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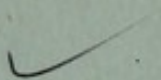
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II



**THE HEALTH
OF
HITCHIN
RURAL DISTRICT**

1971



HITCHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December 1971

Chairman of the Council

Councillor D. Robertson

Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor R.A. Lodge

Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Councillor H.K. Swann

Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Councillor I.O. Wren

Members of the Public Health Committee

J. Bladon

J. Bray

Miss E.M. Brookes

J.J.A. Crumpholt

A.L. Davies

Mrs. E. Cory-Wright

R.A. Lodge

Mrs. M.J. McMurtrie

D. Robertson

D.G. Stedman

C.M. Timbury

H.C. Freeman

E.P. Grosse

Medical Officer of Health

James D. Hall, M.R.C.S. (Eng), L.R.C.P. (Lond), D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector

William M. Mathews, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs: Joint Board

Meat and Foods

Sanitary Science

Smoke Inspection

Additional Inspectors

R.B. Bolt, M.A.P.H.I., M. Inst. P.C.

Certs: Joint Board

Testamur of Inst Of

Public Cleansing

L.G. Stribley, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs: Joint Board

Meat and Foods

C.D. Mayes, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Certs: Diploma of the Public Health

Inspectors Education Board

P R E F A C E

HITCHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Council Office,
Grammar School Walk,
HITCHIN.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1971.

The population of the rural district again increased mainly due to migration into the area; the birth rate remaining constant.

No maternal deaths occurred.

The infant mortality rate declined and was again below the national average.

The perinatal mortality rate remained the same as the previous year and was again lower than England and Wales and the surrounding areas of North Hertfordshire.

The death rate from all causes was lower than that for 1970, It was also lower than the rate for the rest of the county and for England and Wales. The commonest cause of death continued to be diseases of the heart and blood vessels, although this rate was again somewhat lower than the previous year. Cancer remains the second commonest cause.

One death occurred from tuberculosis.

There were no outbreaks of any serious epidemics and the state of public health in the Rural area of Hitchin remains satisfactory.

The Health Education programme was greatly expanded during 1971.

A working party was set up during the year to discuss ways in which general health education could be further developed and a monthly clinic display programme formulated. The working party has met at regular intervals and allowed increased communication.

There has been increased contact with the Teacher Centres and this resulted in a two day conference. Health education was also featured in the North Hertfordshire In-Service Programme for teachers and a full day on health education is planned for 1972. In addition various discussion groups within the teacher centres have been held on the subject of drugs and venereal diseases.

Advice has been given to schools on health education within the school curriculum and a special programme for fifth and sixth formers was introduced and evaluated. This was concerned with the attitudes and behaviour affecting health.

Two experiments into motivation of mothers to accept health education were carried out as a pilot study in maternal attitudes.

Publicity campaigns on venereal disease, smoking and health, mental health were carried out in a number of factories. As a result, talks were given on subjects of personal hygiene, food handling (in conjunction with the public health inspector) venereal diseases and mental health.

Talks have been given to various groups including Young Wives, Women's Clubs, the elderly, St. John Ambulance Association, Parent Teacher Association, Youth Clubs, etc. Topics included health and hygiene, accident prevention, drug addiction (in the form of panels) smoking and health, mental health and venereal disease. There has been increased involvement with the Home Safety Committees for the area.

An anti-smoking clinic was started during the year as a pilot experiment with a view to offering a service for general practitioners to refer patients who wish to give up smoking basically on health grounds. It was decided to run this clinic for one year in alternate months and this project was evaluated through the year. In view of its success on a group basis it was decided to run a pilot clinic for overweight women, again to offer a service for general practitioners and hospital consultants to refer patients who needed to reduce weight and in the case of consultants particularly prior to operation. One feature has been that the group referred are mostly middle-aged and upwards and many aspects of health education have been discussed within the clinic setting. The demand has been overwhelming and has necessitated establishing a second clinic to relieve the waiting list with the Stevenage area and it is anticipated that a third clinic in Letchworth and a fourth in Hitchin will be necessary.

It is my view that the future role of health education lies in group and community projects. In many areas voluntary groups are providing varied activities appropriate to particular needs. Health education has a major role within these groups and some attempt at co-ordination of local authority and voluntary agencies on all matters of health education would be desirable. There is at the present time a mutual lack of awareness of roles which has created duplication of effort.

I would like to express my thanks to all the public health and health and welfare staff in Hitchin Rural, including those concerned with administration for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J.D. HALL

Medical Officer of Health

Divisional Health Office,
Bedford Road,
Hitchin,
Hertfordshire.

