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Luton Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1958

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Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1958

To the Luton Rural District Council

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1958

The Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

7th December, 1959.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Health Report for 1958.

The health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year. There were no serious epidemics, although Measles was widespread towards the end of the period. Most cases, however, were mild in character. Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis were absent. Four cases of Food Poisoning occurred, all in one family.

There were forty-eight deaths from Cancer, of which nine were Cancer of the Lung.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk to the Council and the Public Health Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Luton.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| (a) Medical Officer of Health (part-time)
H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. | (Tel. No. Dunstable 26) |
| (b) Senior Public Health Inspector
L. G. HILL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. | (Tel. No. Luton 6000) |
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R. G. BURCH, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. | (Tel. No. Luton 6000) |

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Vital Statistics.

Area of district	48,051 acres
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	24,570
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	8,918
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1958	£251,789
Product of Penny Rate	£1,058
Number of new houses erected:	
(a) Council	153
(b) Private enterprise	310

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1958 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

Live Births:

Legitimate ...
Illegitimate
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...

Total	M.	F.
537	279	258
509	264	245
28	15	13
Crude Rate	21.9	
Adjusted Rate	20.8	

Still Births:

Legitimate ...
Illegitimate
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...
Rate per 1,000 of population ...

Total	M.	F.
7	4	3
—	—	—
12.9		
0.3		

Total Live and Still Births:

Live
Still

Total	M.	F.
537	279	258
7	4	3
544	283	261

Deaths of Infants.

Infant deaths (under one year of age):

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	7	—	7
Female	4	—	4
Total	11	—	11

Rate per 1,000 births		
Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
20.2	20.2	—

Infant deaths (under four weeks of age):

			Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
						Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male	...	...	6	—	6			
Female	...	...	3	—	3			
Total	...	...	9	—	9	16.6	16.6	—

Illegitimate Live Births = 5.2% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Deaths:

Male	...	...	...	114	Death Rate	—		
Female	...	...	...	106	Crude	...	...	8.9
Total	...	...	...	220	Adjusted	...	...	10.6

CAUSE OF DEATH

								Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114	106
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	17
18. Coronary diseases, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	9
19. Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	18
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	8
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
36. Homicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

Population.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1958 was 24,570 and the table below shows that there has been a total increase of population of 4,800 in the last five years.

Population 1953 — 1958

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural Increase
1953	19,770	—	5.7
1954	20,090	320	6.3
1955	20,690	600	8.1
1956	22,530	1,840	9.8
1957	23,500	970	12.2
1958	24,570	1,070	10.2

'Natural Increase' shows the difference between the birth and death rates.

The average yearly increase in the five years is 960.

Birth Rate

Birth Rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child bearing age.

The Registrar General supplies a 'comparability factor' to all areas so that an adjusted Birth Rate can be made. The 'factor' for this District is 0.95.

The Birth Rate for 1958 was 20.8 after multiplying the 'crude' Birth Rate of 21.9 by the 'comparability factor.' The Birth Rate for England and Wales as a whole was 16.4.

The total number of live births was 537.

Still Births

The number of Still Births was 7 and the Still Birth Rate 0.30 per 1,000 population. The Rate for England and Wales was 0.36. The corresponding Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was 12.9 and 21.6 respectively.

Death Rate

The uncorrected Death Rate was 8.9 (the same as in 1957). To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the 'comparability factor' of 1.19 by which a corrected Death Rate of 10.6 is obtained. The Rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

Infant Mortality.

The following table shows deaths of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

			Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
			0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Prematurity	...	...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Atelectasis	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Rhesus Incompatibility	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
TOTALS	...	...	8	1	—	—	9	2	—	—	—	11

VITAL STATISTICS

Luton Rural District and England and Wales compared

								LUTON RURAL DISTRICT	ENGLAND AND WALES*
								Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population	
Births :									
Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.8	16.4
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.29	0.36
								12.9	21.6 (a)
Deaths :									
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.6	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.10
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.06
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.73	0.05
Notifications (corrected) :									
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.02
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.24	0.86
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.09	0.74
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.07
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.39	5.75
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.53	0.49
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) :									
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.03
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.01
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.16	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.24
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.10	0.84

Rates per 1,000 live births

Deaths :			
All causes under 1 year of age	...	20.2	22.6
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	—	0.4

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.

