

[Report 1965] / Medical Officer of Health, Hitchin R.D.C.

Contributors

Hitchin (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1965

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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1965

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS:

District Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional Medical
Officer for North Herts. Area):

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Divisional Health Office,
Bedford Road, Hitchin
(Telephone: Hitchin 50411)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

WILLIAM M. MATHEWS, Certs. Joint Board,
Meat and Foods,
Sanitary Science,
Smoke Inspection

Additional Inspectors:

ROBERT B. BOLT, Certs. Joint Board,
Testamur of Inst. of Public Cleansing

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR
1897

THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
HAS THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1897, AND TO THANK HIM FOR THE INTEREST AND
CARE WHICH HE HAS DEVOTED TO THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1897, IS A MOST INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE
DOCUMENT, WHICH WILL BE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST BY ALL
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CROWN.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hitchin Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present an annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1965.

In view of the age distribution the local death rate is very favourable (9.7 against 10.8 in 1964) and application of the supplied comparability factor gives a 'standardised' rate of 9.9 (England and Wales 1965 - 11.5).

It is of interest that the return of local deaths tabulated by the Registrar General shows that 71% occurred at ages of 65 years or over, with 48% at ages of 75 or over.

The local birth rate (14.1) again falls below the national rate (18.1); the local stillbirth rate for the year was just above that for England and Wales while the infant mortality figure (12.2) fell well below the national figure (19.0).

There was during the year an almost complete local absence of serious infectious disease apart from measles.

I would again acknowledge having received from your chief officers every consideration and help during the year. In the compilation of the report I would acknowledge the help of your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. M. Mathews, who is wholly responsible for the sections touching upon sanitary environment.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health

April 1966

1. The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country.

2. The second part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the economic situation in the country.

3. The third part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the political situation in the country.

4. The fourth part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the social situation in the country.

5. The fifth part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the cultural situation in the country.

6. The sixth part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the international situation in the country.

7. The seventh part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the future prospects of the country.

8. The eighth part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the conclusion.

9. The ninth part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the appendix.

10. The tenth part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the bibliography.

11. The eleventh part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the index.

12. The twelfth part of the report is devoted to a detailed analysis of the conclusion.

SECTION ALOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	81,324
Home Population - Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1965 ...	23,370
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April 1966 (estd.)...	7,859
Rateable value - 1st April 1966	£800,153
Sum represented by Penny Rate (estimate 1966/7)	£3,247

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1965

		<u>HITCHIN</u>	<u>Comparable rate</u>
		<u>RURAL</u>	<u>for England and</u>
		<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	311	145	166
Illegitimate	18	8	10
	<hr/>		
	329	153	176
	<hr/>		
Rate per 1,000 population		14.1	18.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	5.5		
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>		
	7	4	3
	<hr/>		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		20.8	15.7
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	336	157	179
	<hr/>		
<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	227	123	104
	<hr/>		
Rate per 1,000 population		9.7	11.5

INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 week	1	1	-
At 1 - 4 weeks	1	1	-
At 4 - 52 weeks	2	2	-
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4	<hr/> -

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000		
total live births	12.2	19.0
Legitimate infant deaths per		
1,000 legitimate live births. ...	12.9	
Illegitimate infant deaths per		
1,000 illegitimate live births ...	0.0	

<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under		
4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ..	6.1	13.0

<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>		
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000		
total live births)	3.0	

<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (stillbirths		
and deaths under 1 week combined		
per 1,000 total live and still births)	23.8	

<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths None		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0.0	0.25

Comment on Vital Statistics

The estimated local mid-year population again shows an increase (180).

Total live births numbered 329, a figure 49 below that for 1964, and total deaths were 227 against 250 in the previous year.

Principal Causes of Death

Of the total, 88 were attributed to Heart and other Circulatory Diseases, 27 to Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, 51 to Cancer (all sites) and 19 to Respiratory Diseases. Deaths from Cancer of the Lung or Bronchus numbered 12 (9 males and 3 females) and from Motor Vehicle Accidents 4 (all males).

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services

No important change occurred during the year.