Telephone No. 50411

SECTION 'A'

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE HITCHIN RURAL AREA

a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	81,099
Registrar General's estimate of Resident population Mid 1971	25,690
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April 1971 (estimated)	9,000
Rateable value - 31st December, 1971	£1,005,755
Net product of lp rate	£9,543

b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for Mid 1971 reveals an overall increase of 1,180. Natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths for the year was 135.

HITCHIN RURAL VITAL STATISTICS 1971

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS			
Total	181	190	371
Legitimate	172	179	351
Illegitimate	9	11	20
Live Birth Rate (Uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	14.4
Live Birth Rate (Corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	15.7
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	5.0
STILL-BIRTHS			
Total	2	2	4
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	11.0
Total live and still-births	183	192	375
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE			
Total	3	3	6
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	16.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	17.0
Illegitimate Infants per, 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	11.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	8.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	-	-	19.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	-
TOTAL DEATHS	126	110	236
Death Rate (Uncorrected)	-	-	9.2
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	9.4
Natural increase of population	-	-	135
Overall increase of population	-	-	1,180

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1971

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	3	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	4	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	13	3	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-	2
Leukaemia	3	1	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	6	11
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	2	-	2
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	-	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	3	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	36	19	55
Other Forms of Heart Disease	11	6	17
Cerebrovascular Disease	18	25	43
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	5	7
Pneumonia	2	5	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	3	3
Other Complications of Pregnancy, etc.	-	1	1
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	2	2
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	4	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3
All Other Accidents	2	2	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	1	3
All Other External Causes	-	1	1
Total All Causes	126	110	236

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	3	3	6
1 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	3	2	5
25 - 34 years	-	1	1
35 - 44 years	4	1	5
45 - 54 years	9	4	13
55 - 64 years	24	11	35
65 - 74 years	38	27	65
75 and over	45	61	106
All causes ...	126	110	236

POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1971 HITCHIN R.D.C.	North Hertford shire Division	Hertford shire	England and Wales
Population	25,690	168,030	930,390	48,815,000
Live Births (Crude)	14.4	17.2	15.1	16.0
Live Births (Corrected)	15.7		14.2	16.0
Death Rate - All causes, Crude	9.2	7.7	9.0	11.6
Death Rate - All causes, Corrected	9.4		10.2	11.6
Infective and Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis but including Syphilis and other V.D.	0.00	0.01		*
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	0.03	0.01)	0.01	
Other Forms	0.00	0.00)		*
Cancer: Lung and Bronchs.	0.62	0.48)	1.4	
Other	1.59	1.34)		*
Vascular Lesion of the Nervous System	0.03	0.08	1.22	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.90	3.59	2.7	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.54	0.83	1.3	*
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.00	0.2	*
Infantile Mortality	16.0	19.6	15.1	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality	11.0	14.4	10.8	12.0
Early Neo Natal Mortality	8.0	12.4	8.6	10.0
Perinatal Mortality	19.0	21.8	18.3	22.0
Still-Births	11.0	9.5	9.9	12.0

* not available

SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE HITCHIN RURAL AREA

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN - SECTION 22

Family Planning Clinic

The policy of the County Council in regard to family planning is the utilization of the Family Planning Association as the principal agency in the provision of these services. The Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch Organising Secretary, is Mrs. K. Arger, who has kindly provided the figures for this report.

Sessions:

Hitchin - Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road	-	Tuesday Afternoon Wednesday Evening Thursday morning
Letchworth - Health Centre, Nevells Road	-	Monday evening
Stevenage - Trotts Hill Clinic	-	Monday morning Tuesday afternoon Friday morning
Peartree Health Annexe	-	Wednesday morning
Lodge Farm Health Annexe	-	Thursday morning
County Health Centre Southgate.	-	Thursday evening

1971.

	No. of New Patients	Total No. of Attendances.
HITCHIN	344	3,294
LETCHWORTH	205	1,705
STEVENAGE	660	7,762

Clinic	Children Born in 1971	Children Born in 1970	Children Born in 1966-69	No. of Attendances
Hitchin Rural	351	275	241	3,858

Infant Welfare Clinics

Infant Welfare Centre, 1st Friday 2-4 p.m. Health Visitor
 Merchant Taylors' Further Education 3rd Friday 2-4 p.m. Dr. S.J. Moynihan
 Centre, ASHWELL.

Infant Welfare Centre, 2nd Monday
 BARKWAY (mobile) 10 a.m. - 12 noon Dr. S.J. Moynihan

Infant Welfare Centre, 2nd Thursday 2-4 p.m. Dr. S. Davies
 Union Church Hall, 4th Thursday 2-4 p.m. Health Visitor
 High Street, CODICOTE.

Infant Welfare Centre, 1st Monday
 PIRTON (mobile) 10 a.m. - 12 noon Dr. F. Woodthorpe
 3rd Monday 2-4 p.m. Health Visitor

Infant Welfare Centre, 2nd Monday 2-4 p.m. Health Visitor
 Memorial Hall, 1st Monday 2-4 p.m. Dr. Rushton
 Hall Lane, KIMPTON.

