inspections as may be necessary.
- (b) to destroy rats and mice on any land of which they are occupiers.
- (c) To enforce the duties laid upon owners and occupiers under the provisions of Part 1 of the Act, and to carry out operations authorised by those provisions.
- (d) keep such records and make such reports relating to their functions under the Act as may be required by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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.

Rodent Control Services

The Council's Rodent Control service is provided free to domestic premises but a charge is made for work done on all business premises and farms. The total income from this Rodent Control Service amounted to £1444.91 for the financial year, most of which is obtained through the operation of the Department's annual contract scheme.

Work Carried Out

As a result of survey and notification by occupiers of infested premises, extermination of rodents has been carried out at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, refuse tips etc. Details relating to the work are submitted in the table on page 58.

Other Pests

Complaints of pests other than rodents were received and treatments given resulted in the destruction of 296 wasp nests and several minor infestations of fleas and bugs. Harassed residents were very appreciative of the service given.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	Type of Property	
	Non-Agri-cultural	Agricul-tural
1. Number of Properties in district	21,815	567
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	549	103
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	369	86
(ii) Mice	126	35
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	3,891	297
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	167	172
(ii) Mice	43	62
SEWERS		
4. No. of sewers infested by rats during the year ..	NIL	

FACTORIES. OFFICES AND SHOPS

Factories Act, 1961

The factory premises registered with the Council number 216.

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 requiring attention include cleanliness, ventilation, lighting and sanitary accommodation. A number of factories have canteens and are therefore subject to the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1961 and inspections are carried out concurrently.

Homework

A provision of the Factories Act 1961 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. Inspections made for Provisions as to Health

Factories

Premises	No. on Regis- ter	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occu- piers Prose- cuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enfor- ced by Local Authority.	2	7	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is en- forced by Local Authorities	214	135	12	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(Ex.outworkers Premises).....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	216	142	12	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Factories

	Number of cases in which defects were found Referred To H.M. by H.M. Insp. Insp.				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instit- uted.
	Found	Reme- died	Insp.	Insp.	
Want of Clean- liness	9	9	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insuffi- cient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive	4	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not sepa- rate for sexes	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not incl- uding offences relating to outwork.....	21	16	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS.....	34	29	Nil	1	Nil

FACTORY OUTWORKERS

Sections 133 and 134, Factories Act, 1961

	Section 133				Section 134	
	No.of outwor- kers in August 1st re- quired by Sec. 133(1) (c)	No.of Cases of de- fault in sen- ding lists to the Council	No.of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No.of instan- ces of work in unwhole- some premi- ses.	Notices Served	Prosecu- tions.
Wearing Apparel making etc.	14	-	-	-	-	-
House- hold Linen..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Artifi- cial flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furni- ture & Uphol- stery	5	-	-	-	-	-
Jewellery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	19	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES. SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act enabled regulations to be made for securing the Health, safety and welfare of people, estimated to number eight million, who are employed in one million shops, offices and railway premises, throughout Great Britain.

Provision is made for the registration of premises and matters relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, facilities for sitting and eating. Safety requirements in connection with floors, stairs, steps, passage and gangways; fencing of dangerous machinery; stringent fire precautions and notification of accidents.

Chief Public Health Inspector's
Annual Report to the Ministry of Labour .

Registrations and Inspections

In the year ending 31st December, 1970, 14 offices, 22 retail shops, 5 wholesale shops and 2 catering establishments were registered, the majority of which were found by the Public Health Inspectorate upon inspection of the premises. In addition 45 premises were deleted from the register having been found upon inspection either no longer in existence or circumstances having changed to affect the need for registration.

Of the 341 premises registered by the end of 1970, 325 premises received a general inspection during 1970, which together with the 771 general inspections made since the commencement of the Act in 1964, brings the total to 1,112 inspections. Every effort is made to ensure that the majority of registered premises are inspected every year in addition to those newly registering.

The total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises since the commencement of the Act is now 2,223 including 403 visits of all kinds during 1970. Of this latter number nearly three quarters were complete general inspections. This trend for an increasing number of general inspections continues as evidenced in previous years, though the number of re-visits has also increased.

Informal action has, in general, been successful, and in most cases occupiers of premises have co-operated in complying with the provisions of the Act.

