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**Contributors**

Hitchin (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1964

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4421(7)  
HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORTS

*of the*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*and the*

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964



HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1964 - 1965

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964

---oOo---

W. KILPIN, F.R.C.S.

Clerk of the Council.

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964

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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1964 - 1965

COUNCILLORS:

Chairman of the Council

A. R. G. PRICE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

F. A. MILLARD, J.P.

Chairman

Public Health Committee

Mrs. P.L.M. Price

P.S. Drury

W.K. Purdie

J.H. Goldsmith

J. Reilly

G.J. Graves

S.W. Robbins

R. Harper

J.P. Sampson

G.F. Hendry

J.H. Sayer

M. Muir

R.J. Watts

J. F. Osborne

W. WILSON, F.C.C.S.

Clerk of the Council.

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1964 - 1965

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P. S. IVRY

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G. J. GRAVES

R. HARPER

G. P. HENRY

M. MUIR

J. F. OSBORNE

Public Health Committee

W. K. PURDIE

J. KELLY

S. W. ROBBINS

J. P. SAMPSON

J. H. SEYER

R. J. WATTS

Mrs. F. L. M. PRICE

W. WILSON, F.C.C.S.

Clerk of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1964

Medical Officer of Health

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

(Also Divisional M.O. for North Herts.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

NORMAN HOLT, F.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

Certs. R.S. Health (1. Meat and Foods 2. Smoke)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

HARRY FORREST, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs. R.S. Health (Meat and Foods)

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

ANTHONY MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs. R.S. Health (Meat and Foods)

DAVID HOWARD RATLIFF, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs. R.S. Health (1. Meat and Foods 2 Smoke) (From 17.2.64.)

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

GRAHAM ALBERT WISEMAN (From 10.8.64.)



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1964

Medical Officer of Health

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.  
(Also Divisional M.O. for North Herts.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

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GERALD R.S. HEALTH (Meat and Poultry)

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

ANTHONY MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I.  
GERALD R.S. HEALTH (Meat and Poultry)

DAVID HOWARD RATHBONE, M.A.P.H.I.  
GERALD R.S. HEALTH (Meat and Poultry 2 Schemes) (From 17.2.64.)

Public Health Inspector:

GRAHAM ALBERT WISEMAN (From 10.8.64.)

REPORTS FROM MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1964

CLERICAL STAFF:

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mrs. Price and Gentlemen, MR. J. D. DAVIDSON

I submit the above annual report to the Division of Ministry of Health  
1/65.

MRS. E. M. McLEOD

For the year 1964, the local population (14,3) again exceeds the figure  
for England and Wales (11.5). OFFICES  
The presence in the local population of a considerable higher than average  
proportion of elderly age groups. Application of the sugar-salt balance  
method applied provides a local 'standard' death rate of 12.1 and the national

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road, Hitchin. Tel. 50411/4

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Council Offices, Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel. 4471/5

I would acknowledge having received during the year over 100 letters  
from your Council and its chief officers; particularly from Mr. J. D. Davidson,  
Chief Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the general control of  
sanitary matters.

Your obedient servant,

---oOo---

P. S. WILSON

Medical Officer of Health

CLERICAL STAFF:

MR. J. D. DAVISON

MRS. E. M. MASON

OFFICES

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road, Hitchin. Tel. 5041/4

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Council Office, Broad Street, Hitchin. Tel. 4471/5



HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mrs. Price and Gentlemen,

I submit the above annual report on the direction of Ministry Circular 1/65.

For the year 1964 the local death rate (14.3) again exceeds the figure for England and Wales (11.3). Such high death rate would again seem due to the presence in the local population of a considerable higher than average proportion of elderly age groups. Application of the comparability factor supplied produces a local 'standardised' death rate of 12.4 and the tabulation of local deaths show 51% to have occurred at ages 75 years and over.

The local birth rate (21.8) again exceeds the national rate (18.4); a considerable factor in such higher rate is the recent considerably increased immigrant population. Local stillbirth and infant mortality rates both compare favourably with corresponding national rates.

During the year there is again seen to have been no local occurrence of serious infectious disease.

I would acknowledge having received during the year every assistance from your Council and its chief officers; particularly from Mr. Holt, your Chief Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the attached report on sanitary matters.

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.



HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mrs. Price and Gentlemen,

I submit the above annual report on the direction of Ministry Circular 1/65.

For the year 1964 the local death rate (14.5) again exceeds the figure for England and Wales (11.5). Such high death rate would again seem due to the presence in the local population of a considerable higher than average proportion of elderly age groups. Application of the comparability factor applied produces a local 'standardised' death rate of 12.4 and the tabulation of local deaths show 516 to have occurred at ages 75 years and over.

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Your obedient servant,

V. E. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.

# SECTION A

## LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) .. .. .	3,850
Home Population - Registrar General's estimate for mid-1964 .. .. .	24,990
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1965 ..	8,253
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1965 .. .. .	£1,368,496
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate for 1965/66 ..	£5,811

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR

### THE YEAR 1964

HITCHIN      Comparable  
URBAN          Rate for  
DISTRICT      ENGLAND  
                 AND WALES.

#### LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	505	250	255
Illegitimate	39	18	21
	<u>544</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>276</u>

Rate per 1,000 population .. .. . 21.8      18.4  
Illegitimate live births per cent of  
total live births.. .. . 7.2%

#### STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still  
births) .. .. . 7.3      16.3



# TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS.

HITCHIN      Comparable  
URBAN          Rate for  
DISTRICT      ENGLAND  
AND WALES.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
548	269	279

## DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
357	159	198

Rate per 1,000 population .. .. . 14.3      11.3

## INFANT DEATHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 week	7	6	1
1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-
4 - 52 weeks	2	1	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>

## Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total  
live births .. .. . 16.6      20.0

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000  
legitimate live births .. .. . 17.8

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000  
illegitimate live births .. .. . 0.0

## Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000  
total live births) .. .. . 12.9      13.8

## Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under 1 week per 1,000  
total live births) .. .. . 12.9



CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

HITCHIN  
URBAN  
DISTRICT  
Comparable  
Rate for  
ENGLAND  
AND WALES.

<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)...					20.1	
<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 LOCAL VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated local mid-year population shows a further considerable rise of 550 while local live births (544) are again above the figure for the previous year.

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 62, of which total 18 were from Cancer of the lung or bronchus. Four deaths (3 males and 1 female) among local residents occurred from motor vehicle accidents, against totals of 5 for 1963 and 4 for 1962.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These are unchanged.

SECTIONS C - E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.



## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Total notifications of acute infectious diseases received during the year (after correction) numbered: Measles 12, Whooping Cough 2, Scarlet Fever 1, Dysentery 1 and Meningococcal Infection 1. From childbirth conditions there were also 23 notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia and 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Such numbers are unimportant and the year is seen to have been an interval year for measles. Enteric disease was confined to one notification of para-typhoid fever, finally identified as a case of bacteraemia caused by Salmonella Stanleyville.

The notified puerperal pyrexia cases were mainly due to inter-current non-uterine infections, often urinary.

Food Poisoning One young adult, notified as para-typhoid fever, was finally ascertained to be suffering from a bacteraemia due to Salmonella Stanleyville. The source of infection could not be determined nor the case linked with any similar infection in any other district.

### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Against smallpox, efforts continue directed towards securing primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life, the recently revised policy recommended by the Ministry of Health. The changeover from the previously recommended first year of life apparently caused for some time a considerable drop in primary vaccination figures in North Herts, followed by improvement in mid 1964. Figures for the mid quarters of 1964 showed an acceptance rate of over 50% for the second year age. Such rate is, of course, much below that for children accepting oral anti-poliomyelitis vaccine or TRIPLE vaccine, both offered in the first year of life.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus continued 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 eighty per cent. An additional 'booster' dose is offered at the age of infant school entry omitting the whooping cough fraction which, when repeated at this long 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.



# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and deaths during the Year 1964

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	1						
25 - 35								
35 - 45	1							
45 - 55	3	1						
55 - 65								
65 & over								
Not known								
TOTALS	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

## COMMENT:

Local notifications of respiratory cases are reduced to seven, one fewer than the figure for 1963.

No death occurred in the district from tuberculosis during the year.

V. R. Walker.  
District Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1965.

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the Year 1962

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								
25 - 35								
35 - 45								
45 - 55								
55 - 65								
65 & over								
Not known								
TOTALS	5	2	2	2	-	-	-	-

COMMENT: Local notifications of respiratory cases are reduced to seven, one fewer than the figure for 1961. No death occurred in the district from tuberculosis during the year.