Infant Welfare Centre, 1st Wednesday 2-4 p.m. Health Visitor
 ICKLEFORD (mobile) 3rd Wednesday 2-4 p.m. Dr. W. Cowen

Infant Welfare Centre, 1st Thursday 2-4 p.m. Dr. S. Davies
 Village Hall, GREAT OFFLEY.

Infant Welfare Centre 1st Wednesday Dr. S.J. Moynihan
 SANDON (mobile) 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Infant Welfare Centre, 4th Thursday 2-4 p.m. Dr. S. Davies
 WHITWELL (mobile)

Infant Welfare Centre 2nd Wednesday Dr. Whalley
 WYMONDLEY (mobile) 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Infant Welfare Centre, 1st Friday Dr. S.J. Moynihan
 WESTON (mobile) 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Clinic	Children Born in 1971	Children Born in 1970	Children Born in 1966-69	No. of attendances
Hitchin Rural	321	213	341	3,858

CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT

Children Born in	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967 and over
Hitchin R.D.C.	-	-	1	5	17

Premature Infants

A premature infant is one which weighs 5½ lb. or less at birth.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1971

District	Born Alive			Stillbirths			No. removed to Hosp. after birth.	Died under 28 days			No. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total
Hitchin Rural	1	15 + 1 twins	18	-	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	16	17

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

Ante-Natal Instruction classes continue to be held in all the clinics but the actual ante-natal care and supervision is provided either in the G.P.'s surgery or in the home.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	498
Home Condition Reports for Hospitals	42
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	-
Deliveries - Home	38
Deliveries - Hospital	309
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	27

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24

Five health visitors were employed during 1971.

Health Visiting:

Child Welfare	Visits	2146
Aged	Visits	417
Others	Visits	1083
School Inspections	Sessions	136
Maternity and Child Welfare	Sessions	197

The Health Visitors continued to give talks on Health Education illustrated by films and film strips.

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25

The staff of the home nursing service in Hitchin Rural at 31st December 1971 consisted of two full-time district nurse/midwives/health visitors. The staff who are able to drive cars are either authorised to use their own vehicles on official business, or have been provided with county-owned motor vehicles.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1971. It will be seen that they made 4,126 visits to 282 patients; 97 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 2,994 occasions; 72 per cent of all visits, therefore were made to this age group.

HOME NURSING

<u>Classification</u>	<u>No. of cases attended</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Medical	203	3,512
Surgical	67	502
Tuberculosis	-	-
Others	12	112
TOTALS	282	4,126
Patients included above who were aged 65 or over	276	2,994
Children included above who were under five	21	36

AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27 - NORTH HERTS

Number of patients conveyed	70,532
Number of journeys	31,074
Total Mileage	454,555
<u>Details of Journeys</u>	
Accidents	1,585
Sudden Illness	712
Removals	67,467
Maternity	768

The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetman, who has kindly supplied the above statistics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE

SECTION 28 - NORTH HERTS.

The Medical Loan Service continues to be delegated to the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance and these organisations play a large part in providing equipment and aids to the ill and handicapped at home. For this voluntary service we should like to express our thanks.

CHEST CLINIC

Health Visiting:

Tuberculosis Households - Visits	350
B.C.G. Follow-up - Visits	39
Contacts - Visits	270
Non-Tuberculosis - Visits	138

.. New Cases	33
Contacts of New cases	304
Heaf Negative	23

The incidence of tuberculosis continued at a low level in this area.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Number of New Cases in 1971

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL ALL VENEREAL CONDITIONS</u>
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	204	120	324

The return from Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, has been omitted since it refers to the whole of the geographical county of Hertfordshire. These figures are, therefore, deficient by an unknown number in addition to the deficiencies caused by the treatment of patients from this area in London and elsewhere.

36% of the cases were in females.

CLINICS	No. of cases	No. of patients	No. of visits	No. of cases by sex				Total
				Male	Female	Both	Unknown	
ROSLON	11	11	11	10	1	11	1	
CLEATHRIDGE	11	11	11	10	1	11	1	
TECHNOR	11	11	11	10	1	11	1	
HITCHIN	11	11	11	10	1	11	1	
TOTAL	44	44	44	36	8	44	0	

CLINIC - WOMEN

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY - NORTH HERTS

CLINICS	No. 1st attendances	% Pop at risk attending	Negative		Positive		Unsatisfactory Specimens		Inflammatory Changes		Trichomonas Vaginalis		Monilia		Suspicious		Cell Irregularities	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
HITCHIN	502	i) 3 ii) 4	502	100.0	-	-	3	.6	310	62.0	28	5.5	13	2.5	-	-	-	-
LETCHWORTH	233	i) 3 ii) 3	233	100.0	-	-	2	.85	103	44.0	7	3.0	7	3.0	-	-	-	-
STEVENAGE	781	i) 8 ii) 11	781	100.0	-	-	1	.13	402	51.0	42	5.0	24	3.0	-	-	-	-
ROYSTON	77	i) 0.53 ii) 2	77	100.0	-	-	-	-	69	89.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CYTOLOGY CLINIC

"WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1971

Hitchin
Letchworth
Stevenage
Royston

- Every Wednesday a.m.
- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.
- Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.
- Every third Wednesday in the month a.m.