* Provisional.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1949-1958

Year	LIVE BIRTHS			STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births
												Sepsis	Other	Total	
1949	18,970	333	17.6	8	23.5	180	9.5	6	2	8	24	1	—	1	2.9
1950	19,290	324	16.5	10	29.9	212	10.7	12	5	17	52	—	—	—	—
1951	19,460	304	15.3	6	19.4	203	10.2	2	1	3	10	—	—	—	—
1952	19,710	308	15.3	3	9.6	187	9.3	4	4	8	25.9	—	2	2	6.4
1953	19,770	309	15.6	7	32.4	197	9.9	2	2	4	12.9	—	—	—	—
1954	20,090	325	16.2	1	3.1	198	9.9	3	5	8	24.6	—	—	—	—
1955	20,690	385	18.6	7	17.9	217	10.5	3	—	3	7.8	—	—	—	—
1956	22,530	409	18.2	18	42.2	189	8.4	8	2	10	24.1	—	—	—	—
1957	23,500	495	21.1	9	17.9	209	8.9	8	3	11	22.2	—	—	—	—
1958	24,570	537	20.8	7	12.9	220	10.6	9	2	11	20.2	—	—	—	—

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age Un- known	Total
Scarlet Fever			1		1	3	1				6
Whooping Cough	3		4	3	2	15					27
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)											
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)											
Measles (excluding rubella)	5	18	27	31	28	160	10			1	280
Diphtheria											
Dysentery				1		3	1				5
Meningococcal infection											
Ac. pneumonia						3			10		13
Smallpox											
Ac. encephalitis (Infective)											
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infectious)											
Enteric or Typhoid fever											
Paratyphoid fever						1					1
Erysipelas											
Food poisoning			1			1			2		4
Puerperal Pyrexia											
Ophthalmia neonatorum											
Infective Hepatitis											
Glandular Fever								1			1
TOTALS	8	18	33	35	31	186	12	1	12	1	337

Scarlet Fever.

Six cases were notified compared with three in 1957. All were of a mild type.

Whooping Cough.

Twenty-seven cases were notified. There were twenty-six cases in 1957.

Measles.

This disease was widespread in the latter half of the year. Two hundred and eighty cases were notified as compared with one hundred and ninety-nine in 1957.

Diphtheria.

Once again no cases were notified.

Dysentery.

Five cases were notified, compared with fifty-eight in 1957. All five cases were due to infection by *Shigella Sonnei*.

Poliomyelitis.

The District was free from this disease during 1958. Two cases were notified during 1957.

Food Poisoning

Four cases were notified during August 1958 in Sundon Park. They all occurred in the same family and the causative organism was not isolated.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1958

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years		1						
5 — 14 ..		1						
15 — 24 ..		4	1					
25 — 44 ..	4	1						
45 — 64 ..	3	1	1					
65 and over								
Age unknown								
TOTALS	7	8	2					

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — SECTION 47.

Persons in need of care and attention.

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

In no instance was it found necessary to take legal action for compulsory removal during the year.

Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report

1958

1. WATER SUPPLY.

Mains Water.

Mains water supply is available in every village within the Rural District and the service is continually being extended to isolated houses. The parish of Hyde which is an agricultural parish consisting of small, isolated and remote groups of dwelling houses, has no public main available but a scheme for the extension of a mains supply from the Hitchin Rural District to serve the Chiltern Green area is contemplated. The Luton Hoo private borehole which supplies most of the dwellings in this parish continues to prove to be satisfactory.

The Public Health Laboratory Reports on samples of mains water bacteriologically examined during the year were as follows:—

Highly Satisfactory	...	...	79
Satisfactory	...	...	3
			—
			82
			—

Private Water Supplies.

With the continued extension of the public mains throughout the District, these are gradually disappearing. However, the standard of purity is kept under observation and during the year samples from various sources have been examined at the Public Health Laboratory and the following is a summary of the results obtained:—

Highly Satisfactory	...	...	5
Satisfactory	...	...	9
Polluted	...	...	13
			—
			27
			—

The standard which these samples have failed to reach is that set for mains water supplies. In most cases the pollution was very slight but the owners have been advised on improving the supplies by chlorination or other alternatives. The mains supplies were not available in any of these instances.

Mains Extensions.

