

[Report 1972] / Medical Officer of Health, Hoddesdon U.D.C.

Contributors

Hoddesdon (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1972

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Hoddesdon Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year
1972

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1972
HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

P R E F A C E

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the Urban District of Hoddesdon for the year ending 31st. December 1972.

This may well be the last Annual Report which I shall write for you. Annual Reports cannot be written before May/June because the relevant figures for the previous year are not available from the Registrar General before then, and my job as Medical Officer of Health terminates in April 1974.

I think that of all the Local Government Departments the Health Department produces the least tangible results. At the end of the year there are no roads built, no houses constructed, no parks opened, and no complete balance sheet attributable to the Health Department. A comparison of figures before and after an immunisation programme indicates numbers. It gives no idea of the worry, suffering, and the complications of illness that the programme may have prevented. If there is a sharp outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting in a school, in a factory canteen or in a private household, there is little to show for the work which is done, except a number of forms from the Public Health Laboratory, entries in a diary, and a sigh of relief!

It remains to be seen how the Public Health Service will develop as the Environmental Health Service. In my opinion, Environmental Health has two separate components. Firstly, an outbreak of ill-health demands close liaison between the present Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspectors, and quick easy access by the head of a school, a factory manager or householder, to these departments. I hope that this easy access and close co-operation, which is a feature of our present arrangements, will not be lost under the new order. Secondly, I think there is a largely unexplored field of Environmental Health which could involve many Departments. This demands a high degree of expertise rather than quick action.

PREFACE (cont'd)

I have always looked on Annual Reports by the Medical Officer of Health as a quick ready reference to local services. I think it is worth mentioning that they may also serve another function. This is a "watchdog function", which is rarely exercised. As so often happens in medicine, rare needs are quite important. The Medical Officer of Health is charged with looking into conditions that are, or could be prejudicial to the health of the people in the district in which he works. History shows many occasions when a lack of a clear understanding of a hazard has led to a prolonged, unnecessary exposure of the public to danger. It may be said that we know better now. Since the population is increasing, since pollution is a continuing problem, since air traffic crosses national boundaries, I think there is a strong case for a watchful eye.

At the moment, there is doubt as to whether or not a "proper officer" should write Annual Reports.

I wish to thank the Chief Officers for their help and Mrs. Guest for all her work. I also thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest.

I would add that I have enjoyed being the Medical Officer of Health of Hoddesdon Council and working in an office which overlooks gardens and green fields.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

John Earle

.....
John Earle

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices, High Street, HODDESDON, Herts. Tel.No.Hoddesdon 68331

STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John V. Earle, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.I.H., M.F.C.M.

Private Telephone No. Hoddesdon 62467

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Eric C. Howarth, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

From - 1. 5. 72

Private Telephone No. Welwyn 4199

CENTRAL OFFICE - EAST HERTS COMBINED DISTRICTS

Council Offices, High Street, HODDESDON, Herts

Telephone No. Hoddesdon 68331, Exts. 32 and 66

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part time)

Peter de Bec Turtle, V.R.D., M.A., B.Ch., D.P.H.

To -30. 4. 72

Haileybury & Imperial Service College, HERTFORD, Herts

Telephone No. Hoddesdon 62040

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Chief Public Health Inspector (also Housing Manager) W. SCOTT

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

M.A.P.H.I.

Certificate for Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

M.R.S.H.

Diploma of the R.I.P.H.&H.

A.I.H.M.

Certificate of the Institute of Housing in
Housing Management.

District Public Health Inspector

T.J. PRICE

Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors'
Education Board

M.A.P.H.I.

M.R.S.H.

Diploma for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods

District Public Health Inspector

C. SPARROW

Diploma of the Public Health Inspectors'
Education Board

From - 1. 3. 72

Student Public Health Inspector

G. COCKERILL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the Session 1972/73 was Councillor C.W.H. Goldie; the Vice-Chairman was Councillor J.S.Hastings.

The Committee were Councillors Mrs.J.E.E.Ball; G.D.Barnes; A.D.Bates; A.J.Cooper; J.E.Gray; J.W.Gregory; J.R.Harrington; R.F. Oakman; K.A.Sandison; and R.C. Vincent, J.P.

SECTION "A"

GENERAL STATISTICS 1972

(TABLE 1)

(Figures for 1971 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION

Estimated mid-year population of Hoddesdon Urban District

	27,280	(26,310)
Natural increase or decrease	+ 342	(+ 358)
Migration in or out	+ 628	(+ 2,552)
Total increase or decrease	+ 970	(+ 2,910)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres 4,430

Number of Inhabited Domestic Premises according to Rate

Books as at 1st. April 1973

	8,806	(8,475)
Number of houses per acre	1.99	(1.91)
Number of persons per acre	6.11	(5.94)
Number of persons per house	3.09	(3.1)
Rateable value of District 1st. April 1972	£1,793,687	(£1,650,981)
Sum Represented by Pence Rate 1972/73	£17,500	(£17.250)

VITAL STATISTICS

(TABLE 2)