The continual enforcement of this legislation is however necessary and re-inspections are required as changes of management and staff frequently occur and new personnel are often ignorant of the provisions of the Act, resulting in a deterioration of standards if vigilance is not maintained.

- TABLE A -

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

	Number of Premises registered during the year	Total number of regis- tered prem- ises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving in- spection during the year
Offices	14	89	58
Retail Shops	22	208	227
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	5	8	17
Catering es- tablishments open to the public and canteens	2	34	22
Fuel storage Depots	Nil	2	1
Totals	43	341	325

- TABLE B -

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises	403
---	-----

- TABLE C -

Analysis of Persons employed in registered
premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	903
Retail Shops	810
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	69
Catering Establishments open to the Public	137
Canteens	42
Fuel Storage Depots	10
TOTAL	1,971
Total Males 693. Total Females....	1,278

- TABLE D -

Exemptions

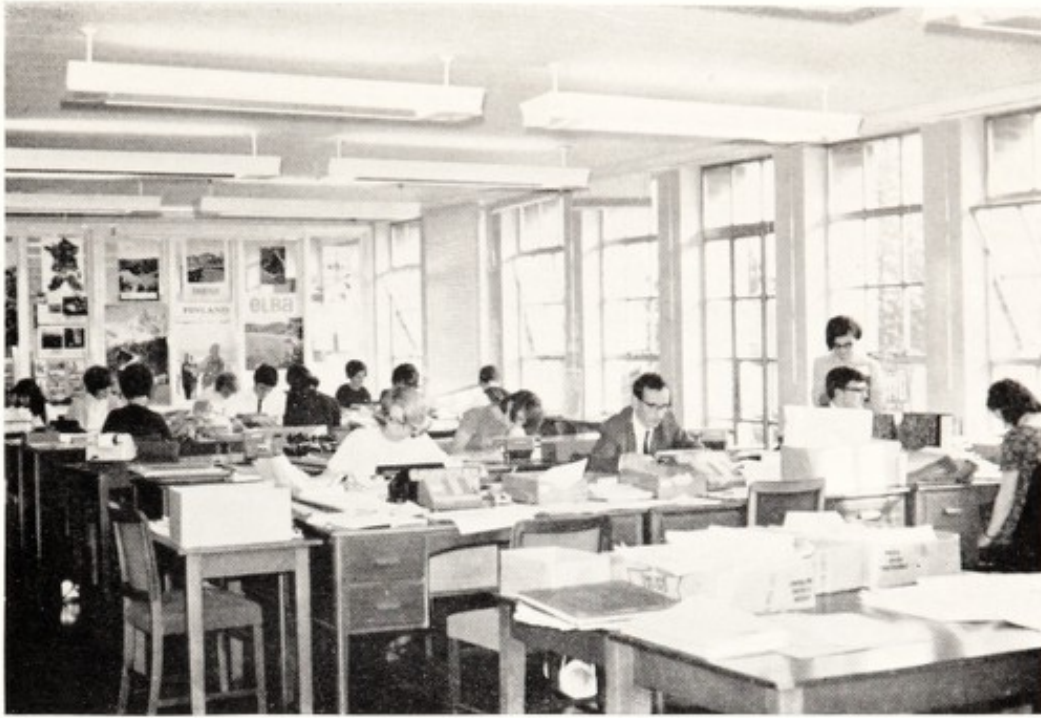
Exemption	Number
Part 1. Space (Sec.5(2))	Nil
Part 2. Temperature (Sec.6)	Nil
Part 3. Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.9)	Nil
Part 4. Washing Conveniences (Sec.10)	Nil

- TABLE E -

Prosecutions

No.of prosecutions	Nil
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Offices and Shops



Provision of good working conditions in offices, cafes and canteens and wholesale premises.

Offices and Shops



Provision of good working conditions in shops.