During the year water mains were extended to Old Hill Wood, Whipsnade/Studham, Harlington Road, Toddington and Wellhead Road, Eaton Bray, these being in addition to the extensions which occurred in several parishes where housing development was proceeding. At Barton the water main was extended for the purpose of completing the link-up with the water supply within the Ampthill Rural District.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Tebworth Sewerage Scheme was completed by Easter and by the end of the year most of the dwelling houses in the village had either been connected to the sewer or proposals and plans were in the course of preparation. Since the installation of the sewer a marked improvement has been noticed in the village in the general sanitary circumstances and particularly the condition of the main ditch and watercourse.

By the end of the year practically all the dwellinghouses in Heath and Reach had been connected to the sewer. There were a few exceptions where the drainage was being disposed of in a manner which did not give rise to a Nuisance but the persons in control were being encouraged to connect their premises to the sewer and the response was usually satisfactory.

The sanitary circumstances throughout the remainder of the District continue to deteriorate and the cesspool emptying service is being strained to absolute limits. The dearth of suitable sites for the disposal of cesspool emptier contents has seriously aggravated the position. The installation of the sewer at Caddington met with a serious setback by reason of unforeseen circumstances during which the Contract was at a standstill for practically 7 months.

During September the Council held an Extraordinary Meeting for the consideration of the sanitary circumstances within the District as relating to drainage and sewerage and after consideration of conditions in the various parishes it was resolved that the sewerage schemes which had been under their consideration be carried out in accordance with the following Priority List:—

Streatley — Warden Hill.
Tilsworth and Caddington (Slip End).
Eaton Bray (with Edlesborough in the Wing Rural District).
Kensworth.
Sundon (Upper Sundon) and Toddington (Chalton).
Hockliffe.
Streatley (Village).
Studham.
Billington and Totternhoe.
Eggington and Stanbridge.
Whipnade and Streatley (Sharpenhoe).
Hyde.

The following is an Extract from the Council's Engineer and Surveyor's Report for 1958:—

Drainage and Sewerage.

The main drainage scheme for Caddington is now being carried out and, on completion, will afford a great relief to the cesspool emptying service.

The other area where conditions of sewage disposal are serious is in the Warden Hill Area of Streatley and it is hoped that a commencement date for the main drainage scheme will be given early in the next year.

The provision of main drainage facilities in these two areas will allow a better cesspool emptying service to be given to other parts of the district where main drainage is not yet available.

The difficulties of providing a satisfactory cesspool emptying service have, during the past year, been increased by the withdrawal of permission of the use of a long established tipping site and it has been necessary to make alternative arrangements involving longer journeys and time delays which reflects on the frequency of the service which can be offered.

3. PONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES.

There has been a decided improvement in the condition of the ditches at Barton, Heath and Reach and Tebworth, such being the result of providing improved drainage facilities and sewerage in the villages. In the parishes of Tilsworth, Stanbridge, Totternhoe, Hockliffe, Streatley, Billington and Eggington, the situation shows no improvement except for the occasional cleansing here and there by the Council's workmen. Not until adequate sewers and improved drainage are available in these villages are the circumstances in this respect likely to reach a satisfactory standard.

Conditions in and about some of the ponds in the District leave much to be desired. It is somewhat of a paradox that the County Council drain their highways into these ponds and yet accept no responsibility for cleansing and the removal of silt which has been discharged therein. Traces of petroleum, tar and other oily substances can invariably be found and it would appear reasonable that the authority responsible for the maintenance of the highways should also be responsible for maintaining all ditches and ponds into which these chemical compounds and highway silt are discharged.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There has been a marked improvement in the condition of streams and watercourses to the West of the Dunstable area since the new sewage disposal works at Dunstable has been in operation.

5. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Progress in the conversion of pail and earth closets into water closets at Heath and Reach and Barton has been maintained satisfactorily. Similar progress has taken place in Tebworth village since the completion of the sewer installation and by the end of the year approximately half of the necessary conversions had been completed or schemes for the execution of such works were being prepared.

In most instances new buildings are being erected to house the water closet accommodation and where practicable such has been installed within the house and only in a few instances has the structure which formerly housed the pail been retained.

6. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for the control and execution of these services and the following is an extract from his report for 1958.

During the year a Paxit 18 cub.yd. vehicle and three 11 cub.yd. side-loaders were in service and towards the end of the year a Bedford Eagle Loadmaster was added to the fleet. Labour difficulties had been experienced from time to time during the year but on the whole a frequency of collection was maintained at a reasonable standard.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc., carried out during the year:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	645
Ditches	...	...	...	27
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc.	...	...	...	47
Water Supply	...	...	...	103
Water Samples	...	...	...	148

NUISANCES.