From a total of 1,593 no positives were discovered.

In 1971 attendances at the Cytology Clinics showed a slight increase in Hitchin, Stevenage and Royston but were lower in Letchworth than in 1970.

Cervical Cytology continued:-

- (i) Aged 20 and over
- (ii) Aged 30 and over

Population At Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient.

Baldock U.D.	(i) 2,080	Royston U.D.	(i) 2,260
	(ii) 1,740		(ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	(i) 9,540	Stevenage U.D.	(i) 16,200
	(ii) 7,900		(ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	(i) 9,480	Hitchin R.D.	(i) 8,560
	(ii) 7,950		(ii) 7,200

TOTAL AT RISK (i) 48,120
(ii) 39,000

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1971.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

TABLE I - HITCHIN RURAL

Inspection School Children 1971

Entrants	237
Number of special inspections and re-inspections	101

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr.C.G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth Consultant Geriatrician and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Dr. Roper has played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to her also.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

TABLE 1 - HITCHIN

Inspection of School Children 1971

Entrants	498
First year Selective + Consultative	507
Number of special inspections	289
Number of re-inspections	692

Physical condition of Pupils inspected:

Satisfactory	1,986
--------------	-------

TABLE 11 - HITCHIN

B.C.G. Vaccination - 11, 12 and 13 years and older school children:

Number of children offered testing and vaccination if necessary	450
Number of acceptances	410
Percentage of acceptances	91.1%

Pre-Vaccination Tuberculin Test:

Number tested	391
---------------	-----

Result of Test:

Number of positive	13
Number of negative	343
Number not ascertained	35
Percentage positive	3.3%
Percentage negative	87.9%
Number vaccinated	341

Note: The percentage of acceptances is most satisfactory; no adverse re-actions to B.C.G. vaccinations were reported during the year.

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C.G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Dr. Roper has played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to her also.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospital.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

MENTAL HOSPITAL

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold

MATERNITY HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin

CHEST CLINIC

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

LABORATORY SERVICES

Dr. A.T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds.

Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

SECTION "F"

PREVENTION & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

HITCHIN R.D.C.

Diseases	Total cases notified	Cases after correction	Age												
			Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Unknown	
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	157	-	3	9	13	24	30	64	8	5	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	165	-	3	9	13	25	31	68	9	6	1	-	-	-	-

Hitchin R.D.C. - Tuberculosis

No. on Register at 31st December, 1971

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	62	38	100
Non-pulmonary	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>21</u>
	<u>72</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>121</u>

No. Removed from Register during 1971

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Deaths	-	-	-	-	-
Other (cured, re-diagnosed transfers of area etc.)	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Additions to Register during 1971

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
New Notifications	1	1	-	-	2
Other (cases restored to register, transfers etc)	-	2	-	-	2
	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	-	-	<u>4</u>

William M. Mathews, M.A.P.H.I.

Central Joint Board
Meat and Poultry
Sanitary Scheme
Smoke Inspection

Additional Inspectors:

R. B. Bolt, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C.

Central Joint Board

Inspector of Factories
of Public Cleansing

J. G. Scribbley, M.A.P.H.I.

Central Joint Board
Meat and Poultry

C. D. Mayes, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Division of the Public Health
Inspectors Education Board

HITCHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December 1971

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor D. Robertson

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor R. A. Lodge

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor H. K. Swann

Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor I. O. Wren

Members of the Public Health Committee:

J. Bladon	E. P. Grosse
J. M. Bray	R. A. Lodge
Miss E. M. Brookes	Mrs. M. J. McMurtrie
Mrs. E. Cory Wright	D. Robertson
J. J. A. Crumpholt	D. G. Stedman
A. L. Davies	C. M. Timbury
H. C. Freeman	

Medical Officer of Health:

James D. Hall, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

William M. Mathews, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs. Joint Board
Meat and Foods
Sanitary Science
Smoke Inspection

Additional Inspectors:

R. B. Bolt, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C.

Certs. Joint Board
Testamur of Institute
of Public Cleansing

L. G. Stribley, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs. Joint Board
Meat and Foods

C. D. Mayes, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Diploma of the Public Health
Inspectors Education Board

SECTION CStaff

Mrs. P. Pearce left the clerical staff during March and her place was taken by Mrs. K. Edwards.