		Local authority area			England & Wales (Total)
		Males	Females	Total	
Estimated mid-year home population		-	-	27,280	49,028,900
Live births	Total	267	276	543	725,405
	Legitimate	259	267	526	662,907
	Illegitimate	8	9	17	62,498
Stillbirths	Total	3	3	6	8,794
	Legitimate	3	2	5	7,846
	Illegitimate	-	1	1	948
Total live and stillbirths	Total	270	279	549	734,199
	Legitimate	262	269	531	670,753
	Illegitimate	8	10	18	63,446
<u>Deaths of Infants</u>					
Under 1 year of age	Total	2	1	3	12,494
	Legitimate	2	1	3	11,177
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,317
Under 4 weeks of age	Total	2	1	3	8,373
	Legitimate	2	1	3	7,503
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	870
Under 1 week of age	Total	2	1	3	7,142
	Legitimate	2	1	3	6,365
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	777
<u>Maternal Deaths</u>	- including deaths following abortion	-	-	-	111
<u>Deaths</u>	- all ages	95	106	201	591,907

VITAL STATISTICS	Local authority area	Hertford County	England and Wales
(TABLE 2) - cont'd -			
<u>Live birth rates, etc.</u>			
Livebirths per 1,000 home population(crude rate)	19.9	14.3	14.8
Area comparability factor	0.81	0.98	1.00
Local adjusted rate	16.1	14.0	14.8
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.09		1.00
Illegitimate livebirths as percentage of all live births	3		9
<u>Stillbirth rate</u>			
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	11	11.8	12
<u>Infant mortality rates</u>			
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	6	13.4	17
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	6	12.8	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	22.4	21
<u>Neonatal mortality rate</u>			
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	6	9.1	12
<u>Early neonatal mortality rate</u>			
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	6	8.0	10
<u>Perinatal mortality rate</u>			
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	16	19.6	22
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including deaths following abortion)			
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	-	-	0.15
<u>Death rates, etc - all ages</u>			
Deaths per 1,000 home population(crude rate)	7.4	9.5	12.1
Area comparability factor	1.36	1.11	1.00
Local adjusted rate	10.1	10.5	12.1
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	0.83		1.00

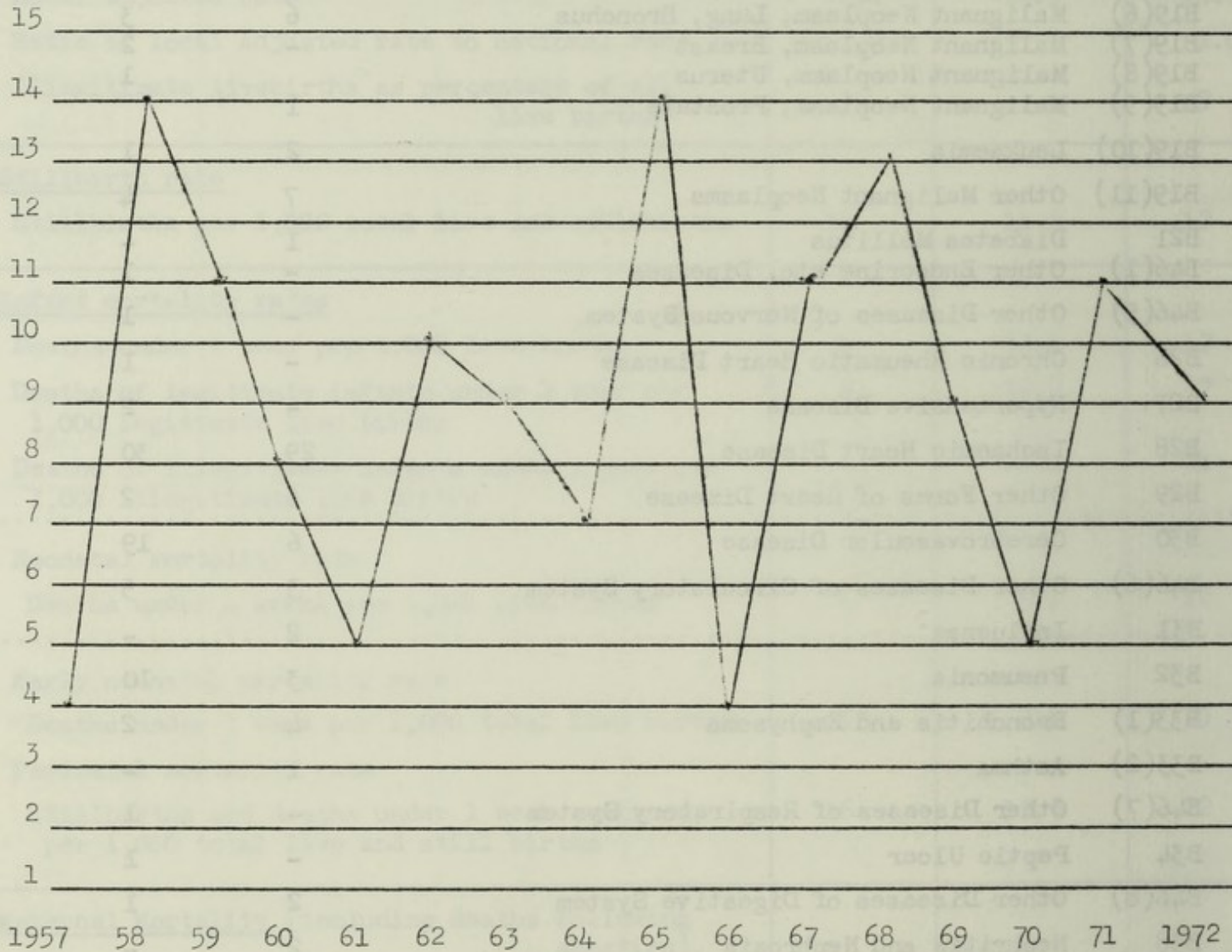
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1972

