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# Luton Rural District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of

### Medical Officer of Health

and


### Public Health Inspector

for the

### YEAR 1959

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Luton Rural District Council

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ANNUAL  
REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

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Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1959

# To the Luton Rural District Council

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1959

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The Chairman and Councillors of the  
Rural District of Luton.

December, 1960.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Health Report for 1959.

The health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year. There were no serious epidemics, although Measles was widespread in the early part of the year. Most cases, however, were mild in character. Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis were absent. Three cases of Food poisoning occurred.

There were forty-six deaths from Cancer of which five were Cancer of the Lung (all males).

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 63526)
- (b) **Senior Public Health Inspector**  
L. G. HILL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Tel No. Luton 6000)
- (b) **Public Health Inspector**  
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 ... ..	26,800
Number of inhabited houses (approximate) ... ..	9,600
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1959 ... ..	£315,939
Product of Penny Rate ... ..	£1,058
Number of new houses erected:	
(a) Council ... ..	132
(b) Private enterprise ... ..	501

### Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1959 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
<b>Live Births:</b>	677	351	326
Legitimate ...	652	337	315
Illegitimate	25	14	11
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...	Crude Rate	25.3	
	Adjusted Rate	23.5	

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
<b>Still Births:</b>	17	12	5
Legitimate ...			
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...	25.9		
Rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.7		

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
<b>Total Live and Still Births:</b>			
Live ... ..	677	351	326
Still ... ..	18	12	6
	695	363	332

### Deaths of Infants.

Infant deaths (under one years of age):

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male ... ..	5	1	6			
Female ... ..	6	—	6			
Total ... ..	11	1	12	17.7	16.9	40.0

Infant deaths (under four weeks of age):

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male ... ..	4	1	5	14.8	13.8	40.0
Female ... ..	5	—	5			
Total ... ..	9	1	10			

Illegitimate Live Births = 3.7% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths ... .. Nil

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

Deaths :

Male ... ..	132	Death Rate—
Female ... ..	86	
Total ... ..	218	

Crude ... ..	8.1
Adjusted ... ..	9.9

CAUSE OF DEATH

	Males	Females
All Causes ... ..	132	86
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	1	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	3	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	5	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	21	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	22	22
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	20	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	1	2
20. Other heart disease ... ..	12	13
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	3	2
22. Influenza ... ..	—	—
23. Pneumonia ... ..	6	10
24. Bronchitis ... ..	9	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	3	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	2	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	—	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	14	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	—
34. All other accidents ... ..	4	—
35. Suicide ... ..	2	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—

## Population.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1959 was 26,800 and the table below shows that there has been a total increase of population of 6,710 in the last five years.

### Population 1954 — 1959

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural Increase
1954	20,090	—	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
1959	26,800	2,230	13.6

'Natural Increase' shows the difference between the birth and death rates. The average yearly increase in the five years is 1,342.

### 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 0.93.

The Birth Rate for 1959 was 23.5 after multiplying the 'crude' Birth Rate of 25.3 by the 'comparability factor.' The Birth Rate for England and Wales as a whole was 16.5.

The total number of live births was 677.

### Still Births

The number of Still Births was 18 and the Still Birth Rate 0.7 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 0.35. The corresponding Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was 25.9 and 20.7 respectively.

### Death Rate

The uncorrected Death Rate was 8.1. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the 'comparability factor' of 1.22 by which a corrected Death Rate of 9.9 is obtained. The Rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

### 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	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital malformations	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	9	1	—	—	10	—	2	—	—	12



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	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births
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	—	—	—	—
1959	26,800	677	23.5	18	25.9	218	10.0	10	2	12	17.7	—	—	—	—

## 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 .....			2	2	16	7	3			1	31
Whooping Cough .....	1	1				4					6
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .....											
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic) .....											
Measles (excluding rubella) .....	13	23	46	55	48	200	20	7	1	6	419
Diphtheria .....				1		1		1	1		4
Dysentery .....											
Meningococcal infection .....											
Ac. pneumonia .....				2			1	1	10	1	15
Smallpox .....											
Ac. encephalitis (Infective) .....											
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infectious) .....											
Enteric or Typhoid fever .....											
Paratyphoid fever .....											
Erysipelas .....									1		1
Food poisoning .....						3					3
Puerperal Pyrexia .....							2				2
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....											
Infective Hepatitis .....											
Glandular Fever .....								1			1
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>482</b>

### Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-one cases were notified compared with six in 1958. All were of a mild type.