Premises (defects)	...	...	...	256
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	...	...	1
Disinfestation (Bugs, fleas)	...	...	...	5
„ (Other insects)	...	...	...	37
Animals	...	...	...	29
Smoke and Dust	...	...	...	122
Rodents	...	...	...	302
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and Reinspections	...	...	...	236

SPECIAL PREMISES

Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	21
Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	1
Village Halls, Institutes, etc.	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	10
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	51
Petroleum	...	...	...	83
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	875

FOOD

General Stores	...	...	...	195
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	35
Fish Shops and Vehicles	...	...	...	11
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	40
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	978
Liquid Egg Samples, Enquiries, etc.	...	...	...	99

MILK AND ICE CREAM

Dairies	...	...	...	6
Milk Retail Vehicles	...	...	...	3
Milk Samples	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations	...	...	...	84
Disinfections	...	...	...	6
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1

CLEANSING SERVICES	...	...	...	62
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HOUSING

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	653
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	3
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	262

MISCELLANEOUS

Burial Acts	...	...	...	...	1
Welfare	...	...	...	...	9
					5468

8. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

207 Nuisances were abated during the year as a result of informal action.

The abatement of drainage Nuisances where such drainage is in combination continues to present difficulties especially where several houses are concerned and the agreement of respective owners or persons by whose default the Nuisance arose is required before the Council can undertake the necessary works of repair or clearance. Owners and occupiers of dwelling houses are experiencing difficulty in finding builders who are prepared to undertake the clearance of choked drains and it would benefit the public health generally if local authorities were in a position to provide a drain clearance service as they provide a cesspool emptying or refuse collection service. It is extremely difficult to decide which occupier of several houses has caused the stoppage and invariably an innocent party has to contend with the overflowing drainage and Nuisance. This feature of the problem emphasises the need for providing a service for the cleansing of combined drains and private sewers.

In two instances it was found necessary to take Statutory Action in order to effect satisfactory abatement of a Nuisance.

9. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of caravans stationed in the District during the year averaged just over 500 and a summary of the use of sites and caravans is approximately as follows:—

	No. of Caravan Sites	Residential Caravans
Stationing 3 or more caravans ...	19	469
Stationing less than 3 caravans ...	43	54

Of the total number of caravans approximately 50 are in use temporarily i.e. for summer holiday periods and week-ends only.

In order to maintain satisfactory conditions on caravan sites, it is essential to carry out regular inspections and in fact frequent inspections on sites where the standard occupation is less than that desirable. There are still several sites being used which have not received the approval of the Council's Planning Committee. Doubtless the lack of alternative accommodation for the users of these moveable dwellings, particularly the families, imposes some restraint in the carrying out of the necessary enforcement under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

10. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Dust Emission at Houghton Regis, Chalton and Sundon.

The total quantity of dust determined by the Deposit Gauges sited within the District recorded a slight increase in the Malmsey area at Houghton Regis and at Sundon Village whereas at the rear of High Street, Houghton Regis, and in Chalton, a decrease was recorded. By and large, the figures vary slightly from those recorded in 1957 and this of necessity must give rise to serious misgivings. Various improvements carried out at the works in Houghton Regis which should ultimately result in reduced atmospheric pollution had not been completed during 1958 but provision of cover for the storage of clinker was expected to contribute to a marked improvement in these figures.

The hopes which had been encouraged by the Alkali and Works Inspector with respect to the circumstances at Sundon have not been realised. The Council had been given to understand by the Alkali and Works Department of the Ministry that they were not satisfied with the position at Sundon and some form of dust arrestment would be demanded by them. The results of various experiments being carried out in other parts of the country were however, being awaited, but having regard to the fact that these experiments were proceeding in 1956, reasonable time in which to study the results had been available and naturally my Council's Public Health Committee were keenly disappointed when with the lapse of sufficient time in which to apply the practical results of such tests they find that improved dust arrestment had not been installed and in fact the total depositions tended to increase.