V. R. Walker,  
District Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mrs. Price and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-third Annual Report upon the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending December 31st 1964.

The different aspects of housing continue to occupy a great deal of the Department's time. Houses in multiple occupation are increasing in number, and overcrowding and other problems in connection therewith are being dealt with as quickly as possible. Many visits to these premises have to be made by inspectors out of office hours. Fifty-five improvement grants were made during the year, all being "standard" with the exception of one. The Council propose to use their powers to declare improvement areas under the Housing Act, 1964, and one further inspector was appointed early in 1965 to assist with the work.

Meat inspection at the Bacon Factory requires two public health inspectors to be present, not only after slaughter but during the whole period when slaughtering is being carried out. The man/hours spent on inspection per week is equivalent to one inspector full time on this work.

During the year the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 came into operation and inspections were commenced in order to deal with the many problems arising from this legislation.

I again express my thanks to the staff for their valuable assistance and to all the Council's officials for their continued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

N. HOLT.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

May, 1965.



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS  
AND NOTICES SERVED DURING  
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1964

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION

Water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	511
Stables and piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	202
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Refuse and salvage collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	430
Refuse disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	145
Rats and mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Smoke observations and other visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Boiler plants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Shops, Offices, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Petroleum installations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
Swimming pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	648

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts:-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	255

Under Housing Acts:-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	400

Overcrowding:-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

Houses in Multiple Occupation:-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234

Rent Act 1957:-

Inspections in connection with certificates of disrepair	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
All revisits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Enquiries in case of Infectious Diseases .. ..	3
Enquiries in case of Food Poisoning .. ..	1
Other visits re Food Poisoning .. ..	3
Visits re Food Poisoning enquiries .. ..	245

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

### Inspection of meat:-

Visits to slaughterhouse .. ..	888
Visits to shops and stalls .. ..	7

### Food Inspection:-

Visits to shops and stalls .. ..	60
----------------------------------	----

### Visits to:-

Butchers .. ..	45
Fishmongers and poulterers.. ..	34
Fish friers.. ..	4
Food Preparing Premises .. ..	25
Grocers .. ..	89
Greengrocers and fruiterers .. ..	16
Dairies and milkshops.. ..	14
Ice cream stores.. ..	6
Bakehouses .. ..	12
Markets .. ..	58
Restaurants.. ..	44
School and Factory Canteens etc.. ..	45
Street vendors and hawkers carts .. ..	5
Licensed premises .. ..	5

### Visits in connection with sampling (bacteriological):-

Milk .. ..	62
Ice cream .. ..	87

## NOTICES SERVED

Number of Informal Notices served .. ..	64
Number of Informal Notices complied with .. ..	58
Number of Statutory Notices served .. ..	9
Number of Statutory Notices complied with.. ..	9



IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC  
HEALTH INSPECTORS

HOUSES, ETC.

Roofs repaired .. .. .	31
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired .. .. .	13
Flashings repaired or replaced .. .. .	15
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed .. .. .	20
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	14
Walls pointed or repaired .. .. .	9
Walls cement rendered .. .. .	4
Windows repaired .. .. .	23
Windows provided or replaced .. .. .	14
New window sashcords provided .. .. .	3
New window fasteners provided .. .. .	20
Doors repaired (external) .. .. .	8
Doors provided or replaced (external) .. .. .	21
Doors provided (internal) .. .. .	37
Door fasteners repaired or replaced .. .. .	31
New yard surfaces provided .. .. .	14
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired .. .. .	1
Yard surfaces where proper means of drainage provided .. .. .	8
Ceilings where plaster, etc. repaired or replaced .. .. .	26
Ceilings cleansed .. .. .	2
Rooms where walls cleansed .. .. .	2
Floors relaid or repaired .. .. .	35
Rooms where skirting board repaired or replaced .. .. .	26
New firegrates provided .. .. .	6
New ranges provided .. .. .	2
Chimney flues repaired .. .. .	9
Rooms where lighting improved .. .. .	29
Rooms where ventilation improved .. .. .	22
Rooms where dampness remedied .. .. .	28
New sinks provided .. .. .	23
Sink waste pipes repaired .. .. .	1
Sink waste pipes trapped .. .. .	3
Trapped sink waste pipes provided .. .. .	24
New washbasins provided .. .. .	32
Washbasin waste pipes repaired .. .. .	1



# IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC

## HEALTH INSPECTORS - continued:

### HOUSES, ETC.

Trapped washbasin waste pipes provided	..	..	..	27
New baths provided	..	..	..	33
Baths repaired	..	..	..	2
Trapped bath waste pipes provided	..	..	..	31
Rooms where wallplaster etc. repaired or replaced	..	..	..	39
Rooms decorated	..	..	..	6
Hot water systems provided	..	..	..	31
Houses where water service pipes repaired	..	..	..	3
Houses where water supply provided inside the house	..	..	..	1
Ventilated food stores provided	..	..	..	28
Houses painted externally	..	..	..	13

### Drainage:-

New drains constructed	..	..	..	..	..	19
Old drains reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	26
Drains repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6
Drains ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	1
Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	96
Inspection chambers provided	..	..	..	..	..	20
Inspection chambers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	2
Inspection chamber covers provided	..	..	..	..	..	19
Self-cleansing gullies provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Soil pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	16
Vent pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	3
Fresh air inlets repaired	..	..	..	..	..	4

### Waterclosets:-

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
W.Cs where walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New basins fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
W.Cs where connections repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
W.Cs provided with a sufficient supply of water	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New flush pipes fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
W.C. seats repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
W.Cs ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
W.Cs decorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
W.Cs where lighting improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

### MISCELLANEOUS

Accumulations of refuse removed	..	..	..	..	9
---------------------------------	----	----	----	----	---



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. (i) Water.

With the exception of a few outlying houses, which have satisfactory private sources, Hitchin obtains its water from piped supplies controlled by the Lee Valley Water Company.

Water is obtained from three wells (1) Temple End, Charlton, (2) Oughton Head and (3) Offley Bottom. The latter two are situated in the rural district just outside the Urban boundary. An adequate supply was maintained from the above sources and no restrictions were necessary during the year. The water is satisfactory in quality. 218 bacteriological and 13 chemical samples of the water supplied in the district were taken during the year and examined at the Company's own laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory. The water from the wells is hard and therefore no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the house is 8,214 serving approximately 24,871 persons, whilst the number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains by means of stand-pipes is 18 serving approximately 55 persons. In the case of 21 houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding.

#### (ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

No action taken.

#### 2. Rivers and Streams.

No action required.

#### 3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of a few outlying premises, the whole of the district is provided with waterclosets, which, excluding a few waterclosets discharging into cesspools, are connected to the Council's sewers.



SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. Continued:-

3. (ii) Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection.

By the end of the financial year 1964/5 the conversion of the district to the paper sack system was completed (i.e. excluding central shopping area). I am pleased to say that all my forecasts and estimations regarding labour requirements and premises collected daily have been more than fulfilled.

During the year a pilot scheme commenced on approximately 320 houses using polythene sacks for refuse collection. A local firm provided the holders required and the requisite number of sacks each week free. The scheme was running with reasonable success at the end of the financial year 1964/5.

(iii) Public Health Inspection of the Area.

See pages 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Offices, Shops etc.

Twenty-seven visits were made to offices and shops, and the following works were carried out after written or verbal notices.

No. of new W.C. basins fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
No. of W.C.'s where permanent means of ventilation provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Means of heating provided or improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. of sanitary conveniences decorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Thermometers provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
First Aid Boxes provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	7



(v) Caravans.

At 31st December, 1964, 7 licences had been granted authorising the use of land as sites for caravans. The number of caravans covered by the licences is 112.

The problem of unauthorised parking of caravans by gipsies and other travellers still continues on certain sites such as Oughton Head Common, Icknield Way, Stotfold Road and Ninesprings. The inspectors constantly urge the offenders to move along, often with the help of police, but periodically they return to continue their undesirable habits of breaking up cars etc. and strewing the countryside with litter of all descriptions.

(vi) Clean Air.

52 observations of industrial chimneys were made during 1964 together with 62 advisory visits to the boiler plants concerned. Liaison still continues with the Surveyor's Department regarding the height of chimneys when new boilers are to be installed and the necessary plans, etc., are submitted.