<u>ALL CAUSES</u>		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
B6(2)	Other Tuberculosis	1	-
B17	Syphilis and its Sequelae	-	1
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	-
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	5	4
B19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	2	-
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	3
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
B19(10)	Leukaemia	2	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	4
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	-
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	-	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	29	30
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	6	2
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	6	19
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	5
B31	Influenza	2	-
B32	Pneumonia	3	10
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2
B33(2)	Asthma	1	-
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1
B34	Peptic Ulcer	-	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	1
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	1	-
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	4	9
BE48	All other Accidents	1	2
BE50	All other External Causes	1	-
		<u>95</u>	<u>106</u>

= 201

LUNG CANCER DEATHS

FROM 1957 - 1972



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) Notified during 1972)

(TABLE 3)

Disease	Total	Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65	Age unknown
Measles	59	2	15	41	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	4	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Paratyphoid	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

(TABLE 4)

Disease	1972	First Quarter			Second Quarter			Third Quarter			Fourth Quarter		
	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Measles	59	-	1	3	-	-	8	1	1	4	-	8	33
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Jaundice	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
Paratyphoid	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1972

(TABLE 5)

<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>New cases</u> <u>only</u>		Total all ages	Under 5 years	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Age not known
Respiratory		6	-	1	1	2	1	1	-
Meninges and C.N.S.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>All cases</u>			<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>			<u>Females</u>		
				P	NP		P	NP	
Cases on Register at 1st.January 1972			49	20	1		24	4	
Cases added to Register	New Cases	6	4	-		2	-		
	Restored to Register	-	-	-		-	-		
	Inward Transfers	1	1	-		-	-		
Cases removed from Register	Deaths	-	-	-		-	-		
	Outward Transfers	-	-	-		-	-		
	Patients Cured	-	-	-		-	-		
Cases remaining on Register at 31.12.72			56	25	1		26	4	

GENERAL STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population for 1972 was 27,280, compared with a figure of 26,310 for 1971. This increase of 970 people in the year is largely due to migration into the area.

The density of population has increased from 5.94 persons per acre in 1971 to 6.11 persons per acre in 1972.

VITAL STATISTICS

During the year there were 543 live births and 6 stillbirths in the area. The birth rate locally, as in 1971, was nearly one fifth higher than the national average.

DEATHS & CAUSES OF DEATH

There were 201 deaths, which represent a crude death rate of 7.4 per 1,000 population. By a curious chance the number of deaths was the same in the year 1971. Of these deaths just over 100 occurred after the age of 75 and a further 45 deaths occurred between 65 and 75.

Nine people died due to Lung Cancer; an unpleasant death at any age. Five of these were under 65 years of age.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Measles: There was a small outbreak of Measles, mainly in children who had not reached the age of immunisation. Apart from this, the Measles Vaccination Programme continues to show benefits.

Venereal Disease: It is not generally realised that the group of Venereal Diseases are some of the commonest communicable diseases in the Country. One underlying reason is that a woman may be infected, infectious and yet free from symptoms. She is unaware that anything is amiss.

During 1973 a telephone answering machine has been installed in Hoddesdon (Tel. No. Hoddesdon 66151). The message is an attempt to get people who are in doubt to go for a check-up. Since the Health Services are particularly interested in tracing symptomless women carriers, the Venereologist and I thought that a woman's recorded voice would be more suitable than a man's. The lady who made the recording is a member of the public who came forward after an appeal in the Press. I am most grateful to all who helped with this matter.

Paratyphoid Fever & Salmonella Food Poisoning - a total of five cases ~~was~~ reported, and investigated during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Seven cases were added to the Register. As in other areas, this disease is far less prevalent than 25 years ago, yet the disease is by no means extinct. As elsewhere, immigrants seem to be particularly at risk.

TUBERCULOSIS (cont'd)

Mass X-Ray Unit

A Mobile Unit visits Cheshunt (Old Drill Hall, Crossbrook Street), every FRIDAY, between 10a.m. and 2p.m. Anyone can attend, without appointment.

Also a Mobile Unit covers the whole of the area of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. This is used in East Herts for the X-ray examination of special groups (namely, teachers, those working with children, and those considered at particular risk) and also for those patients sent by a General Practitioner.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-51

No action was required under Section 47 of the Acts during 1972.

WORKROOMS FOR THE ELDERLY

Members continue to meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, between 10 and 12 o'clock, in the School Hall, St. Paul's Lane, Hoddesdon, and Mrs. I.D. Harnett, the Organiser of the Workrooms for the Elderly reports that the Workrooms are still running successfully.

The financial position, and finding an adequate amount of suitable work, are difficult problems at times. The Workrooms receive financial help from the Hoddesdon Urban District Council, for which they are very grateful.

They have vacancies for about four more active persons, and anyone interested should contact Mrs. Harnett, 184, Ware Road, Hoddesdon (or telephone Hoddesdon 66129) or go to the Workrooms on any working day. During the year there was one death, three persons left owing to ill-health and one suffered a stroke but hopes to return if transport can be arranged. Three members are over 86 years of age and several are over 80 years.