### Whooping Cough.

Six cases were notified. There were twenty-seven cases in 1958.

### Measles.

This disease was widespread in the early part of the year. Four hundred and nineteen cases were notified as compared with two hundred and eighty in 1958.

### Diphtheria.

Once again no cases were notified.

### Dysentery.

Four cases were notified, compared with five in 1958. All four cases were due to infection by *Shigella Sonnei*.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

The District was free from this disease during 1959. There were no cases in 1958 either.

### **Food Poisoning.**

Three cases were notified, occurring in the villages of Heath and Reach, Stanbridge and Sundon Park. The causative organism was isolated in two of these cases, viz. Salmonella Newport.

## **TUBERCULOSIS.**

### **NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959.**

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Under 5 years .....								
5 — 14 .. .. .								
15 — 24 .. .. .	1	2						
25 — 44 .. .. .	3	3						
45 — 64 .. .. .	2	2						
65 and over .. .		1						
Age unknown .. .								
<b>TOTALS</b> .. .	6	8						

### **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 themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

In one case only during the year it was found necessary to take legal action for compulsory removal.

# Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report 1959

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## 1. WATER SUPPLY.

### Mains Water.

Mains water is generally available throughout the Rural District. The parish of Hyde which is mainly agricultural, is the only parish without a mains supply and the several hamlets within the parish have available satisfactory private water supplies. The extensive building programme and development taking place in several parishes within the District has however, resulted in creating greater demand upon the available water services than they have been able to meet, and consequently the water supply available to some of the new houses is not always adequate to the needs of the families living therein. The areas where the supply does not appear to meet the need entirely are Sundon Park, Streatley and Barton.

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

Highly Satisfactory	...	...	...	124
Slightly Polluted	...	...	...	1

### Public and Private Standpipes.

The general improvement in sanitary circumstances in the villages of Heath and Reach, Tebworth and Caddington, where the sewer has been installed and the provision of indoor water supplies, has resulted in the gradual removal of these standpipes.

### Mains Extensions and Improvements.

The scheme for extending the mains water to the Wellhead area in the parish of Eaton Bray, was completed during the year. The mains supply was also extended along Leighton Road, Billington, to serve several houses in that neighbourhood.

### Private Water Supplies.

The continued extension of the mains supply throughout the District naturally results in the reduction of private supplies. However, there are a number of remote farms and cottages depending upon their own resources.

During the year 5 such sources were sampled and the Public Health Laboratory Reports were Satisfactory in every case.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

1959 can well be marked as a 'red letter' year in the provision of improved drainage and sewerage within the Rural District. The Caddington sewer became available for connection thereto early in the year and the owners of the dwellings on the line of sewer, mostly owner-occupiers, readily availed themselves of this long awaited amenity.

The installation of the sewer at Warden Hill commenced during the year and one can well envisage in the near future a substantial decrease in the number of cesspools having to be emptied in the District when the full advantage of these sewerage schemes becomes evident.

By the end of the year most of the houses in the village of Tebworth had been connected to the sewer. Cesspool emptying had ceased completely at Tebworth and Heath and Reach with the exception of the cesspools serving a few houses beyond the line of sewer.

There are still some villages and areas in the District where the cesspool emptiers are employed regularly. The need for providing sewers with some urgency in these villages cannot be over emphasised, particularly when having regard to the dearth of land and sites available for the disposal of cesspool emptier contents. This problem has now assumed acute proportions and appears to become the major obstacle to reaching the desired state of sanitary circumstances in the District.

### **3. PONDS, DITCHES, WATERCOURSES**

The improvement in the condition of ditches in areas where sewers have recently been installed is clearly evident. In those villages where ditches and water-courses eventually receive either partially treated or untreated house drainage, the circumstances are disquieting. The cleansing of such ditches alleviates the Nuisance for a brief period and as has been stated repeatedly both by members of the Council and the officers concerned, only the provision of adequate sewers and improved drainage will prevent the recurrence of this serious Nuisance.

### **4. RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

There has been a marked improvement in the condition of streams and water-courses to the West of Dunstable, beyond Tebworth to Hockliffe and Linslade Road, Heath and Reach.

### **5. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

The conversion of pail and earth closets into water closets progresses at a most satisfactory rate in those areas where sewers have become available and in fact during 1959 such improvements at Barton, Heath and Reach and Tebworth practically reached their limit.

### **6. PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for the control and execution of these service and the following is an extract from his report for 1959:—

“Towards the end of the year, a Bedford Diesel Compressmore Refuse Collector went into service.