- TABLE F -

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found:-
4	Cleanliness -
5	Overcrowding 1
6	Temperature 23
7	Ventilation 2
8	Lighting 6
9	Sanitary Conveniences 4
10	Washing Facilities 10
11	Supply of Drinking water -
12	Clothing Accommodation 3
13	Sitting Facilities 3
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) -
15	Eating Facilities -
16	Floors, passages and stairs 13
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery ... 2
18	Protection of young persons working at dangerous machinery -
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery -
23	Prohibition of heavy work -
24	First Aid 21
25	General Provisions and other matters.. 39
Total127	

- TABLE G -

Reported Accidents

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No. Investigated	Action Recommended		
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prose- cution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice
Offices.....	-	2	2	-	-	2
Retail Shops.	-	2	2	-	-	2
Wholesale Shops						
Warehouses	-	1	1	-	-	1
Catering Estab- lishments open to public and canteens.....	-	2	2	-	-	2
Fuel storage Depots.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	Nil	7	7	Nil	Nil	7

- TABLE H -

Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering Establish- ments open to public, canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery	1	1	-	-	-
Transport	-	-	-	-	-
Falls of Persons.	-	-	-	1	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person.	-	-	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	-	-	-	-
Struck by falling object.....	-	-	-	1	-
Fires & explosions	-	-	-	-	-
Electricity.....	-	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	1	-	1	-	-
Not otherwise specified	-	1	-	-	-

The accidents, upon investigation were found to be of a minor character.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING
MATERIALS ACT, 1951

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. There are 18 premises registered under the Act throughout the District.

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

During the year four samples of filling materials were collected and submitted to the prescribed analyst for examination of cleanliness. All samples were found to conform to the prescribed standard.

Inspections of registered premises totalled five during the year.

The local Prescribed Analyst has now withdrawn his service to Local Authorities, and new arrangements will have to be made for next year.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

Noise can be defined as "unwanted sound". Unfortunately we all differ in our attitude to noise and in our choice of sounds to like and dislike, whilst some people can't stand it at any price.

Noise affects one's hearing and health in the home, the street, and at work.

High levels of noise induce deafness, first temporarily then permanently by damage to the nerve cells of the ear.

We need regular deep sleep if we are to remain in good health, and it has been shown that in urban areas, many people show arousal symptoms during their sleep, due to urban noise. As a result their sleep is not as beneficial as it should be, and this produces a state of tension which can lead to ill-health.

In assessing the nuisance caused by unwanted sound it is essential to remember that no single statute can ever be made to control such a subjective subject, and also that any formula must be based on the number of reactions from the public at large, and not on any one individual. However, the public reaction generally fits into a pattern, and acceptable rules of behaviour can be made.

It has been found that complaints have depended amongst other things, upon the background of noise in that part of the district - the quieter a district, the lower a level of noise above the ambient level is needed to cause complaints.

There is also less reaction in winter than in summer, because of open windows in warmer weather.

Another factor is the repetitive kind of noise, which is more annoying, as also is the "impulsive" quality of some noises, the time factor, whether day or night, and the conditioning of the people concerned by any previous experience of similar noise levels.

One of the main difficulties with noise is that it must almost always be dealt with at source, because of the mass law relationship between sound transmission loss and mass per unit area of any walls or partitions between the source and the receiver.

This can make matters very difficult, if for instance as is usual in factories making noise, the walls and roof are only lightweight cladding materials.

Prevention is better than cure, and here good planning is essential.

A Noise Advisory Council has been set up by the Government to study ways and means of improving the present legislation for dealing with noise, and is due to issue a report in 1971.

It is to be hoped that the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, will be improved by regulations proposing maximum acceptable levels of noise, in as many fields as is practicable.