Social Events - There was a visit to the Wembley Ice Show and an Outing to the seaside, also Christmas Party and Birthday Party. At the Birthday Party, Certificates were given to those members with ten years' attendance, and those members who had already received the ten year Certificate were given a Gold Star to add to it.

The Workrooms are invaluable, helping the active, lonely and elderly members. The work done by the Organiser is very much appreciated by everyone. The Committee continue to hope that the Workrooms may have premises of their own some time in the future.

HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Committee continued to meet in 1972. The Chairman was Councillor K. Sandison, Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. Scott, and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A.C. Crozier.

The Area 9 Home Safety Committee meeting held at Cambridge, was attended by the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary.

A Home Safety Stall at the Town Show was manned by Mrs. Crozier, and a firework publicity campaign was again carried out.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONG-STAY IMMIGRANTS

We were only notified of the arrival of five immigrants. However, when an immigrant moves from one part of the country to another, we are NOT notified.

Obviously, food-handlers are a danger point. Food Establishments in the area are regularly visited by the Public Health Inspectors. The people concerned do not always understand English, and sometimes they appear to choose not to understand.

SPECIAL REPORTS

The Public Health Committee continues to be a forum for questions. It is quite hard work to answer questions off the cuff, before the Press. However, I look on it as a useful job for it enables elected representatives of the people to discuss medical matters, rather than merely to hear or read about them.

In January, I presented an informal report on work in the Health Department of East Hertfordshire, and have given verbal reports on the National Health Service Reorganisation.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The County Council is responsible for providing the Maternity and Child Health Services, School Health Services, Health Visiting, and Home Nursing. Full details can be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer, East Herts Division, Council Offices, High Street, Hoddesdon (Tel. Hoddesdon 68331, Exts. 32 and 66).

CLINICS WHICH SERVE HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

<u>Health Centre, High Street, Hoddesdon</u> (Health Visitors for the area can be contacted at this Health Centre)	<u>Tel.No. Hoddesdon 66351</u>
Child Guidance	Daily, 9a.m. - 5p.m. (Tel. Hod.65042)
Dental	Daily, 9.30a.m. - 4p.m.
Speech Therapy	Mon. 9a.m. - 1p.m. Fri. 9a.m. - 5p.m.
Cytology	Tues. 9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m. (Telephone any time for appointment)
School Children's Consultations	First Wednesday in every month, 10a.m.
Infant Welfare	Wed. 2p.m. - 4p.m.
Ante-natal; Relaxation & Mothercraft Assessment	Thursday and Friday, 2.30p.m. - 4p.m. Second Wed.in every month, 2.15p.m. - 3.45p.m. (Telephone any time for appointment)
Audiology (Audiometry and extra Audiology Sessions - arranged as necessary)	Third Thursday in every month, 10a.m. - 4p.m. (Telephone for appointment to:Secretary, Health Centre,St.Albans- Tel.St.Albans 59211, Ext.236)
Family Planning Association	Mon. 2nd.or 4th.each month, as needed- 7p.m. - 8p.m. Tuesday, 7p.m. - 8.30p.m. Thursday, 9a.m. - 11a.m. First, third (& fifth)Monday in every month, 6p.m. - 8p.m. (Telephone during these times)
IUD. Clinic	Second and fourth Thursday in every month, 9.30a.m. - 11a.m. (Telephone during these times)
Marital Problems (Dr. M. Herman)	Mondays - 6.30p.m. - 9.30p.m.
Mid.Herts Marriage Guidance Clinic	Held at intervals of three months, Mondays, 2.30p.m. - 4.30p.m. and 5.30p.m. - 7.30p.m.
Blood Donor Sessions (Arranged by the North-East Metropolitan Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, Crescent Drive, Brentwood, Essex)	

SECTION "B" (cont'd)

<u>Health Centre, Rye Road, Rye Park</u>	<u>Tel. No. Hoddesdon 64980</u>
Infant Welfare	Monday, 2p.m. - 4p.m.
Physiotherapy	Monday to Friday, 9a.m. - 12 noon Wednesday & Friday, 1.30p.m. - 4.30p.m. (Tel. No. Hoddesdon 62611)
Orthopaedic	Second and fourth Friday every month, 1.30p.m. - 4.30p.m.
Orthopaedic fitter	2.30p.m. - 4.30p.m.
Probation Officer	Every Thursday - 4p.m. - 6.30p.m.
<u>Wormley Health Suite</u>	<u>Tel. No. Hoddesdon 69664</u>
Wormley Community Centre, Fairfield Drive, Wormley.	(Opened in June 1972)
Child Health Clinic	Second and fourth Tuesday morning each month from 10a.m.
Relaxation & Mother Classes	Friday, 2p.m. - 4p.m.
Speech Therapy	Thursday - all day from 9a.m.
Mid.Herts Marriage Guidance Council	Tuesday - 1p.m. - 5p.m.

Immunisation & Vaccination

All parents are advised to take advantage of this service, which can be obtained from their family doctors or at Infant Welfare Clinics.

<u>APPROX. AGE</u>	<u>VACCINE</u>
6 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
8 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
13 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
15 months	MEASLES
School entry	COMBINED diphtheria, and tetanus POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
13 years	B.C.G. Vaccination against TUBERCULOSIS
13 years	RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES) Vaccination is offered to those girls who have not already had this disease.