Labour difficulties continue to be experienced on this service, but on the whole the frequency of collection was maintained at a reasonable standard. The tendency however, is for the development of the District to create a demand upon this service which is not being adequately met by the available labour resources. Further difficulties have been created by the scarcity of suitable sites for use as Refuse Disposal Tips. It is somewhat of a paradox that in an area where there are so many quarries scarring and marring the surface of the countryside, it appears to be well nigh impossible to obtain one of these in a suitable location for refuse disposal and ultimately reclaiming, chiefly by reason of the possibility of future mineral workings.”

## 7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

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

<b>GENERAL SANITATION</b>							
Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1751
Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
<b>NUISANCES</b>							
Premises (defects)	...	...	...	...	...	...	340
Disinfestation (Bugs, fleas)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
.. (Other insects)	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Smoke and Dust	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Rodents	.....	...	...	...	...	...	287
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and Reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	380
<b>SPECIAL PREMISES</b>							
Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Village Halls, Institutes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	1334
<b>FOOD</b>							
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fish Shops and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	960
<b>MILK AND ICE CREAM</b>							
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Egg Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b>							
Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
<b>CLEANSING SERVICES</b>							64
<b>HOUSING</b>							
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	342
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>							
Burial Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
							<hr/>
							6967
							<hr/>

## 8. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

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

On the whole, the time taken for the abatement of Nuisances appears to be reasonable and only on rare occasions is it necessary to resort to Statutory Action for the purpose of securing abatement.

The time factor would be further reduced if suitable builders were available, but as most of these are employed on the erection of new houses, there only remains a limited amount of building resources for attention to general repairs and the abatement of Nuisances.

In one instance it was found necessary to take Statutory Action in order to effect abatement of a Nuisance.

## 9. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of caravans stationed in the District during the year averaged about 656 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	... 23	604
Stationing less than 3 caravans	... 41	52

Of the total number of caravans there are 81 in temporary use, such being at week-ends only or during holiday periods.

Generally the caravan sites are kept satisfactorily but there are some instances where frequent inspections have to be carried out in order to maintain reasonable sanitary conditions. The problems in this connection arise chiefly on caravan sites which have been started without Planning Permission or where Planning Permission has been refused. In these cases only the minimum sanitary accommodation is provided and it seems pointless and unwise to enforce the provision of permanent water closet accommodation and other conveniences and amenities which a satisfactory caravan site requires, knowing that ultimately if the provisions of the Planning Acts are enforced, the site would have to be cleared of caravans and returned to its former agricultural use.

There was a marked increase in the number of caravans stationed in the District during the year as compared to 1958. Doubtless the demand for workers in the Luton and Dunstable areas accounts for this, but it is to be regretted that almost half of these families have found accommodation on sites which have not been approved of.

Having seen the demand for caravan accommodation grow considerably during the post-war years, one is persuaded beyond any doubt that if caravans are to be used as permanent residential accommodation, **they must be provided with permanent sanitary facilities and the other reasonable amenities which would be required of any semi-permanent buildings such as prefabricated houses.**

It is hoped that eventually all sites will be provided with a supply of electricity, and as sewers are becoming available in the different parishes, that where possible individual caravans will be provided with main drainage facilities. This will mean an end to the drainage going to soakaways which is obviously only satisfactory for a limited time. It is gradually becoming the accepted practise to lay on an internal supply of water, and in addition the use of baths and the subsequent considerable increase in waste water, makes satisfactory drainage of great importance.

## 10. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

### Cement and Lime Industries.

#### Dust Emission at Houghton Regis, Chalton and Sundon.

During the year 4 Deposit Gauges were used within the Rural District, these being sited at Houghton Regis (Malmsey), Sundon Village, Chalton and Barton.

The Gauge at Chalton was reinstated in September when it was known that the Contractor's Works on the London to Yorkshire Motorway (M.1.) were completed and that there would not be any excessive dust emission therefrom.

**Houghton Regis (Malmsey).** The average monthly total deposit of dust showed a marked improvement on that recorded during previous years, this being the result of various improvements and dust emission precautions being carried out at the Works, particularly at low level points.

**Sundon.** The average monthly deposit here has also been reduced, but this according to information received from the Alkali and Works Inspector is mainly due to the restriction of output and not as a result of any improved dust arrestment. The promises with respect to the installation of some form of dust arrestment subsequent to obtaining final reports on various experiments being carried out at certain cement works, have not been fulfilled.