The average monthly total of deposited matter in tons per square mile is as follows:—

	Houghton Regis Malmsey	Houghton Regis Pratt's Field	Chalton Village	Sundon Village
1958 ...	52.88	19.92	15.13	29.70
1957 ...	51.00	20.70	18.01	27.63

By reason of the close proximity of the constructional works in connection with the London to Yorkshire Motor Way, it was found that very large quantities of dust were being disseminated over the area and the usefulness of the Deposit Gauge as a means of measuring the pollution due to dust from the Cement Works was rendered somewhat unreliable. It was therefore agreed that the Gauge should be withdrawn as from the 30th of September.

11. HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957.

Unfit Houses.

The following summarises the results so far obtained on procedure during the post-war years under the appropriate Sections of the Housing Acts:—

	Informal Demolitions	Houses Dealt with under Section II Housing Act 1936 and Section 16 Housing Act 1957	Under-takings to Render Fit	Under-takings not to use for Human Habitation	Demolition Orders Made	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders complied with	Houses dealt with under Section 9 Housing Acts 1936-1957	Included in 1954-1955 Survey as being unfit for Habitation but have since been repaired or improved
BARTON	4	11	3	—	8	—	4	2	4
BILLINGTON	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
CADDINGTON	1	16	1	—	15	—	10	—	3
CHALGRAVE	2	15	—	—	15	—	1	—	—
EATON BRAY	2	9	—	—	9	—	2	16	—
EGGINGTON	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
HEATH & REACH	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
HOCKLIFFE	—	6	2	1	3	—	2	—	—
HOUGHTON REGIS	4	25	—	1	22	—	7	2	—
HYDE	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
KENSWORTH	—	3	—	—	2	1	2	—	2
STANBRIDGE	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
STREATLEY	4	7	—	1	6	—	—	—	5
STUDHAM	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	5
SUNDON	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
TILSWORTH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
TODDINGTON	5	23	4	—	19	—	9	4	5
TOTTERNHOE	3	13	2	—	11	—	10	—	1
WHIPSNAD	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	32	137	12	3	117	1	49	24	32

HOUSING ACT 1957

PROCEDURE DURING 1958

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Displaced during Persons	Quarter Families
IN CLEARANCE AREAS :			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act 1957	—	—	—
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS :			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	27	96	39
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED.

	Number		
(8) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(9) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After Informal Action by local authority	65	—
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	—	—
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957	8	—
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	—	—

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING ACT, 1957)

	No. of Houses	No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation :		
(a) under Section 48	—	—
(b) under Section 17 (2)	—	—
(c) under Section 46	—	—
(15) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	—	—

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT.

	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants of houses in col. (1)
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Ice Cream

Premises registered under Section 16 of the
Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the storage
and sale of Ice Cream

6 further premises were registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream during the year. In view of the practice of General Stores selling this article of food, pre-packing is insisted upon before registration is granted. All such premises are visited as often as possible and the conditions under which the ice cream is stored is kept under observation.

No samples were obtained during the year, but in any case, the ice cream which is sold is all produced by the 4 main manufacturers.

Milk — Report on Milk Sampling.

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	1	1	—
T.T.	2	2	—
	3	3	—

There has been a steady increase in the number of General Stores now selling milk. As far as possible the occupiers concerned are advised to limit their supplies to the minimum and to ensure that such bottles are not placed where they can become contaminated.

Milk Bottles.

The attention of various occupiers of food premises has been drawn to the need to store empty milk bottles where they are protected as much as possible from contamination. It appears that members of the public are still using empty bottles for the storage of liquids which are extremely difficult to remove at the Dairy. In fact, when one sees the condition in which some householders return their bottles, one wonders whether non-returnable containers should be insisted upon. Householders can do much to assist the Dairies by the simple expedient of rinsing the bottles immediately the milk has been poured out. It is surprising that during the year no complaints were received concerning the contamination of milk bottles delivered to householders and this must be put down to the constant vigilance of Dairymen and their staffs.

Food Premises.

As much time as possible was spent on the inspection and supervision of food premises and with one or two exceptions the standard shows a decided improvement. The difficulty arises in the small shops especially where it is the only one in a village. In these cases the occupiers try to sell every article likely to be demanded. The shop premises themselves become seriously over-stored and so much stock is held that the maintenance of clean conditions

is very difficult. In such cases commodities are stored in the house part of the premises and these have to be carefully supervised. In other premises, washing facilities and facilities for cleansing equipment have been provided and the problem now is to educate the staff to use such facilities. Unfortunately, in some instances, the staff appear to be completely ignorant of their responsibilities to the public. The exercise of greater discretion on the part of the public would be helpful in these cases. It is very seldom that complaints are received from the public concerning the shops where they purchase their food.