(vii) Swimming Baths.

There are three swimming baths in the district, (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main and children's pool, (b) a private open-air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School and (c) a Parent/Teacher Association pool at Purwell Primary School.

103 samples of water in the two pools at the Council's baths were taken, 52 being submitted to a bacteriological examination and 51 to a residual chlorine test. Only two of the bacteriological samples were reported upon as unsatisfactory.

The two pools at the public baths are filled from a main water supply. The water is continuously circulated and purified by pressure sand filtration and chlorination. The filtration plant has a turnover period of about four hours.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath and Purwell Primary School pool during the year.



(viii) Inspection of Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses registered in Hitchin.

4. Schools.

No action taken.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. . 140

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 655

2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 .. .. . 6

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 6

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. . 6

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. . 134

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. . 39

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -

continued:-



(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

- (a) By Owners .. .. . 1
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. .. . -

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

- (a) By Owners .. .. . 1
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. .. .. . -

(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 23 and Part 3 of the Housing Act, 1957:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. . 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were revoked .. .. . -

(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. . 19

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings to make fit were accepted from owners, etc. .. .. . -

(5) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation until made fit were accepted from owners, etc. .. .. . -

(6) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders .. .. . -

continued:-



(D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 18 and 28 of the Housing Act, 1957:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	-
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	-
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	2
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the house having been rendered fit .. .. .	-
(5)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were revoked and demolition Orders made.. .. .	1
(6)	Number of dwelling houses owned by local Authority certified as unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .. .. .	-

4. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	-
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .	-
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .	-
(b) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	2

(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	4
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases..	26

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding:

(1)	Number of cases .. .. .	-
(2)	Number of families concerned .. .. .	-
(3)	Number of persons .. .. .	-



5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

- (1) Number of discretionary improvement grants made .. .. . 1
- (2) Number in (1) above made to owner/occupiers 1
- (3) Number of houses where discretionary improvement grant works completed.. .. 1
- (4) Number of standard improvement grants made 54
- (5) Number in (4) above made to owner/occupiers 23
- (6) Number of houses where standard improvement grant works completed .. .. . 24

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are seven distributors of milk in the district, three of which are shops. Three premises are used as dairies. One dairy carries out the pasteurising and bottling of milk and the other two dairies are used as milk stores.

Inspections of the dairies were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

During the year 85 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination with the following results:-

Number of Samples	Class of Milk	Methylene Blue Test	Phosphatase Test	Percentage Satisfactory
37	Pasteurised	35 Satisfied 2 Failed	36 Satisfied 1 Failed	91.9%
4	Pasteurised (Channel Island)	3 Satisfied 1 Failed	4 Satisfied	75%
24	Tuberculin Tested	21 Satisfied 3 Failed	24 Satisfied	87.5%
Turbidity Test				
20	Sterilised	20 Satisfied		100%

The majority of the samples were bottled milk taken in the course of delivery to the consumer.



## Meat and Foods.

The only premises licensed by the Council to keep for use a slaughterhouse is the Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory where extensive slaughtering of pigs is carried out. 44,953 pigs were killed and inspected at the Bacon Factory during the year. The Council make a charge to the factory of 5d. per pig slaughtered and inspected.

The following table gives details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found to be diseased, unsound or unfit for food. The diseased or unsound meat is voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.



	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	(d) Horses
Number killed	-	-	-	-	44,953	-
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	44,953	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	59	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	-	-	-	-	26.9	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	998	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	2.2	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-



The following table gives summarised information relating to the carcasses, offal, etc., condemned at the Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory.

### TUBERCULOSIS

										LB.
102	Stomachs and intestines	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	816
896	Heads	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,851
	Trimnings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
										<u>11,676</u>