**Barton.** The average monthly deposit here compares favourably with the 'typical results' (monthly averages), for Rural Districts throughout the country. The production of Hydrated Lime ceased during the year and as the major product at Barton Lime Works now is crushed chalk there appears to be somewhat less dust emitted during this process than had been evident during the manufacture of various grades of lime.

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

	Houghton Regis Malmsey	Sundon Village	Barton	Chalton
1959	39.20	22.75	8.98	17.10
1958	52.88	29.70	—	15.13
1957	51.00	27.63	—	18.01

## 11. HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957.

The following is a summary of the results of procedure taken under the above mentioned statutes during the years 1954-1959:—

(i)	Undertakings given to render houses fit for habitation	...	13
(ii)	Undertakings given not to use for human habitation	...	6
(iii)	Closing Orders made	...	5
(iv)	Reconstructed under Section 24	...	3
(v)	Demolished	...	81
(vi)	Demolition Orders operative where demolition can be effected forthwith	...	17
(vii)	Demolition Orders operative but works of demolition can only be satisfactorily effected when adjoining houses are vacant	...	18
(viii)	Demolition Orders made but cannot be operated until tenants are rehoused	...	25
(ix)	Houses dealt with by the Committee but on which a resolution has not been formed	...	15
(x)	Houses reported on January 25th, 1960, and owners to be called to show cause why Demolition Orders should not be made	...	34
(xi)	Houses demolished as a result of Informal procedure	...	43
(xii)	Unfit houses occupied by elderly persons which will be demolished by the owners on becoming vacant	...	15
	Total	...	275



**HOUSING ACT 1957  
PROCEDURE DURING 1959**

**HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE**

**A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED**

	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Displaced during Year	
		Persons	Families
<b>IN CLEARANCE AREAS:</b>			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ... ..	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—	—	—
<b>NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS:</b>			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	29	15	10
(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 Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act 1957 ... ..	—	—	—
(9) Under Section 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 ... ..	72	—
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts ... ..	—	—
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	1	1
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	1	—

**D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)**

	No. of Houses	No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
<b>Position at end of quarter</b>		
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) under Section 48 ... ..	—	—
(b) under Section 17 (2) ... ..	—	—
(c) under Section 46 ... ..	—	—
(15) Licenced for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 ... ..	—	—

**E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT**

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

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Ice Cream.

Two further premises were registered for the sale and storage of Ice Cream during the year. The occupiers of the premises are always advised as to the necessary precautions to be taken to prevent contamination. In any case, shop-keepers have been persuaded to sell only the pre-packed commodity and in view of the wide variety of goods now sold, this is essential. All Ice Cream which is sold is produced by the four well known and main manufacturers, and whilst enquiries were made concerning the length of storage of some Ice Cream, no samples were taken during the year.

It is interesting to note the fact that an increasing number of Public Houses are now being registered for the sale of Ice Cream, and whilst it is not strictly speaking the responsibility of the Public Health Department, steps are taken to ensure that the provisions of the Licencing Acts are not contravened.

### Milk — Report on Milk Sampling.

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised ... ..	2	2	—
T.T. ... ..	3	3	—
	—	—	—
	5	5	—
	—	—	—

These results are very gratifying, but one has some doubt as to the value of the Methylene Blue Test. Producers who were considered unsatisfactory when they came under the supervision of the Health Department, now appear to have no difficulty in producing an article which can pass the necessary test.

During the year a complaint was received of sediment in a bottle of T.T. milk which was confirmed on examination. Enquiries were made at the dairy although the premises of Producer Retailers are now under the full control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the opinion was formed that the method of cleansing and sterilising bottles was not satisfactory. A communication was sent to the Milk Production Officer and later, after investigation the Divisional Milk Officer replied that conditions generally were reasonable. When a sample of the milk was taken, the bacteriological standard was satisfactory, but a sediment test carried out on milk produced at the same time was not entirely satisfactory bearing in mind the standard which should be obtained in the production of T.T. milk.

### Milk Bottles.

Dairymen still reported the misuse of milk bottles by members of the public. One is constantly hearing of foreign bodies being found in milk, due apparently to the failure of the human element in supervising bottle washing plants. It is hoped that eventually non-returnable cartons will be used, although doubtless this may not be popular with some as it is likely to make a slight increase in the cost of milk to the public.

## **Food Premises.**

The inspection and supervision of food premises is always regarded as one of the most important responsibilities of the Public Health Department. It is pleasing to note that the standard shows a steady improvement.