SECTION "B" (cont'd)

Immunisation & Vaccination - cont'd

This is NOT a rigid time-table. Many Doctors hold slightly differing views, and prematurity or ill-health in a child may mean the schedule has to be altered to meet individual needs.

Smallpox vaccination: Children can still be vaccinated at the wish of their parents.

International Certificates of Vaccination against Smallpox: After a first, primary vaccination, a valid Certificate of Vaccination can only be given when a vaccination is seen to have "taken". This is usually 8 days after a successful vaccination. After a re-vaccination, a Certificate of Vaccination is immediately valid.

The lack of a valid Certificate of Vaccination has been known to cause travellers personal and financial difficulty.

Cervical Cytology Service

The number of attendances at the Hoddesdon Clinic fell from 192 in 1971 to 100 in 1972, the ages ranging from 25 to 65 years. No suspected cases of malignancy were discovered. These were patients who attended the Clinic at their own wish. The Doctors in the area arrange for a test of their own patients as needed.

Family Planning

Family Planning Services in the area were increased. The details are listed on page 14, together with details of other Clinic services.

Dental Services

Hoddesdon Urban District is served by eight Dental Practitioners. Details regarding School Dental Clinics are also shown on page 14.

Ambulance Service

There is an Ambulance Station in Hoddesdon. Except in an emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Hospital Services

Hoddesdon Urban District is served by the County Hospital, Hertford, the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, and the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. At Western House, Collett Road, Ware, there is now a female hospital of 91 beds, 7 of which are psycho-geriatric beds. There is also Part III Accommodation for 190 -(93 men and 97 women).

Patients suffering from infectious diseases can be treated either at St. Ann's General Hospital, South Tottenham, London.N.15 (Tel.No. 01-800 0121) or at Highlands General Hospital, World's End Lane, London.N.21. (Tel.No. 01-360 8151)

SECTION "B" (cont'd)

General Practitioner Services

Hoddesdon Urban District is now served by sixteen General Practitioners, all of whom work in partnerships. Health Visitors are attached to these partnerships.

Health Visitors and Nurses

Hoddesdon Urban District have the following Nursing Staff:-

5 District Nurse/Midwives	5 Health Visitors
2 District Nurses	2 Health Visitors -part time
1 District Nurse - part time	2 Health Visitor Assistants
1 District Midwife	1 Auxiliary Helper

Medical Loan Depot

This Depot is run by the British Red Cross Society at the Hoddesdon Health Centre, and at present is open at the following times:-

Monday to Friday - 10a.m. - 11.30a.m. Wednesday - 7p.m. - 8p.m.

Chiropody Service

This service is available on alternate Fridays, at the Hoddesdon Over 60's Centre, Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon. Domiciliary visits can also be arranged.

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Hoddesdon Old People's Welfare Committee

Secretary : Mrs.M.B. Suggitt, 6, Barclay Court, Hoddesdon.

The Hoddesdon Over 60's Centre, Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, (Tel. No. Hoddesdon 62379) is open daily.

The Wormley Over 60's Centre, Community Centre, Fairfield Drive, Wormley, is open every Wednesday, between 1.45p.m. and 5p.m.

The respective Hon.Secretaries are as follows :-

Hoddesdon Over 60's Centre - Mrs.M.G.Curtis,
25A, Park Lane,
Broxbourne.
(Tel. No. Hoddesdon 62449)

Meals Service

Mrs.M. Lythall,
277, Stanstead Road,
Hoddesdon.
(Tel. No. Hoddesdon 62549)

Luncheon Club

(Every Thursday
at 12.30p.m.)

Mrs.J.Pickering,
40, Woodstock Road,
Broxbourne
(Tel. No. Hoddesdon 62006)

Wormley Over 60's Centre - Mrs.L.E.Syer,
30, St.Laurence Drive, Wormley.
(Tel. No. Hoddesdon 67483)

EAST HERTS DIVISION

Divisional Office - Social Services Department,
Westfield,
West Street,
HERTFORD. Tel. No. Hertford 7041

- Miss M. Copleston
(until July 1973)

- Mr.A.C.Stuteley
(from August 1973)

- Mr.H.W.Scott

4 (one part-time)

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S E C T I O N C
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1972

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November 1973

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HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
HODDESDON,
Herts.

November 1973

To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my annual report for the year ended 31st December 1972. In doing so I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Council and especially to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee for their unfailing support for the work of the Department during my years of office as your Chief Public Health Inspector.

My thanks are also due to Dr. Earle and the other Chief Officers of the Council for their ready assistance and co-operation throughout the year, and to all the members of my staff, and in particular my two district public health inspectors, for their loyalty and diligence to duty.

WILLIAM SCOTT

Chief Public Health Inspector

2, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

The following table shows the numbers and categories of food premises in the Urban District subject to these regulations:-

<u>CLASS OF PREMISES</u>	<u>No.</u>
Supermarkets	4
Grocery - General stores	28
Greengrocers	10
Butchers	10
Fishmongers/fried fish shops	6
Sweets and confectionery	22
Bake-houses	4
Bread & flour confectionery	8
Cafes and restaurants	19
Factory canteens	13
School canteens	17
Milk distributors	2
Public houses	18
Miscellaneous food premises	23
Market stalls	5
TOTAL	189

New premises

All proposals for the provision of new premises, or for alterations to existing premises where food is to be stored, sold or manufactured, are scrutinised in order to ensure that such premises will conform to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Discussions and consultations with architects, surveyors, builders and representatives in advance of construction, invariably result in agreement on the necessary requirements being incorporated.