Sanitary Circumstances of the AreaWater Supplies

The Lee Valley Water Company's monthly reports on samples taken throughout the district, indicate that 642 bacteriological samples and 30 chemical samples all proved to be satisfactory.

The Water Company also reports as follows -

- " (a) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory (i) in quality and (ii) in quantity.
- (b) 21 chemical and 252 bacteriological examinations of raw water were made. 30 of the latter contained E.Coli. The bacteriological quality of raw water samples is shown in the appended table (Table 1). 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 dwelling houses supplied is shown on the attached schedule (Table 2). It is not possible to give separate figures for those properties supplied direct from the mains and those supplied by means of standpipes.
- (f) The estimated population supplied is 24,211.

Table 1

Bacteriological Quality of Raw Water - January 1st to December 31st 1971

Pumping Stations	No. of Samples Examined	E. Coli Absent/Mls.	E. Coli present in Mls.		
			100	50	10
Chipping (Offley Green area of Rushden)	45	45	-	-	-
Codicote	48	48	-	-	-
Kings Walden	52	48	1	3	-
Watton Road	58	32	1	17	8
Wymondley	49	49	-	-	-
TOTALS	252	222	2	20	8

Table 2

Number of Dwelling Houses Supplied

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. Props.</u> <u>Sept. 1971</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. Props.</u> <u>Sept. 1971</u>
Ashwell	495	Lilley	148
Barkway	222	Newnham	41
Barley	207	Nuthampstead	45
Bygrave	87	Offley	499
Clothall	58	Pirton	401
Codicote	824	Preston	107
Graveley	128	Radwell	35
Hexton	44	Reed	94
Hinxworth	87	Rushden	79
Holwell	158	St. Ippollitts	496
Ickleford	608	St. Paul's Walden .	341
Kelshall	57	Sandon	177
Kimpton	630	Therfield	152
King's Walden	353	Wallington	48
Knebworth	1247	Weston	339
Langley	54	Wymondley	355
Total		8,616	

Samples were taken by the Public Health Department also, as follows -

	<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.	13	12	1	-
2. <u>Private Sources</u>	40	18	17	5
	53	30	18	5

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the Hitchin Rural District but two schools have private facilities.

Sewerage and Sewage Treatment

The Surveyor reports as follows, on the position at 31st December 1971 -

The sewage treatment works have continued to be maintained at a satisfactory standard to produce an adequate quality of effluent. Work Study has been introduced during the year for the maintenance gangs and has produced a higher standard of efficiency in the maintenance work. The following is a schedule of the villages which are sewered and where sewage is fully treated by modern methods:

8	50	5	555	555	TOTALS
---	----	---	-----	-----	--------

<u>Village</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>River Authority</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Barkway	1968	Lee	-
Breachwood Green	1963	Lee	Effluent disposed of by soakage into land
Cockernhoe	1966	Lee	ditto
Codicote	1966	Lee	Pumped to Rye Meads. Parts of Potters Heath are now sewerred.
Graveley	1966	Gt.Ouse	Pumped to Rye Meads
Halls Green	1967	Lee	Pumped to Weston Works
Hexton	1959	Gt.Ouse	-
Holwell	1956	Gt.Ouse	Sewer extensions required for remainder of village
Ickleford	1963	Gt.Ouse	Pumped to Hitchin U.D.C.
St.Ippollitts	1969	Gt.Ouse	Pumped to Ashbrook
Kelshall	1971	Lee	Sewage treated at Chapel Green
Kimpton	1964	Lee	-
Knebworth	1955	Lee	Pumped to Rye Meads
Newnham	1967	Gt.Ouse	-
Offley	1954	Gt.Ouse	Works overloaded, new works in design
Peters Green	1964	Lee	Treated at Kimpton Works
Preston	1971	(Lee)	Pumped to Ashbrook Works in Gt.Ouse area
Reed	1971	Lee	Pumped to Chapel Green Works
Therfield	1971	Lee	Treated at Chapel Green Works
Weston	1965	Lee	-
Whitwell	1956	Lee	-
Wymondley	1969	Gt.Ouse	Pumped to Ashbrook

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A new Foreman's Van (VUR 529 J) came in January; a new Dennis refuse collection vehicle of 70 cu.yds. capacity (VUR 165 J) arrived in

Sewerage and Sewage Treatment (cont.)

A scheme has been prepared for renewing some of the sewers in the village of Pirton and providing the necessary pumping station to discharge the sewage to the Hitchin Urban District Council's works. At the present time pollution is occurring in the Great Ouse River Authority's area and further housing development cannot be permitted until the scheme has been carried out. Technical approval of the Department of the Environment has been received and we are awaiting authority to invite tenders.