Two applications were received for Certificates of Exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. The Council have taken the view that such exemptions should not be granted unless it was quite impossible to install the necessary equipment. In these cases, however, the main sewer was not available and the premises were exempted until such time as this service was provided. In the meantime, the occupier gave an undertaking to cease selling all open food.

Food Premises — Schools.

The canteens at schools within the Rural District have been inspected as often as possible and it is pleasing to report excellent co-operation from the County Health Authority. These premises are of the highest standard and it is fortunate that the Authority concerned appear to use considerable discretion in their choice of staff. Where it is thought that improvements are needed, attention has been drawn to them and the necessary work has been put in hand with the minimum of delay.

Bakehouses.

Of these premises two have closed down during the year. In these cases it was not possible to bring them up to the necessary standard and the owners agreed, if somewhat reluctantly, that the best solution was to cease production. In a further case it is extremely difficult for the owner to maintain a proper standard of cleanliness in view of the construction of the premises and he has not been able to decide as to his best course of action. There are many members of the public who still prefer bread made by the older methods.

Licensed Premises.

Further improvements have been carried out to premises throughout the Rural District although the extent of this work has necessarily been governed by the provision of sewerage schemes.

Inspection of Food.

The following quantities of food were voluntarily surrendered on being found to be unfit for human consumption.

- 2 Tins Corned Beef (4 lbs. and 12 ozs.)
- 1 Tin Peaches (1 lb.)
- 1 Tin Steak and Kidney (1 lb.)
- 11 Tins Oranges (11 ozs.)
- 2 Tins Oxtail Soup (15½ ozs.)

- 1 Tin Minced Loaf (12 ozs.)
- 1 Tin Salmon (7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.)
- 1 Jar Crab Paste (1 oz.)
- 2 Tins Peas
- 1 Tin Tomatoes (3 lbs.)
- 1 Tin Pears (16 ozs.)
- 7 Tins Pineapple (2—16 oz., 4—12 oz., 1—20 oz.)
- 2 Tins Evaporated Milk
- 1 Tin Fruit Salad (8 ozs.)
- 1 Tin Plums (20 ozs.)
- 1 Tin Baked Beans (16 ozs.)
- 1 Jar Jam (1 lb.)
- 1 Pkt. Rice Toasties (8 ozs.)
- 20 lbs. Fish (Cod Fillets)

The greater majority of this food became unfit as a result of bad storage and handling. There is however, evidence to suggest that the Trade is increasingly concerned at such unnecessary wastage.

Extraneous Matter in Food.

The presence of glass in bread was reported. The bread was manufactured outside the Council's area. The investigation carried out did not establish the cause but it was suspected that a thermometer might have been broken. The possibility of having added the glass in the home was of course investigated especially having regard to the fact that glass containers are used for butter and jam.

A case in which bread was contaminated with oil was brought to notice. On investigation at the bakery, it appeared that there had been trouble with an air filter which is used for mechanical bread making. The management did their utmost to prevent any affected bread being sold but the case mentioned here had been sold in spite of the vigilance of the makers. As is customary in such cases, enquiries were made from the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Local Authority in whose area the bakery was established, and having regard to his report no further action was taken.

A further case concerned a piece of bread containing a grain weevil. Again enquiries were made with the officer responsible for the supervision of the bakery who stated that all reasonable precautions were being taken to eliminate grain pests. The presence of the weevil in the loaf could not be accounted for. The management concerned were seriously worried over the complaint and it was considered that a warning would suffice in the circumstances provided no further evidence of contamination was reported.

An interesting situation developed following a report of a person having consumed some canned grapes which were suspected of containing some glass. On examination crystals were found in each tin and some of these were embedded in the grapes. It appeared that some of the natural constituent of the grapes had crystallised and certainly looked like glass. The Public Analyst confirmed that the crystals found consisted of Acid Potassium Tartrate (Cream of Tartar) which is a natural constituent of grapes.

Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.

All animals slaughtered for human consumption within the District have been inspected. Most of the Inspection is carried out between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. This arrangement appears to work very well and the entire carcasses and organs, etc., are available for examination.