Inspections

Routine inspections were made of food premises during the year and any infringements of the Regulations were pointed out to those concerned to ensure compliance.

Legal proceedings were taken against a local bakery following a complaint that a flour beetle had been found embedded in a loaf of bread. This resulted in a fine of £65 plus £20 costs.

Legal proceedings were also taken against a milk distribution company following a complaint of pieces of glass being found in a bottle of milk. A fine of £40 plus £12 costs was imposed.

A complaint of a cigarette end being found in a bar of chocolate resulted in legal proceedings being taken against the company concerned and a fine of £20 was imposed plus £10 costs.

Several other food complaints resulted in legal proceedings being instituted against the companies concerned but were not brought to court until early in 1973.

Section 2

Numerous complaints of food not being of the nature, quality or substance demanded were received during the year; the following list gives some indication of their nature.

- Flies in braising steak
- Caterpillar in a tin of sweet corn.
- Mouldy cheese
- Mould growth on butter
- Insects in a bottle of light ale.
- Maggot in a tin of plums
- Dirt on almond crisp biscuits
- Unsatisfactory tin of tuna fish
- Splinter of glass in frozen fish cakes
- Stale eggs
- Metal in a custard cream biscuit
- Decomposing and maggot infested chicken
- Mouldy bread
- Weevils in rice
- Mouldy pasties
- Black grease on chicken and ham pie
- Unsound tin of tropical fruit salad
- Unsound tin of chopped ham loaf
- Mouldy sausage rolls
- Mouldy eggs
- Mouldy apple pie
- Unsound tin of ham
- Unsound packet of puff pastry mix
- Nail in mixed fruit sponge pudding

Insects in lime juice cordial
Sliver of metal in pork luncheon meat
Black marks on spaghetti hoops
Unsound breasts of lamb
Unfresh cut chopped pork
Maggot in frozen rabbit portion
Insects in cake mix
Wire in pork sausages
Caterpillar in jar of piccalilli

Every complaint was fully investigated and where necessary the retailers, wholesalers or manufacturers were approached for their observations and comments; warning letters were sent where appropriate.

Section 16

17 premises are registered for the preparation and storage of sausages, or potted, pickled or preserved food, and there are 53 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Poultry processing premises

There are no premises of this type in the area.

Storage and transportation of food - temperature control and stock rotation

The 1971 Annual Report gave details of problems relating to vehicles used for the distribution and storage of perishable foods at temperatures unacceptable to the Council. The firm concerned promised that by the middle of 1972 their existing fleet of uninsulated and unrefrigerated vehicles would be replaced; the firm's promises were fulfilled.

The clear and incontestable case for legislation for the temperature control of perishable foods has been established over many years. Despite the lack of statutory backing it is pleasing to note that firms take note when Local Authority officers have the full backing of their Council to pursue and create a "cold chain" of food distribution where necessary.

There is however, no room for complacency. Food poisoning statistics throughout the country are constantly rising. The incorrect handling, cooking and storage of meat and meat products accounts for over two thirds of the cases reported.

Imported Food Regulations 1968

The rapid and extensive development of containerized transportation has meant that inland authorities have become increasingly responsible for the inspection and control of food imported into this country. The old system of discharging individual items of vessel's cargo at ports and their re-loading on to road and rail vehicles became too costly in terms

of labour charges and lack of efficiency. The attendant delays in clearing goods through the ports, together with the introduction of a world-wide, speedy standardised container service led to the setting up of Inland Clearance Depots (I.C.D's).

Depots were established with the co-operation of H.M. Customs and Excise so that consignments could pass through ports without delay to be cleared inland and then distributed to their ultimate destinations.

The Local Authorities of all districts into which imported food comes are automatically responsible for administering the Imported Food Regulations.

Where customs clearance of imported food is carried out at port of entry (with or without a container being opened) and the port health inspector considers it expedient, having regard to the nature of the container in which the food is imported that any examination of the food should be deferred until it reaches its destination, the Imported Food Regulations allow this to take place.

Under the regulations, the Inspector must:

1. Notify the receiving authority by the most expeditious means available, giving details of the consignment.
2. Obtain an undertaking in writing from the importer stating that the container has been sealed and will not be opened until it reaches the destination specified.
3. Send a copy of the undertaking to the receiving authority.

In these circumstances the receiving authority becomes responsible for administering the regulations in relation to that particular consignment of food.

In Hoddesdon there are two warehouses receiving food under these regulations; no difficulties arose during 1972 with regard to examinations.

3. HOUSING ACTS 1957 - 1969

No closing orders were made during the year. One house was considered unfit for human habitation and an undertaking by the owner not to relet until the dwelling was rendered fit was accepted.

HOUSING PROGRESS

<u>By Private Enterprise</u>	<u>During 1972</u>	<u>Total since end of the war</u>
New dwellings including dwellings provided by conversion and war destroyed dwellings rebuilt.	143	3,863

<u>By Local Authority</u>	<u>During 1972</u>	<u>Total since end of the war</u>
---------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------------

New dwellings including conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	1,283
---	---	-------

Properties controlled by the
Local Authority at 31/12/72

Council houses	1,597
Sundry other properties	8
Shops	6

Municipal Housing - New Schemes

Lea Road/Ogard Road, Hoddesdon. 48 Dwellings

(24 one-bedroom flats, 24 two-bedroom flats)

The above scheme commenced during the year and is scheduled for completion in the Autumn of 1973.