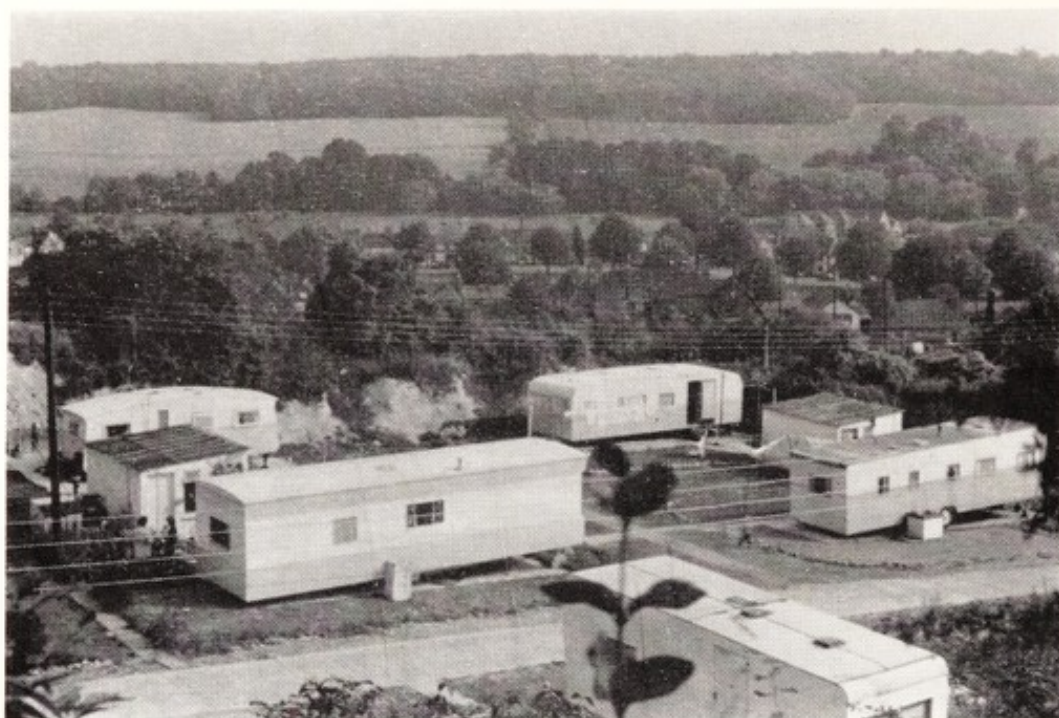
Tests have shown that mental processes take longer, and need more effort when noise interferes with work.

National priorities have got to be put right - people have a right not to be inundated with noise, at work or at home. For example it is suggested that the Government should start by setting lower and more realistic maximum permitted noise levels for lorries, cars, motor cycles and other vehicles, before we succumb to the noise from their ever increasing numbers.

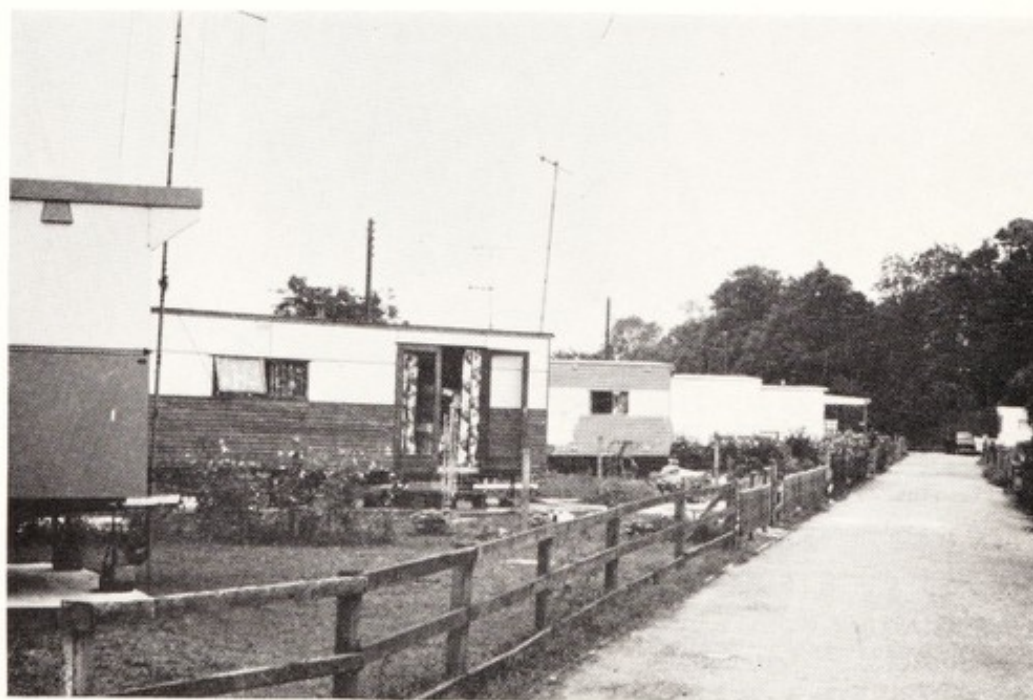
In Wycombe Rural District 124 visits were made in connection with alleged noise nuisances from industrial, commercial and domestic premises.

In the cases where statutory nuisances were confirmed, appropriate action was taken in order to secure abatement of the unwanted noises.

Caravan Parks



Caravans individually connected to sewer, water supply and electricity, all fitted with water closets.