The standard of hygiene on these premises is on the whole satisfactory although occasionally the occupier of a slaughterhouse has to be reminded of certain obligations. The food produced on these premises is usually of a good standard of cleanliness.

The small butchers appear to prefer to slaughter their own animals and thereby obviate the need for handling the finished product more than once, and doubtless the fact that the meat has not to be transported by lorry does much to keep it in a clean condition.

Some of the meat and offal condemned is stained and then delivered to the Knacker's Yard. The remainder is used for animal food or sold to waste meat processors.

The following are the particulars and records of animals killed, inspected, and percentages of disease discovered on inspection:—

LUTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	900	86	22	1938	1247	4193
Number Inspected	900	86	22	1938	1247	4193
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

All diseases except Tuberculosis :

Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	2	—	—	1	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	158	32	1	64	56	311
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	17.66	39.53	4.55	3.30	4.57	7.51

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	19	6	—	—	5	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.11	6.98	—	—	.40	.72

It is significant to note a decrease in the percentage of cattle affected with tuberculosis and particularly in cows. Doubtless Eradication Schemes will ensure that this trend continues.

Particulars of the amount of Meat found to be unfit for human consumption:—

					MEAT lbs.	OFFAL lbs.
Cows	...	...	...	...	810	675
Other Cattle	...	...	...	...	706	2266
Sheep	...	...	...	...	5	83½
Calves	...	...	...	...	2	—
Pigs	...	...	...	...	218	185
					1741	3209½
T.B.	...	...	...	...	751 lbs.	
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	4199½ „	
					4950½ „	

No cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were found during the year.

Rodent Control.

Operations in this respect have been carried out very efficiently during the year by the Council's Rodent Operative, Mr. E. Todd. Control is found to be successfully maintained by a regular survey throughout the whole of the Rural District and paying particular attention to the public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse tips, business premises where quantities of food are stored and pig keeping and poultry establishments. During the year not more than 96 complaints were received which is some indication of the standard of control being exercised in this matter.

One regrettable feature of this work was the gradual withdrawal of the County Pest Department from this branch of public health activity and by the 31st March, 1959 they will have terminated all contracts with farmers for the destruction of rats and mice.

Fortunately, the service has been taken over by members of the staff formerly employed by the County Pest Department and I am pleased to report that the close co-operation which formerly existed with the County is being carried on smoothly under the new arrangements.

The following is a summary of inspections, treatment, etc:—

							RATS	MICE
Houses Surveyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1265	134
„ Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	424	15
Business Premises Surveyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	142	13
„ „ Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	3
Agricultural Premises Surveyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	2
„ „ Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	1
Sewers Surveyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	—
„ Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	—
Sewage Disposal Works Surveyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	76	13
„ „ „ Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	—
Refuse Tips Surveyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	9
„ „ Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	—
Other Places Surveyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	6
„ „ Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	5

Other Pests.

The Public Health Officers and the Rodent Operative have also had to give a good deal of advice during the year on the destruction of moles, wasp nests and bees. Where these have returned to dwelling house, in many cases the Council's staff have actually carried out the necessary works of destruction. Before destroying bees, local Bee Keepers are encouraged to save the hives but where they are of opinion that to do so is impossible then the necessary treatment has been resorted to.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948.

The following are details of inspections carried out for the purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occ's Pros.
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1 7	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2 51	20	4	—

It was found necessary in 4 cases to issue written notices concerning unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences and by the end of the year 3 such Notices had been satisfactorily complied with.

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR.

Infectious Diseases.

All cases reported by the Medical Officer of Health are investigated with a view to tracing the source of infection.

Petroleum Regulations.

At least once a year petroleum installations in the district are inspected prior to renewing licences. New installations are subjected to inspections, testing of tanks, suction lines, etc.

National Assistance Act 1948.

Care of Old Persons and Burial of the Dead.

Where elderly people are found to be incapable of caring for themselves and have no relatives living near, conditions are reported to the County Welfare Department. During the year it has been necessary to submit reports with respect to two old persons. In one case arrangements have had to be made for the burial of a person who had died within the District and had no known relatives to arrange the burial.

Public Health Department — Staff.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the efficient work and loyalty of the members of my staff during the year:—

Mr. R. G. Burch—Additional Public Health Inspector.

Miss E. Joyce—Clerk/Shorthand-Typist.

Mrs. W. Birchmore—Clerk/Shorthand-Typist (Part-time).

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. G. HILL,

Senior Public Health Inspector.