Sale of Council Houses

Sales of 35 Council houses to tenant/purchasers were completed during the year.

HOUSING ACTS, 1958/1969

42 applications for improvement grants received approval throughout the year and works of improvement were completed at 34 dwellings during 1972.

Approvals were also given to 3 discretionary improvement grants for the general improvement of old properties and one approval was given to a grant for the conversion of one house into 2 flats.

During the period 1955 - 1972 grants totalling some £58,665 have been paid in respect of the improvement of 299 dwellings. During 1972 only improvement grants totalling over £12,000 were paid.

4. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Annual Report for the period 1st January 1972 to 31st December 1972

The Act requires that the Local Authority shall submit an Annual Report to the Department of Employment every year. The report for the year 1972 is given below:-

<u>Registrations & General Inspections</u>			
Class of premises	Number of premises registered during year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices	20	91	74
Retail shops	17	187	37
Wholesale shops	1	7	7
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	2	15	15
Fuel storage depots	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	40	300	133

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises - 186

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
Offices	1106
Retail shops	945
Wholesale depts., warehouses	115
Catering establishments open to public	105
Canteens	13
Total <u>Males</u> - 1149. Total <u>Females</u> - 1135	TOTAL 2284

Exemptions

Section 5(2) Space; Section 6 Temperature; Section 9 Sanitary Conveniences; Section 10 Washing Facilities:-

In each of these categories there were no current exemption certificates at 31st December; no exemptions were granted or extended during the year. There were no cases of employees opposing applications and no appeals against any refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption.

Prosecutions

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

There were no complaints made under Section 22 of the Act, and there were no interim orders granted.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 - Accidents

The number of registered premises has increased since 1971 by more than 16%. The number of employees has increased by over 22% - 287 males and 135 females.

A proportional increase in the number of accidents notified has also taken place. In 1970 there were 8; in 1971 - 4, and in 1972 - 30.

Concern about safety standards in warehouses was expressed in the 1971 annual report. A special report was also sent to the Department of Employment with a view to them recommending more stringent training of employees in safety aspects and giving Local Authorities better guidance on mechanical handling and storage of goods in warehouses.

Strong representations were made to occupiers of the two warehouses concerned in order to minimise the number of accidents.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which S.1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which S.7 is enforced by the L.A.	144	70	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which S.7 is enforced by the L.A.(excluding out-workers' premises)	7	7	-	-
TOTAL	151	77	-	-

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)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (cont'd)

PART VIII of the Act

Outwork
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of Cases of Default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Paper bags	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing Apparel	4	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	8	-	-	-	-	-
Light Engineering	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	-	-	-	-	-

5. WATER SUPPLIES

Public Mains Supply

This district is within the Statutory Area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board. All properties have an internal supply from the Board's mains, except for a small number referred to below.

No complaints of the inadequacy of poor pressure of the public supply were received by this department during the year.

The Director of Water Examination of the Metropolitan Water Board has kindly supplied the following information so far as it relates to the Board's supply:-

1. (a) The supply was satisfactory both as to (i) quality, and (ii) quantity throughout 1972.
- (b) All new and repaired mains are disinfected with chlorine; after a predetermined period of contact the pipes are flushed out and refilled; samples of water are then collected from these treated mains; and the mains are returned to service only after the analytical results are found to be satisfactory.

The quality control from these laboratories is carried out by means of daily sampling from sources of supply, from the treatment works or well stations, from the distribution system, and through to the consumer. Any sign of contamination or any other abnormality is immediately investigated.
- (c) (i) The Board has no record of the number of structurally separate dwellings supplied in your area, but the population supplied direct according to the Registrar-General's estimates at 30th June, 1972, was 27,144.

(ii) No houses were permanently supplied by stand-pipe.
- (d) No artificial fluoride is being added, and where the fluoride content is indicated in the analyses it represents the naturally occurring fluoride in the water.
2. (a) The supply was derived from the following works and pumping stations:-

River-derived water from Coppermills.
Well water from Broxbourne and Rye Common pumping stations.

No new sources of supply were instituted and there were no changes to the general scheme of supply in your area.

The number of samples collected and the bacteriological and chemical analyses of the supply from the above sources after treatment are shown on the attached sheets.
- (b) On account of their hardness content and alkaline reaction the Board's river and well water supplies are shown to be not

WATER SUPPLIES - cont'd

plumbo-solvent. It should, however, be appreciated that all types of water pick up varying amounts of metal from the material of water piping particularly when it is newly installed; this applies to copper, zinc, iron and also to lead.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - Water Examination Dept.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS - YEARLY AVERAGES, 1972

BEFORE TREATMENT

Source of Supply	Number of Samples	Agar plate count per ml		Coliform count		Escherichia coli count	
		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C	Per cent. samples negative in 100ml	Count per 100 ml	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml	Count per 100 ml
Coppermills	994	82.2		41.65	17.2	61.89	2.6
Broxbourne	248	55.6	595	2.82	180.9	11.69	60.1
Rye Common	251	18.0	137	58.57	36.3	66.53	13.4