### OTHER DISEASES

6	Pig Carcasses	..	..	..	..	..	Pyæmia	1,472
5	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Febrile	696
7	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Emaciation	359
5	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Peritonitis	315
8	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Multiple Abscesses	962
22	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Moribund	2,732
3	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Oedema	324
1	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Lymphadenitis	80
1	do.	..	..	..	..	..	Septic Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	75
1	Sow Carcase	..	..	..	..	..	Bruising	194
5815	Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	Congestion, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	17,445
3366	Livers	..	..	..	..	..	Cirrhosis	13,464
1136	Hearts	..	..	..	..	..	Pericarditis	569
192	Stomachs & intestines	..	..	..	..	..	Inflammation	1,536
436	Kidneys	..	..	..	..	..	Cysts	111
316	Flares	..	..	..	..	..	Inflammation	948
99	Filletts	..	..	..	..	..	do.	67
205	Back legs	..	..	..	..	..	Broken & bruised	1,856
148	Forelegs	..	..	..	..	..	do.	766
133	Hocks	..	..	..	..	..	do.	404
89	Heads	..	..	..	..	..	Abscesses	1,183
	Trimnings	..	..	..	..	..		<u>1,351</u>
								<u>46,909</u>

TOTAL .. .. 26 tons. 3 cwts. 9 lb.



Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food preparing premises where the following quantities of foodstuffs were found to be unsound, unfit for food, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

#### Meat from Butchers' Shops

Pork	..	..	..	..	..	Decomposition	lb.
							44
Lamb	..	..	..	..	..	Decomposition	21
<u>General</u>							
Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods	..	..	..	..	..		895
Miscellaneous tinned meats	..	..	..	..	..		298
Fish	..	..	..	..	..		52
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..		6
<u>TOTAL</u>	..	..	..	..	11 cwts. 3 qrs.		

Grand total of foodstuffs condemned. (All classes)

<u>Tons.</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lb.</u>
26	14	3	9



## ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice cream is 93.

Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959, and for the purpose of sampling. Regarding sampling 46 samples of ice cream and 8 of "soft" ice cream were taken.

### Ice Cream.

Grade I	..	..	..	..	..	44 Satisfactory.
---------	----	----	----	----	----	------------------

Grade II	..	..	..	..	..	2 do.
----------	----	----	----	----	----	-------

### "Soft" Ice Cream.

Grade I	..	..	..	..	..	5 Satisfactory.
---------	----	----	----	----	----	-----------------

Grade II	..	..	..	..	..	1 do.
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Grade III	..	..	..	..	..	2 Unsatisfactory.
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## FOOD HYGIENE

1. There are 266 food premises in the area consisting of 53 grocers, 29 confectioners (sweets), 11 confectioners (cakes etc.), 19 greengrocers, 5 fish friers, 7 fishmongers, 1 poulterer, 21 butchers, 48 restaurant kitchens (including industrial and school canteens), 7 food factories, 8 bakehouses, 55 licensed premises and 2 warehouses, the latter being used for the storage of food only.

2. The following premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955; 17 butchers (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food) 1 butcher (for the pickling of meat), 2 fishmongers (for the preservation of fish), 4 food factories (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food) 3 grocers (for the cooking of ham) 1 grocer and 1 fishmonger (for the roasting of chickens). Regarding ice cream 92 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream; 33 grocers, 7 greengrocers, 24 confectioners (sweets) and 28 general premises. One of the premises is licensed for the storage of ice cream only.

continued.



## FOOD HYGIENE (cont'd.)

3. Regarding inspection of food premises see (5) below.
4. Condemned food is disposed of at the premises of the Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory, where it is processed in a digester plant.
5. The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for preparation, sale, etc. of food:-

### Washing Facilities.

Number of new sinks provided	11
Number of new washbasins provided	4
Number of double sink units provided	3
Number of trapped waste pipes provided	15
Number of defective sinks renewed	1
Number of fitments provided with running hot and cold water	13

### Structural Work.

Number of rooms where walls repaired or improved	12
Number of rooms where floors repaired or renewed	15
Number of rooms where walls decorated	28
Number of rooms where ceilings repaired or renewed	12
Number of rooms where ceilings decorated	28
Number of rooms where woodwork decorated	20
Number of rooms where new floor coverings provided	6
Number of premises where intervening ventilated space provided	2

### Equipment.

Number of premises where new equipment provided	4
Number of premises where new counter tops installed	10
Number of premises where refrig: display cabinets provided	2
Number of premises where new dustbins provided	8

continued.



Bohro is

Utensil cleansing techniques are constantly under supervision.



FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

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PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	13	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	163	47	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	178	48	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	6	6	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	36	36	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	3	3	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	4	4	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	51	51	-	-	-



OUTWORK. (SECTIONS 133 and 134)

- 28 -