A scheme is in course of preparation for the village of Ashwell which was sewered many years ago, but there are no adequate treatment works. This scheme also includes the nearby village of Hinxworth, where private properties are experiencing considerable difficulties due to the sub-soil conditions.

Work is continuing on the design of a scheme for the village of Lilley where there is a small seriously overloaded works dealing with Council House drainage. It is proposed to pump the sewage to Luton together with the drainage from Offley village where the present works are overloaded.

A scheme is in course of preparation for the village of Barley where there exists a small treatment plant dealing with the Council house drainage and a few private properties. Consideration is being given to the possibility of pumping the sewage to the existing works at Barkway and enlarging these works.

Public Cleansing Services

In the last report, comment was made that 1970 was the first year in which industrial strife affected the workings of the Council's services. It is pleasant to record that 1971 represented the opposite. In May 1971 the long awaited Bonus System for refuse collection, cesspool emptying and other branches began to operate, and it is of interest to note that up to the end of the year, not a single man resigned on those duties, although two unsatisfactory employees had to be replaced.

1971 was exceptional also in that the Council appointed a Vehicle Maintenance Fitter and Mate, and commenced to perform their own repairs and servicing of vehicles. It comes as something of a surprise to realise that the Fitter is dealing with a total of 38 mechanical units of which 24 are road vehicles, and a future programme of work to get the vehicles through the M.O.T. tests is likely to place a further load upon the Fitter, who has done excellent work thus far. The Council also seconded Mr. R. Warde to perform much needed Work Study duties.

The advent of Work Study and the Bonus Scheme, allied to a number of other improvements, resulted in the extension of weekly collection to a number of areas that had not previously enjoyed such service. Additionally, the Council approved an extension of the regular vehicle fleet from four to five vehicles and the engagement of a further crew of four men. These latter facilities were due to take effect in mid-1972 so as to raise the percentage of properties receiving weekly service to around 80%.

Work upon trying to get alternative facilities for tipping refuse has continued, but there is great difficulty in getting concerted action from a number of Councils, all of whom have differing needs.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A new Foreman's Van (TUR 579 J) came in January; a new Dennis refuse collection vehicle of 70 cu.yds. capacity (VUR 165 J) arrived in

April, and the volumetric content was valuable in permitting men to remain out on collection work all day on many occasions. Vehicle KJH 218 C was sold to a large store instead of being scrapped, as it had become too small in capacity to continue economically as part of the vehicle fleet.

The Civic Amenities service continued to collect bulky articles and refuse discarded in the countryside, as well as dealing with the issue of the plastic 'Polo' bins.

The Council have an Agreement with a firm of metal handlers in Luton, and 27 scrap vehicles were removed following abandonment. This compares with 33 in 1970. The department was also of influence in arranging for the removal of a further 21 vehicles without cost, before they reached the abandoned/derelict stage.

Refuse Collected

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Loads</u>	<u>Approx. weight of all materials collected</u>	<u>Vehicle Mileage</u>	<u>(including Foreman's van and two lorries)</u>
1966	1689	6721 tons	52,386	(three packing-type vehicles and Karrier)
1967	1690	6885 "	51,591	(- ditto -)
1968	1838	7322 "	54,528	(three packing-type vehicles, Karrier and lorry for special collections)
1969	1878	7413 "	65,690	(three packing type vehicles, Karrier and lorry)
1970	1689	6442 "	67,939	(four packing-type vehicles and lorry)
1971	1499 *	6849 "	63,615*	(- ditto -)

* The reduction in number of loads and mileage in 1971, was due to the introduction of the larger vehicles.

The joint tip operated at Holwell for use by Hitchin R.D.C. and Letchworth and Baldock U.D.Cs. dealt with 17,200 tons of refuse. Two tractors, one large and one small, were used to control the refuse and the only serious difficulty encountered was the blowing about of papers during gale periods.

Salvage

The collection and sale of paper and cardboard materials was discontinued during the year upon the advice of the Work Study Consultant. The services of two part-time workers were dispensed with and time saved by the refuse collecting crews was re-used to extend the areas of weekly service.

Cesspool Emptying and Night-soil Collection

During the year, vehicle 9879 AR (800 gallons capacity) was sold and was replaced by VUR 482 J (1500 gallons capacity). The advent of the work studied Bonus Scheme, allied to the opening of new sewage treatment works and the use of a much larger vehicle, resulted in a considerable saving of time. This time was re-applied and resulted in an appreciably shorter waiting period for service to be given and also in the availability of the spare machine for other duties, e.g. work for the Surveyor's Department.