AFTER TREATMENT

Source of Supply	Number of Samples	Agar plate count per ml		Coliform count	Escherichia coli count
		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C		
Coppermills	255	9.4		100.0	100.0
Broxbourne	253	19.3	126	100.0	100.0
Rye Common	255	3.6	34	100.0	100.0

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - Water Examination Department

AVERAGE RESULTS OF THE CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLY TO HODDESDON

(Milligrammes per litre - unless otherwise stated)

Description of the Sample	Number of samples	Ammonical Nitrogen	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nitrate Nitrogen	Oxygen abs. from KMnO ₄ 4 hrs. at 27°C	Hardness (total) CaCO ₃	Hardness (non carbonate) CaCO ₃	Magnesium as Mg	Sodium Potassium		Chloride as Cl
									Na	as K	
COPPERMILLS	52	0.019	0.100	8.9	1.36	309	96	6.0	34.6	7.3	50
BROXBOURNE	4	0.090	0.042	4.6	0.49	314	88	9.0	-	-	30
RYE COMMON	4	0.008	0.028	5.7	0.26	333	79	8.0	-	-	28
	Phosphate as PO ₄	Silicate as SiO ₂	Sulphate as SO ₄	Natural Fluoride as F	Surface active material as Manoxol OT	CO ₂	Turbidity units	Colour (Burgess units)	pH value	Electrical conductivity (micromhos)	
COPPERMILLS	4.0	10	72	0.17	0.02	-	0.1	14	7.9	680	
BROXBOURNE	7.0	-	-	0.25	-	8	1.1	12	7.2	605	
RYE COMMON	-	-	-	0.22	-	-	0.2	4	7.2	620	

Private Water Supplies

There are approximately 34 properties in the urban district still connected to private well water supplies, including 14 industrial premises and 2 holiday caravan sites.

21 samples were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. One factory supply was found to be unsatisfactory and the use of this well was discontinued for drinking purposes after mains water had been connected.

A serious problem arose in December when a sewage pumping main was found to be fractured adjacent to one of the wells. A special filter was fixed within 24 hours by the Council in order to safeguard the supply.

Private Water Supplies - cont'd

Continuous monitoring showed no sign of faecal pollution. The filter has now been removed (June 1973) as it is considered there is no further risk of contamination.

The inherent risk of drinking water supplies derived from wells is clearly shown.

One new deep well was sunk during the year in conjunction with other improvements to the property.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sewage purification and disposal are undertaken at the Rye Mead Sewage Works after being pumped through a series of pumping stations.

In the more remote and thinly developed areas of the town where sewers are not available there are approximately 125 cesspools and septic tanks. The Council provides a free emptying service twice a year.

6. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A total of 186 properties were inspected during the year following notification that infestations of rodents were present. Of these, 126 were rats and 111 were mice infestations. Treatment was carried out in each case and advice given where necessary.

Insect Pests

31 notifications were received of various insect infestations, including ants, flies, fleas and several species of beetle. All the premises were inspected and treatment carried out where necessary or advice given.

Wasps

Due to a cold spring and early summer a greatly reduced number of wasps nests were reported. A total of 38 nests were eradicated by the rodent operative.

7. PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

The Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regs. 1957

There were 29 premises licensed to store petroleum spirit under the Act. These were all inspected before the licences were issued.

No accidents or contraventions occurred during the year.

8. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Licences authorising the keeping of pet shops were issued in respect of two premises.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

One licence was issued for the keeping of a boarding establishment at premises in Wormley.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACTS, 1964 & 1970

Licences were issued to three Riding Schools during the year.

GAME ACT, 1831

Licences to deal in game were issued to six shops in the district during the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

11 noise complaints were received during the year, a similar number to the 1971 figure. At the time of writing, 24 complaints had been received during 1973.

It is evident that the increased use of land either for housing adjacent to factories or vice versa, reflected itself in the number of complaints. The main cause for concern are factories that operate evening and all night.

The two factories which in the main cause the majority of complaints are in the process of spending large sums of money to reduce or attenuate the noise emanating from their premises.

9. SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, VISITS ETC. DURING 1972

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Premises	286
Notifiable infections	67
Food complaints	59
Mobile food vehicles	50
Canteens	24
Market stalls	17
Ice cream vehicles	7
Imported food containers	3
Food handlers	2

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Drains and sewers	215
Offensive accumulations	136
Water supplies and samples	95
Refuse tips and skip sites	76
Infectious diseases	37
Dwelling houses	30
Ditches and water courses	19
Dustbins	10
Dust and effluvia	8
Verminous premises	6
Hairdressers	3
Inns, restaurants, etc.	3
Animals kept	3
Closets	2
Moveable dwellings	2
Swimming baths	1

CARAVANS

34

CLEAN AIR ACT

Miscellaneous	30
Industrial premises	28
Domestic premises	21

HOUSING ACTS

Improvement grants	328
Qualification certificates	93
Disrepair	54
Overcrowding	35
Individual unfit	14
Other	1

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Shops	74
Visits	45
Offices	36
Catering/canteens	23
Warehouses	8

OTHER ENACTMENTS

Rodent control	194
Factories	77
Petroleum	62
Noise	50
Insects	47
Agriculture	4
Pet animals	3
Court cases	3
Animal boarding	1
Toxic waste	2
Miscellaneous visits	148
Interviews (office)	177
	<hr/>
	2753