SECTION C

Staff

No. changes have occurred in the administrative staff during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supplies

The usual monthly reports upon water samples taken continued to be received from the Lee Valley Water Company and the details were reported to the Public Health Committee regularly. During 1965, the 686 bacteriological and 70 chemical samples were reported to conform to the standards for a public supply. At the close of 1964, and in early 1965, one village suffered a fair number of cases of digestive disturbance which appeared to centre around the school. Samples taken from a variety of branches eliminated the water supply from blame, and although the cause of the trouble was never established with certainty, contamination from mice was a possibility.

The reservoir at Park Lane, Knebworth, was taken out of service from August 1964 because of minor contamination by ground water. The necessary repairs were performed, and it came back into operation from 11th January 1965.

Part of the Lee Valley Water Company's report reads as follows:-

- (a) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory (i) in quality and (ii) in quantity.
- (b) 6 chemical and 100 bacteriological examinations of raw water were made. None of the latter contained E.Coli. With reference to treated water, you will have received the monthly reports from the chief chemist and Bacteriologist. The fluoride content of the various supplies within the Rural District of Hitchin is invariably recorded as "less than 0.2 parts per million".
- (c) The waters are not liable to have plumbo solvent action.
- (d) No positive coliform samples of treated water. No action had to be taken.
- (e) The number of properties supplied is shown on the attached schedule. It is not possible to give separate figures for those properties

5.

supplied direct from the mains and those supplied by means of standpipes.

(f) The estimated population supplied is 22,929.

Number of Properties Supplied

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Props.</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Props.</u>
Ashwell	448	Lilley	142
Barkway	169	Newnham	28
Barley	173	Nuthampstead	33
Bygrave	81	Offley	432
Clothall	36	Pirton	316
Codicote	645	Preston	101
Graveley	113	Radwell	25
Hexton	45	Reed	78
Hinxworth	72	Rushden	61
Holwell	147	St.Ippollitts	450
Ickleford	330	St.Paul's Walden	297
Kelshall	36	Sandon	145
Kimpton	468	Therfield	135
King's Walden	286	Wallington	45
Knebworth	1017	Weston	274
Langley	40	Wymondley	344

Total - 7,012

Other samples, taken by the Public Health Department, had results as shown below -

	<u>No.</u> <u>taken</u>	<u>Satis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>
1. <u>Bulk Supplies from -</u>				
Lee Valley Water Co.	4	4	-	-
2. <u>Private Sources</u>	34	19	11	4
	<u>38</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the Hitchin Rural District but two schools have private swimming facilities. Both provided satisfactory results when water sampling was performed.

Sewerage and Sewage Treatment

The financial restrictions imposed by the Government have made it necessary to consider very carefully the urgency of any scheme and a very full supporting case has to be made before Ministry consent to proceed at the present time is forthcoming. Progress has, however, continued in the provision of sewerage and sewage treatment works in those villages currently without proper facilities.

Weston scheme was completed during the year and the Graveley out-fall sewer to the Ryemeads Works brought into use. Work continued at Codicote but the new sewers could not be used because the Welwyn Rural District Council pumping station at Fulling Mill, to which these sewers discharge, was not complete.

A tender was approved for Newnham and it is hoped that work will commence in the Spring of 1966. Barkway scheme was approved by the Ministry and it is hoped that tenders will be invited and work commenced next year. St.Ippollitts and Wymondley Joint Scheme was submitted to the Ministry for approval and a local investigation is awaited.

Work continued in the Surveyor's department on the preparation of a joint scheme for the villages of Kelshall, Therfield and Reed.

The increasing number of modern sewage treatment works and pumping stations resulting from our continued programme involves additional and more skilled maintenance work. The quality of the effluents from the various works is continually checked by the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board and the Great Ouse River Authority in their respective areas to ensure that the permitted standard is achieved. Increasing attention has been paid to the maintenance of our works and training courses for technical staff have been organised by the Association of Rural District Council Surveyors, and two of our Engineering Assistants attended this course. A training course for sewage works attendants has been run by the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board and two members of the sewage works gang attended this. These courses have proved extremely valuable and it is hoped that others will be run during the forthcoming year, when further members of the staff can attend.

At the present time the Council have twenty-seven sewage treatment works, and on fourteen of these there are pumping stations. In addition, there are eight pumping stations on the lines of the sewers and all of this work has been carried out since 1948.