CARAVAN SITES.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

This Act was designed to strengthen the powers of local sanitary authorities and planning authorities to control the siting of caravans, and to ensure that caravan sites are properly equipped and run.

When planning permissions are given site licences under the above Act have to be issued by the Public Health Department and public health conditions prescribed under licence in order to regulate the sites and secure satisfactory conditions. During the year 1970. 220 inspections and re-inspections were made to caravan sites by the District Inspectors.

Most of the people living in caravans would prefer to be in houses, but nevertheless caravans provide a first step on the ladder to a satisfactory home and it is estimated that there are over 100,000 caravans used as permanent residential homes.

The modern residential caravan is from 30 feet to 50 feet long and 9ft.6ins. wide as a single or double unit or up to approximately 36 ft. by 19 ft. in two units fastened side by side. Once on the caravan park they usually become properly sited fixtures, connected to soil drainage, water and electricity.

On the nine larger private caravan sites throughout the Wycombe Rural District each caravan park has individual connections readily available for the fitting of internal waterclosets, water supply and electricity, and a great many have hot water systems, heated by solid fuel stoves, bathrooms and modern kitchen sink units and worktops.

Private Caravans and Caravan Parks.

	Privately owned sites	
	Residential Holiday	
Number of licences issued during 1970	31	-
Number of site licences operating as at 31st December, 1970		
(a) Individual.....	106	1
(b) Multiple (more than 3).....	15	1
Total number of caravans.....	299	301
Number of prosecutions - Section 1... (i.e. unauthorised sites).....	Nil	Nil
Number of appeals to courts against site licence conditions.....	Nil	Nil
In respect of separate licence conditions the number of:-		
(a) Variations.....	Nil	Nil
(b) Cancellations.....	Nil	Nil
Number of contraventions - Section 9 (i.e. breaches of licence conditions).....	2	Nil
Number:- (a) remedied informally.....	1	Nil
(b) prosecutions.....	Nil	Nil
(c) convictions.....	Nil	Nil
Number of sites made subject to Section 20 during the year ended 31st December, 1970. (termination of use of existing site).....	Nil	Nil
Number of sites made subject to conditions for reducing caravans during the year ended 31st of December, 1970.....	Nil	Nil

HOME SAFETY.

Deaths from accidents in Great Britain each year exceed those attributable to infectious diseases, a reversal of the pattern of a decade or so ago. There are three main categories of accidental deaths, those which occur at home, on the roads and at work.

Statistics of accidental deaths in Great Britain are published annually and for many years these statistics have shown that home accident fatalities exceed those on the roads and at work. Statistics cannot however measure the physical, mental and emotional damage which inevitably follows in the wake of home accidents.

Quite apart from these factors, medical authorities have expressed concern with the strain which the volume of home accidents places on hospitals, general practitioners and public services.

The Council is a member of the home safety division of RoSPA, and the Health Committee have delegated powers to deal with matters of home safety. Your representative, Miss J.H.C. Couper, the Chairman of the Council, has regularly attended meetings of the RoSPA National Home Safety Committee and of the South Eastern Area Group (7) of the Home Safety Committees and has duly reported on the many facets of home safety discussed at these meetings.

Home accidents fall into the following main categories - falling, poisoning, suffocation and choking and burns and scalds. It has been found that national campaigns on specified themes is the best method of drawing attention to home accidents, although some very good "Home Safety" booklets are now being used as the basis for lessons in home safety at schools in the district.

Your Committee has supported various campaigns, e.g. "Medicines with Care", fire prevention and water safety, by means of local press publicity, co-operating with neighbouring authorities, distributing home safety material, (posters, leaflets), and by enlisting the help of local organisations.

It is generally recognised in Great Britain that Home Safety is a difficult subject to put across to the general public. Much, however, has been achieved in recent years by the home accident prevention movement. The introduction of the Home Safety Act of 1961 has opened up vast new areas for home accident prevention work.

The number of Home Accident deaths in England and Wales continues to fall, and from figures just available a total of 6,507 people died during 1969, as a result of accidents in and around the home.

This is 107 (or 1.6 per cent) fewer than in the previous year. Further analysis shows that although 29 more people died in residential institutions, the number of deaths occurring in private homes fell by 136.

Sixty per cent of the home fatalities resulted from falls. Poisoning is the second major cause, accounting for 13 per cent of the total. About 12 per cent of the deaths were due to burns and scalds, whilst accidental suffocation and choking resulted in a further 10 per cent.