Shopkeepers doubtless are realising that cleanliness and hygiene can do as much good as advertising, although certain members of the public are still slow to insist upon the highest standard. Whilst everything possible is done to educate shopkeepers and their staff, much work is carried on whilst the inspector is not present, and at these times certain unhygienic practices are likely to arise. There have been however, some public spirited members of the public who have reported matters which appeared to them to be unsatisfactory, and their complaints together with certain anonymous letters which are received, are always acted upon. In particular, it seems unfortunate that the Food Hygiene Regulations do not go as far as to prohibit smoking by members of the public whilst handling food and the introduction of dogs into food premises. One would welcome the introduction of the Continental practice of provision being made for them to be left tied outside food premises. It has been noted that a certain large concern do request members of the public not to smoke whilst in their store, and it appears that this request is complied with, with few exceptions. Several of the larger village shops are going over to pre-packing and self-service of all commodities and this goes a long way to prevent contamination of food.

## **Catering Premises**

The inspection of this type of premises took up a considerable amount of time and it is pleasing to note that conditions found were general satisfactory with a few exceptions. It has become obvious that some persons are purchasing such businesses whilst their knowledge of the requirements is very slight. In such circumstances, the necessary standard is only maintained by constant supervision. It is also unfortunate that in this area, with the exception of the large factories and schools, canteen work is neither highly paid nor very much sought after and in some instances the type of labour available is very inferior. In other cases, shortage of staff means that without such constant supervision, the essential tasks of cleaning are neglected, and very often conditions in the kitchen are not as good as they are in the dining space.

## **Food Premises — Schools.**

School Canteens have been inspected, although these premises come under the jurisdiction of the County Health Authority. These establishments can always be held as a model for other similar premises both in the conditions maintained and the staff working in them. This is due no doubt to the fact that profit making is not the only concern.

## **Bakehouses.**

There are few of these premises still existing in the District and now we have only one of the older type left. In such premises it is only through constant vigilance that the required standard of cleanliness is maintained.

## **Licensed Premises.**

Further improvements have been carried out although the speed of such work has not been entirely satisfactory. Subsequent to the coming into operation of the

Food Hygiene Regulations, the various Brewery Companies were written to with regard to bringing their premises up to the standard required to comply with the Regulations. It became evident that some of the smaller Licenced Premises, which strictly speaking were nothing more than beer houses, would have some difficulty in complying with the Statute. It was obvious that the cost of bringing these houses up to standard as regards hygiene and sanitation to satisfy modern requirements was not economic and two premises were closed down during the year. Customs are changing and doubtless further such premises will eventually be closed, once Brewery Companies have decided on a Scheme for their respective areas. It has been found however, that where improvements have been effected and informal approach has been used, which has perhaps been more lengthy, has meant that facilities which were finally provided have been far superior to those which could be required by the strict letter of the law.

### **Inspection of Food.**

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

- 1 Stone Dogfish
- 5 Milky Ways
- 1 Milk Flake
- 2 Treets
- 1 Rollo
- 1 Toffoluxe
- $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. White Cap Cooking Fat
- 1 Pkt. Shredded Wheat
- 1 Tin Fanfare Steak (15 $\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.)
- 2 Tins Golden Syrup (1 lb.)
- 2 Tins Pineapple (16 ozs.)
- 1 Tin Sardines
- 1 Tin Chicken Soup (16 ozs.)
- 5 Tins Oranges (11 $\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.)
- 1 Tin Tomatoes (8 $\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.)
- 1 Tin Peas
- Sponge Cakes (28)
- 1 Tin Corned Beef (7 lbs.)
- 3 Tins Coffee (4 ozs.)
- 2 Tins Nescafe (1 oz.)
- 1 Tin Cream (6 ozs.)
- 3 Tins Tomatoes (8 ozs.)
- 1 Tin Peaches (16 ozs.)
- 2 Tins Peaches (30 ozs.)
- 14 lbs. Forequarter Beef (Home Killed)

Once again the great majority became unfit due to bad conditions of storage. Doubtless however, the amount actually dealt with by the Public Health Inspectors was only a small proportion of the total amount that was unfit. Various firms require a Condemnation Certificate from the Inspector before a replacement is issued, but others deal with this matter through their Representative.