Public Cleansing Services

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The staff position continued to cause difficulties, although only occasionally becoming desperate. There appeared to be little prospect of a spontaneous improvement, and the Council thought it prudent to introduce

a Bonus Scheme from April. The details were agreed with the National Union of Public Employees and, subject to some modest conditions, each man can earn up to 25/- per week extra. This has not prevented entirely the movement of labour but it seems to have stabilised the position to some extent.

Another interesting development has been the consideration given by the National Joint Council to the establishment of a separate Provincial Council for Essex and Hertfordshire. This was much overdue and eventually should enable Councils in these areas to compete more effectively for what manpower is available.

The bulk of the Council's tipping is done at Stutley's pit at Little Wymondley, but some small tips are used in the northern part of the district so that, where possible, the long haul back to Wymondley is avoided. The public tip at Barley was affected by fire during the year, and for some months it was necessary to bring vehicles back to Wymondley in order to starve the fire. This fire was started by a local farmer and was in no way the fault of the Council. It is of interest to note that this is the first fire on a Council tip since the tip tractor was brought into service in 1960. On a different tip, the tractor itself caught fire and was damaged, but the consolidation of the ground was such that the tip itself remained quite unaffected.

The search for alternative tipping points continues.

A new refuse collection vehicle (KJH 218 C) from the Karrier Company was put into service in June. This meant that the one remaining side-loading vehicle was stood down as a spare vehicle, and that all four regular vehicles are now of the packing/bulk carrying type.

Refuse Collected

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Loads</u>	<u>Approx. weight of all materials collected</u>	<u>Vehicle mileage</u> (inc. Foreman's van and Tip lorry (1964))
1961	2148	4214 tons	62,769 (one Paxit)
1962	1957	4796 "	52,877 (two Paxits)
1963	1890	5526 "	53,372 (" ")
1964	1813	6617 "	53,931 (three ")
1965	1711	6381 "	54,131 (" " and Karrier Packing type from June)

Salvage Despatches

The handling of paper and cardboard suffered as a result of the loss of both the part-time balers during the year. One man died and the other had to retire due to failing health. It was some time before replacements could be recruited, and it also takes time for new men to learn the job. This accounts entirely for the reduction in despatches compared to the previous two years, as the Mills did not restrict despatches in any form.

The following figures summarise the position for the past four years:-

1962	-	83 tons collected and sold	-	£688.13.11d.
1963	-	120 " " " "	-	£978.12. 9d.
1964	-	121 " " " "	-	£1002. 0.11d.
1965	-	84 " " " "	-	£749.16. 3d.

Cesspool Emptying and Night-Soil Collection

The peak period on this work comes between March and June, when it is often necessary to crew up the spare vehicle and to run three vehicles for a few weeks. In 1965, the peak coincided with a shortage of drivers and in order to keep even two vehicles functioning it was necessary to hire a vehicle and man for some three weeks. The frustrations of labour shortage are well exemplified here when one considers that the Council had three serviceable vehicles but only one driver, and in order to get a second driver, a vehicle that was not really needed had to be hired with him.

Later in the season, two vehicles coped with the job load and the advent of village sewerage schemes seems to have produced a position of balance between old jobs now being written off and new work coming along as a result of new building or property modernisations.

The following figures summarise the work performed -

Year	Number of Cesspools emptied at -					
	<u>Houses in Private</u>		<u>Council Houses</u>		<u>Loads</u>	<u>Pails</u>
	<u>ownership</u>				<u>from Sew-</u>	<u>emptied</u>
	<u>Free</u>	<u>Chargeable</u>	<u>Free</u>	<u>Chargeable</u>	<u>age Works</u>	
1962	1000	466	18	119	777	5973
1963	1074	510	16	100	636	6347
1964	927	487	14	92	715	6179
1965	884	358	14	94	699	5730

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The Joint Scheme with Welwyn Rural District Council continues to work satisfactorily. Warfarin 5 is the most widely used bait, and although a Circular dealing with Warfarin resistance was received during the year, nothing of this nature appears to have been experienced yet in the south of England.

The year provided one surprise. Whilst an outdoor treatment was being given for an infestation at a house in Kimpton, a corgi dog became ill and died. A post mortem revealed evidence strongly resembling the effects of Warfarin poisoning, and the Council's Insurance Company subsequently made a payment to the owner. Warfarin has been in use for about

eleven years and this is the first time that any fatality has occurred in domestic animals. Dogs are usually thought to be meat eaters, and it was salutary to discover that a dog fed regularly on carbohydrate materials (biscuits etc.) will sometimes prefer them to proteins. This must be the reason presumably, why the dog on this occasion found the grain-based Warfarin attractive, whereas normally a dog and most animals, except for poultry etc. will ignore it.