The following is a summary of the work performed -

Year	Number of cesspools emptied at -				Loads from Sew- age Works	Pails emptied
	Houses in Private ownership		Council Houses			
	Free	Chargeable	Free	Chargeable		
1968	945	413	10	82	1021	4177
1969	846	447	10	70	863	3732
1970	746	447	8	54	793	2907
1971	867	481	8	36	747	2236

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Early in the year, the services of Mr. G. Upchurch were terminated and his place was taken by Mr. R. F. Eppy, who has performed the duties with competence and interest. He received certain preliminary instruction in the work to be carried out and has attended Ministry sponsored meetings when these were considered to be useful.

SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st 1971

NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED					
Sewers	Tips etc.	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Agric. Land etc.	TOTAL
102½	479¼	1000¼	87	162½	1831¾
Time spent on vehicle maintenance, receiving instructions, reports on visits, bait handling etc.					280¼
Total hours worked					2112

Total mileage covered by Council's Van - 11,368
 Other transport - 979
 Petrol used - 398 gals.
 Approx. M.P.G. - 28.56

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

At the close of the year the number of premises registered was 5. All were visited during the year and no serious cases of contraventions were found.

Pet Animals Act 1951

During the year, two premises were registered under this Act.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

During the year there was one additional registration, and at 31st December the total number of premises registered was 82. The number of visits made to these premises was 101.

Public Health Inspection of the Area

The following summary gives information in respect of the visits and inspections performed -

<u>General Sanitation etc.</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Water Supply	14	88
Drainage	553	466
Cowsheds, Stables, Piggeries etc. ..	30	2
Ponds and Ditches	106	19
Caravan Sites etc.	57	82
Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers	183	189
Licensed Premises	41	27
Refuse Collection and Disposal, Vehicle Maintenance etc. ...	453	471
Re Derelict Cars	208	200
Re Gipsies, gipsy sites etc.	111	97
Rodent Control	91	98
Atmospheric Pollution	34	22
Schools	1	16
Shops (excl. visits re OSR Act 1963)	73	47
Petroleum Regulations	183	199
Noise Nuisances	66	50
Re Animal Boarding Establishments and Pet Shops	6	14
Re Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	51	111
Miscellaneous Visits	92	134
 <u>Housing</u>		
Public Health Act - visits paid	540	317
Housing Acts	173	79
Filthy or Verminous Premises	3	-
Overcrowding	1	2
Miscellaneous Housing visits	115	48
 <u>Infectious Diseases etc.</u>		
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	1	82
Food Poisoning	23	6
Visits to Immigrants (re Health Services etc.)	18	5
Visits re Fowl Pest	19	-
 <u>Meat and Foods (inc. inspection of Premises)</u>		
Bakers and Confectioners	8	2
Butchers	27	31
Canteens	3	-
Dairies, Milk Distributors etc.	9	3
Poulterers, Poultry and Packing Stations etc.	68	22
Food Preparing Premises	8	15
Grocers	31	43
Ice-Cream Premises (excl. visits re sampling)	3	8
Restaurants	7	46
Mobile Shops	5	20
Greengrocers	2	3
 <u>Re Sampling</u>		
Milk	2	-
Ice-Cream	3	6
Miscellaneous Food Visits	28	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3450	3096
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Council's District.

SECTION D

Housing

The Housing Manager reports that on 31st December 1971, the number of applications on the Council's waiting list for accommodation was 493, this being an increase of 73 when compared with the previous year. During the previous three years there had been a slight reduction each year in the number of applications.

New applications registered in 1971 numbered 310 and 237 were deleted from the lists. This latter figure was composed of 90 who were housed and 147 due to cancellation either at the request of the applicant or on account of failure to re-register.

The policy of transferring families from one type of dwelling to another of more suitable size etc., where the tenants had requested such a transfer was continued and in this way it was possible during the year to deal with 39 cases.

The Surveyor's report on new buildings etc. for 1971 is as follows:-

No. of new Council dwellings completed	-	62
No. of new Private dwellings completed	-	76
No. of new Housing Association dwellings completed	-	-

The number of dwellings under construction at 31st December 1971 were as follows:-

No. of Council dwellings	-	-
No. of Private dwellings	-	130
No. of Housing Association dwellings	-	-
Improvement Grants approved	Dis. 48) Stand. 26)	- 74

The modernisation of 90 pre-war Council Houses was completed during the year in the following villages -

Kimpton	-	36
Langley	-	10
Knebworth	-	44

On 31st December, 102 pre-war Council Houses were in course of modernisation in the following villages -

Potters Heath	-	6
St. Paul's Walden	-	8
Knebworth	-	54
Offley	-	34

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

The number of caravans on licensed sites at the end of the year was 142, of which about 90 are on four large sites.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Council's District.

SECTION E

Food and Drugs Act 1955

(a) Milk

The number of registered dairies remains at 2.