Pensioners are the most frequent victims of fatal home accidents, and in 1969 more than 66% of the people who were killed by an accident at home, were aged 65 and over. 78 per cent of the deaths in this particular age group were caused by falls. Children under five accounted for over 11 per cent of the total and about 65 per cent of the victims in 1969 were women and girls, and in the 65 and over age group, they accounted for 75 per cent of the deaths, but only 40 per cent of the fatalities among the younger age-groups.

The figures released by the Home Office for firework injuries during the period 11th October to the 7th November, 1970, are the lowest since records began in 1962.

The total of 1,164 injuries represents a decrease of 30 per cent compared with 1969, even though firework sales were generally higher in 1970 than in the previous year.

Unfortunately there was an 18 per cent increase in deaths involving drugs and medicines, from 358 to 422.

Results of a recent survey indicated that 93 per cent of homes are without a lockable medicine cabinet.

For parents with young children a lockable medicine cabinet is a must.

One report indicates that there were about one and a quarter billion tablets, at a basic cost of £6,500,000, just lying unused and no longer required in Gt. Britain - and these are available for children to take in accidental poisoning cases and encourage adults to attempt suicides.

During our "Medicines with Care" campaign this was borne out by the numbers of unwanted tablets returned to the chemists shops throughout the district for disposal by the Public Health Department, during the Campaign.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Agriculture. (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.

Hairdressers.

The Council have adopted Section 72 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957, which provides for the registration of hair-dressers and barbers. Section 77 of the Public Health Act, 1961, makes similar provision for registration.

The Council have made byelaws under the aforementioned 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 36 premises, registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdressing and 36 visits were paid to these premises with a view to securing compliance with the Council's Byelaws. Premises and methods were generally satisfactory.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

There are 18 premises within the rural district where the business of dealing in scrap metals is transacted and the premises are registered in accordance with Section 1 of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964. Dealers are required to keep records in relation to the articles they purchase.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

This Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, and prohibits the keeping of a boarding establishment for animals (dogs and cats), except under the authority of a licence granted by the local authority.

In determining whether to grant a licence for the keeping of a boarding establishment a local authority shall have regard to the need for securing satisfactory accommodation for the animals as respects construction, size of quarters, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; adequate provision for food, drink and bedding material; precautions to prevent spread of infectious diseases and the protection of animals in case of fire.

All animal boarding establishments in this district have again been inspected and the provisions of the Act made known to them.

There are 13 Animal Boarding Establishments registered and 19 inspections have been made during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals and makes 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, and 2 visits have been made.

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 5 licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game. All premises are inspected under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Infectious Diseases.

140 visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases was obtained and recorded and contacts checked. Similarly 26 visits were made concerning food poisoning investigations.

School Swimming Pools.

In the interests of "Water Safety", swimming instruction should be an essential part of school timetables, and in recent years many schools have installed small "learner" swimming pools and this trend is still increasing. Keeping the pool water safe, is of course a most important duty of the Department. Water will become discoloured and polluted, due to residues of bacteria, algae growth, airborne dirt and organic pollution introduced by swimmers. To keep pool water healthy and clean a filtration unit is necessary and this combined with the correct chemical treatment to provide a free chlorine residual which is rapidly bactericidal, will render the pool safe to use, in all normal circumstances.

Sampling and testing the quality of water from school swimming pools is carried out by the Public Health Inspectorate in order to ensure that the treatment units are being efficiently operated and are providing effective water purification.

17 schools in the district are now provided with swimming pools. Samples of water taken from the pools are also submitted for bacteriological examination and nearly all have been reported as conforming to a satisfactory standard. 45 samples were taken during the year, only 4 of which required further action.

The Public Health Inspectors test the water for free residual chlorine and the pH value (acidity or alkalinity) of the water, using a colorimetric comparator.

Where results are not up to standard, a check is made of the filtration equipment and method of chlorination, until subsequent samples prove satisfactory.

CONCLUSION.

The year 1970 was European Conservation Year. This was the greatest international combined operation which the world has yet seen, to get people to value their environment and to do something positive about it. Member countries are seeking agreement on policies and measures to manage the environment and improve its quality and to inform and educate their people so as to involve them actively in this great ecological revolution.

Vigorous action is called for at international, national, regional and local levels in order to achieve these aims.