As the Royal Veterinary College said at the time, the lesson from this is that Warfarin is still a poison and must never be under-estimated. The case was brought to the notice of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food so that the experience could be made known to all Operators when they attend their refresher courses.

A treatment of 50% of the sewer manholes in the district was started in 1964 and finished off early in 1965. In late 1965, treatment of the other 50% was being planned, and it was thought that the work would be completed in early 1966.

During the year, an offer from a national company to perform the Council's rodent control work on a contract basis was considered carefully. Some Councils have already gone over to such service, largely because of their inability to recruit suitable operators. However, in view of the satisfactory service being rendered by a very keen man, the Council decided to make no change in their system.

Details of the work done are as follows:-

SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st 1965

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED					TOTAL
	SEWERS	TIPS ETC.	PRIVATE DWELLINGS	BUSINESS PREMISES	AGRIC. LAND ETC.	
HITCHIN R.D.C.	24½	1060¼	427¼	41¼	69	1622¼
WELWYN R.D.C.	-	120	238¾	6¼	3¼	368¾
	24½	1180¼	666	48	72¼	1991
Other figures -			Time spent on vehicle maint., receiving instructions, reports on visits, bait handling etc.			211
Total mileage covered - 11,157			Total hours worked			2202
Petrol used - 321 gals.						
Approx. M.P.G.- 34.76						

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

This Act commenced in January 1964 and six premises were officially registered. Inspections continue to be made to check conditions, and the number for 1965 remains at 6.

Atmospheric Pollution

The recording station at King's Walden pumping station continues to provide information to the national survey. The Inspectors visit the apparatus once per week, and this, including the titration of the sample bottles, takes about one hour to perform.

It is of interest to note that the sensitivity of the apparatus is such that when the factories of Luton are on holiday, this is readily apparent in the pollution results at King's Walden.

Scrap Metal Dealers' Act 1964

This Act operated from 1st April 1965, and seven persons have been registered.

Abandoned Vehicles

The disposal of unwanted vehicles left in country byeways has been achieved by using the services of a local man who has cutting apparatus. During the year, a resolute effort was made by the Council to tidy up an area desecrated seriously, and the resulting removal of about 45 cars was a notable success. Throughout the remainder of the area the number of scrap vehicles removed has been about 25 in the last two years, although it is known that scrap dealers have removed others without the Council's intervention.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

This Act started to operate from August 1964 and there were 73 premises registered at the end of 1965. A great deal of work has been done advising people about the provisions of the Act and studying the voluminous literature originated to deal with its detailed administration. It was hoped to commence the detailed inspection of premises in November 1965, but pressure of other matters prevented this. Another attempt will be made in 1966.

Public Health Inspection of the Area

The following summary gives details of visits made and inspections performed. The use of Statutory procedure continues to be kept to the essential minimum. The number of visits and inspections for all purposes was 3271, detailed as follows in comparison with the year 1964 -

	1964	1965
<u>General Sanitation etc.</u>		
Water Supply	49	61
Drainage	480	501
Cowsheds, Stables, Piggeries etc. ..	36	16
Ponds and Ditches ..	80	148
Tents, Vans and Sheds (inc. Caravan Sites etc. Act 1960)....	143	193
Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers	80	84
Bakehouses	5	2
Licensed Premises ..	18	34
Refuse Collection and Disposal	351	310
Re derelict cars	-	100
Rodent Control	82	103
Atmospheric Pollution	126	77
Schools	15	8
Shops	79	70
Petroleum Regulations	208	254
Noise Nuisances	26	13
National Assistance Act (Burial of the Dead)	10	-
Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963	21	11
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	36	19
Home Counties (Music and Dancing) Licensing Act 1926	-	11
Miscellaneous visits	34	66
<u>Housing</u>		
Public Health Act - visits paid	602	520
Housing Acts - " "	227	332
Filthy or Verminous premises - visits paid .	24	10
Overcrowding	3	6
Miscellaneous Housing visits	24	101
<u>Infectious Diseases etc.</u>		
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	2	22
Food Poisoning	5	2
Visits to Immigrants (re Health Services etc.)	-	24
<u>Meat and Food Inspection (inc. inspection of premises)</u>		
Slaughterhouses etc. (inc. proposed slaughterhouse) .	-	1
Butchers	37	31
Canteens	13	-
Dairies, Milk Distributors etc.	1	9
Poulterers, Poultry and Egg Packing Stations	13	30
Food preparing premises	5	11
Grocers	89	22
Ice-Cream premises .	8	6
Restaurants	21	26
Licensed premises ..	27	-
Mobile Shops	11	9
Greengrocers	4	4
Miscellaneous Food visits ..	35	24
	<u>3030</u>	<u>3271</u>