Whilst the voluntary accreditation scheme in connection with Brucellosis continued to extend, cases of Positive samples had to be followed up to try to ensure that all doubtful supplies were rendered safe by heat treatment. Government plans for further improving the position are now well advanced.

Four complaints respecting milk and milk bottles were dealt with to the satisfaction of the complainants and without having to engage in Court actions. The credit for this persuasive type of work goes entirely to the Inspectors responsible for their districts.

(b) There are no Egg Pasteurisation plants in the Rural District.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960/62

The number and type of food premises, listed according to the principal business carried on, are as follows:-

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>No. in District</u>
Grocers and Confectioners	47
Butchers	14
Bakers and Confectioners	3
Fishmongers (wet fish)	3
Fruiterers, Greengrocers and Confectioners	4
Confectioners (sweets only)	5
Cafes, Restaurants and Catering Establishments.	9
Public Houses	69
Off-Licence	3
Premises from which milk is sold	6
Poultry Packing and Processing Stations	4
Chemists	2
Hotels/Motels	6
	<hr/>
	175

All premises comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 (dealing with handbasins). There are 106 premises to which Regulation 19 (washing sinks) applies and all premises conform to its requirements.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, but 72 establishments are registered for ice-cream sales. Six (satisfactory) samples were taken during the year.

There are 21 premises registered and in use under the classification of "Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods etc.". Some 130 visits were made to registered food premises during the year. The inspection of plans submitted continues to be a good method of ensuring that work to be performed is likely to be in compliance with good food hygiene practice.

The amounts of food condemned were as follows -

	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Canned Meats	-	1	2
Frozen foods	-	3	27
(breakdowns in refrigeration)			
Ice-Cream etc	-	1	7
(breakdown of container)			
Fish	5	1	7
(breakdown in refrigeration)			
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>

(d) Poultry

- (i) the number of poultry processing premises within the district at 31st December is 4.
- (ii) the number of visits to these premises was 20.
- (iii) the total number of birds slaughtered during the year was about 2,707,300
- (iv) the types of birds processed were turkeys (3000) and broilers.
- (v) the percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption was .03%
- (vi) the weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption is in the region of 95 lbs. per week.

(e) Slaughterhouses

There are no operational slaughterhouses (for cattle etc.) in the district.

All premises comply with Regulation 10 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 (dealing with bacteria), and there are 100 premises to which Regulation 19 (washing tanks) applies and all premises conform to the requirements.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, but 72 establishments are registered for ice-cream sales. Six (six) factories were taken during the year.

There are 21 premises registered and in use under the classification of 'preparation or handling of preserved foods etc.' and 100 visits were made to registered food premises during the year. The inspection of plants submitted continues to be a good method of ensuring that work to be performed is likely to be in compliance with food hygiene practice.

Factories Act 1961

Information in the form required by the Secretary of State for Employment is given in the Table that follows -

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Number of -	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	111	40	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. Outworkers' premises)	5	4	1	-
	124	48	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

PARTICULARS	No. of cases in which defects found				No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred -		
			To H.M. Inspec.	By H.M. Inspec.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (excluding Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
	5	-	-	-	-

Outworkers: There are 9 Outworkers reported in the district, employed on the making of wearing apparel. There were no known cases of default in sending lists to the Council and no instances found of work in unwholesome premises.

There were 128 other visits to factory premises in connection with noise and dust nuisances, petrol installations etc.

Information in the form required by the Secretary of State for Employment is given in the table that follows -

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Number of - Written Notices Procured	Number of Written Notices Procured	Inspec- tions	No. of Reg- ister deter	PREMISES
-	-	4	8	(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities
-	1	40	111	(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority
-	1	4	5	(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excl. Outworkers' premises)
-	5	48	124	Total

2. Cases in which defects were found

No. of Proce- dures taken	No. of cases in which defects found			PARTICULARS
	Notified By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	Remedied	
-	-	-	-	Want of cleanliness (2.1)
-	-	-	-	Overcrowding (2.2)
-	-	-	-	Unreasonable temperature (2.3)
-	-	-	-	Inadequate ventilation (2.4)
-	-	-	-	Ineffective drainage of floors (2.5)
-	-	-	-	Sanitary conveniences (2.7)
-	-	-	1	(a) Inadequate
-	-	-	1	(b) Unavailable or defective
-	-	-	-	(c) Not separate for sexes
-	-	-	-	Other offences against the Act (excluding Outworkers)
-	-	-	5	Total

Outworkers: There are 9 Outworkers reported in the district, employed on the making of sewing machines. There were no known cases of defect in sending them to the Council and no instances found of work in unwholesome premises.

There were 128 other visits to factory premises in connection with noise and dust nuisance, petrol installations etc.