SECTION D

Housing

During 1965 a Housing Manager was appointed and a department set up to deal with the maintenance, letting etc. of Council accommodation, from 1st April.

On the 31st December 1965, the number of applications on the Council's waiting list for accommodation was 519, an increase of 80 over the previous year.

During 1965, 229 new applications were registered and 149 deleted from the lists. 86 applicants were re-housed and 63 were cancelled either at the applicant's request or because of failure to re-register.

The Council have pursued their policy of transferring families from one type of dwelling to another of more suitable size. Elderly couples and people living alone in three-bedroom houses have been re-housed in bungalows and flats, thus making available these houses for larger families.

The number of new dwellings provided by private enterprise amounted to 133 and the number of housing units provided by the Council, 36.

Work was completed on the remaining 18 dwellings on the Ashwell Housing Estate and 18 of the 30 dwellings on the Ickleford Housing Estate. The Contractor commenced work on a further block of six flats at Ickleford, negotiated as an extension to the existing contract of 30 dwellings.

Delays in completion resulted on 58 dwellings under construction at Kimpton due to the acute shortage of bricks and plasterboard, but it is anticipated that most of these will be completed early in 1966.

Work has also continued on the modernisation of pre-war houses, and 16 dwellings at Therfield plus 30 at Cockernhoe have been completed. Work commenced on the improvements to 46 dwellings at Codicote and tenders will be invited during January 1966 for improvements to a further 38 dwellings at Rushden, Sandon and Wallington.

Tenders were received for the erection of 32 flatlets for elderly persons at Codicote and, subject to Ministry approval, work will commence on site in April 1966.

Tenders were approved by the Ministry for the erection of twelve industrialised houses at Codicote and 27 industrialised houses and 6 bungalows at Breachwood Green, and work will commence on these dwellings during February 1966.

The Housing Act 1964

This new legislation was considered carefully during the year and the possible advantages of its provisions were contrasted against the

improvements that can be obtained using the pressures of the slum clearance provisions of the 1957 Act. On balance, it was thought in an extensive country district the continuous process of persons providing for themselves "a cottage in the country" was producing better results than was likely from the cumbersome procedure of the 1964 Act. However, in one or two of the heavier populated localities, the provisions of the 1964 Act may have to be borne in mind if other approaches to owners should fail.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

The figure of 186 caravans in the district on licensed sites differs little from the 1964 number of 183. About 90 of these are on four sizeable sites.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area.

SECTION E

Food

(a) Slaughterhouses

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the district at present. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food authorised a new abattoir at Therfield in 1962, but no erection had commenced up to the end of 1965. During the year, the butcher concerned said that construction was likely during 1966.

(b) Inspection of Meat and other Foods

Information regarding food premises in the district is given below. Premises are counted once only, classified according to the main business carried on -

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>No. in District</u>
Grocers and Confectioners	51
Butchers	16
Bakers and Confectioners	4
Fishmongers (wet fish)	3
Fruiterers, Greengrocers and Confectioners	5
Confectioners (sweets only)	5
Cafes, Restaurants and Catering Establishments	9
Public Houses	72
Off-licence	3
Bottling Plant	1
Premises from which milk is sold	6
Egg Packing Station	1
Poultry Packing Stations	4
Chemists	2
Hotels/Motels	3
	<hr/>
	185

All premises comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. There are 115 premises to which Regulation 19 applies, and all are fitted to comply with this Regulation.

There are no premises in the district registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the Manufacture of Ice-Cream, but there are 88 establishments that are registered for the sale thereof. Under the heading of the "preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods etc." 22 registered premises are in active use. There were approximately 40 inspections of registered food premises during the year.

The work of inspection and recommendation under the Food Hygiene Regulations etc. continues, including the examination of Plans submitted.

The quantity of food condemned during the year was as follows:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Ozs.</u>
Beef	-	3	-	16	-
Pork	-	-	-	5	4
Poultry	-	19	2	7	-
" (frig.breakdown)	-	16	-	14	8
Misc. frozen food	-	3	-	3	-
(frig.breakdown)					
Canned Meat	-	-	2	3	4
	2	2	1	21	-

(c) Milk

The number of Dairies registered remains at 2.

In August a minor incident occurred in which a small number of persons were affected by gastro-enteritis. The interesting feature here was that the establishment concerned produced milk and delivered it to vending machines. However, it was ascertained that the milk went to London for heat processing, was cartoned there and was later returned to the farm for insertion in the machines. It was felt that the risk was negligible, the re-charging of the milk vending machines was allowed to continue, and the patients soon recovered.

(d) Food Poisoning

See Section F.

(e) Factories Act 1961

Information in the form required by the Ministry of Labour is given in the Table that follows:-

15.

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

PREMISES	No. on Reg- ister	Number of -		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	112	33	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. Outworkers' premises)	7	-	-	-
TOTAL	130	33	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found

	No. of cases in which defects found				No. of Prosec- utions
	Found	Remedied	Referred - To H.M. Inspec.	By H.M. Inspec.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences -					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	2	2	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (excluding Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	2	2	-

Outworkers. There are 38 Outworkers reported in the District, employed in the making of "wearing apparel".

An additional number of 43 visits were made to factory premises, mainly in connection with storage of petroleum, smoke nuisances etc.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Total notifications of acute infectious diseases received during the year numbered (after corrections):-

Measles 392, Whooping Cough 3, Acute Pneumonia 1, Food Poisoning 1, and Acute Encephalitis 1.

Measles was epidemic over the whole of North Herts. in the late Spring and early Summer.

Whooping Cough, when it occurs, would appear recently to have been often mild and so indefinite as to seldom cause notification. Similarly there was no single notification during the year of scarlet fever.

Food Poisoning was only once notified in a sporadic case (S. Typhimurium) but the same organism was identified in an unnotified family outbreak where the causal factor was probably weekly supplies of dog meat from a knacker's yard, improperly stored.

Again there was no report during the year of any case of enteric illness.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Against smallpox, efforts continue directed towards securing primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life. After the fall in recorded vaccinations caused by the change in the recommended age, recorded acceptances in North Herts. have now risen to a ratio of nearly 60% of annual live births. Such ratio is of course, well below the figure of over 80% for children receiving oral anti-poliomyelitis vaccine or TRIPLE vaccine, both offered in the first year of life.

Combined immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continues unchanged in the form of three separate injections of TRIPLE vaccine from the age of three months. An additional (fourth) 'booster' dose is delayed to around 18 months. Total returns show an acceptance rate well above 80 per cent. An additional 'booster' dose is offered at the age of infant school entry, omitting the whooping cough fraction which, when repeated after such interval, is found to cause occasional reactions.

Oral vaccine against poliomyelitis, sandwiched in time between the third and fourth doses of the triple vaccine course, continues to have an equally high acceptance rate. A 'booster' dose is offered of such oral vaccine around time of infant school entry, while a further booster dose is likely to be offered to the susceptible population of an area where any future outbreak should be confirmed.

Protection against tuberculosis by B.C.G. vaccine continues to be offered to 13+ year old scholars, with an acceptance rate around 80%.

Since the commencement of such scheme in 1957, it is of interest that the percentage of positive reactors to the HEAF (tuberculin) Test has fallen steadily from over 18 per cent to 3.5 per cent this last year. In part this is due to the great reduction in the numbers of open (infective) cases of respiratory tuberculosis in the population but the other factor must have been the widespread adoption of pasteurisation of milk over the last 10-20 years. The latter factor is almost certainly responsible for the spectacular decline in the incidence of surgical tuberculosis (of glands, bones and joints), formerly common among children.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1965

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Comment: Figures of new notifications continue to fall, numbering two (respiratory) cases for the year 1965 against a total of nine for the previous year.

No death from any form of tuberculosis was recorded locally during the year.

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health

April 1966