### **Report on Liquid Egg Sampling**

During the year ending 31st March, 1959, an investigation was carried out within the District in conjunction with the Medical Research Council with a view to determining whether or not Salmonella organisms (causes of Food Poisoning) could be isolated from liquid egg manufactured within the District. Investigations

had proved that imported egg products particularly those of Chinese origin had been responsible for cases of Food Poisoning in this country. The following summarizes the information obtained and it is gratifying to note that not in any instance was Salmonella isolated:—

#### PLATE COUNTS

	Less than 100,000 per ml.	100,000 to 1 ml.	More than 1 million
Heath & Reach ... .. (Stanley Turnbull Ltd.)	12	11	3
Eaton Bray ... .. (The Rye — Mr. Tearle)	9	2	—
Eaton Bray ... .. (Icknield Farm—Mr. Bunker)	13	12	6
	34	25	9

#### REPORT ON THE PRESENCE OF FAECAL COLI IN LIQUID EGG.

Negative results were obtained in 14 samples out of a total of 68, these having been found as follows:—

Heath & Reach ... ..	4
Eaton Bray — The Rye ... ..	6
Eaton Bray — Icknield Farm ... ..	4
	14

The positive 'Faecal Coli' results were as follows:—

36 samples showed faecal coli present in 0.01 ml.
9 samples showed faecal coli present in 0.1 ml.
9 samples showed faecal coli present in 1.0 ml.

#### REPORT ON THE ISOLATION OF SALMONELLAE.

Salmonella/shigella were NOT isolated from any of the 68 samples examined.

#### Observations.

The most satisfactory results were obtained at the small egg-packing station at Eaton Bray although the results obtained from the much larger premises at Heath and Reach were comparably good.

The standard of hygiene practised at these egg-packing stations is satisfactory and a sincere attempt to apply the recommendations of the Ministry of Health for the hygienic production of liquid egg is being made. Refrigeration is readily available and liquid egg is rarely standing at atmospheric temperature for more than three hours.

It appears advisable and doubtless this is being done by the Ministry of Health that the possibility of the compulsory pasteurisation of all liquid egg before sale to bakers and confectioners, etc., should be investigated. I understand that in Northern Ireland, Australia and U.S.A., pasteurisation of this commodity is being carried out.

## Food Poisoning

A case of Food Poisoning was reported (Salmonella-newport). The patient was a lad aged 14 years, and it was established that the boy's sister was a carrier of the organism. Specimens of faeces were obtained from other members of the family and in the first instance the mother and a 17 year old brother were found to be 'Positive.' Arrangements were made for this brother who was employed at an Egg Packing Station, to discontinue work, but on the receipt of three 'Negative' reports he was allowed to resume. It became evident that the infection occurred after eating some brawn which was purchased in Aylesbury. Enquiries had established that there had been other cases in the adjoining areas and later cases were reported in other parts of the country, and finally it was established that the organisms were brought into the country with quantities of imported meat.

A further case of Salmonella-newport was reported concerning a boy who was home on holiday. It appeared that the infection arose while he was at school and details were forwarded to the Local Authority in that area for any necessary investigation. In view of the fact that his home was connected with food premises, members of the family and the assistants were checked but all cases proved to be 'Negative.'

## Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.

All animals slaughtered for human consumption have been inspected. It is very pleasing to note that 100% inspection has been possible, most of this work being carried out before 9 o'clock in the morning. The general standard of hygiene is satisfactory, but the occupiers from time to time have to be reminded of their responsibilities.

It is anticipated that the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene Regulations) will further reduce the number of premises where animals are slaughtered.

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 ... ..	874	105	12	2903	1339	5233
Number Inspected ... ..	874	105	12	2903	1339	5233
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>All diseases except</b>						
<b>Tuberculosis:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	5	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	234	46	—	242	100	622
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	26.77	44.76	—	8.51	7.47	11.89
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	8	5	—	—	4	17
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tubercu- losis ... ..	.92	4.76	—	—	.30	.32

It is pleasing to note a general decrease in the amount of meat and offal condemned because of Tuberculosis, but doubtless this trend will be maintained. One has to realise that in meat inspection, certain conditions can well exist which may prove far more dangerous to the consumer of infected meat than Tuberculosis. The general standard of meat produced remains high and of the meat and offal condemned, most of this is used for animal food, being removed from the slaughterhouse by the purchaser himself.

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

	MEAT	OFFAL
	lbs.	lbs.
Cows ... ..	642	664
Other Cattle ... ..	—	2422
Sheep ... ..	224	387½
Calves ... ..	—	—
Pigs ... ..	21	213
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	887	3686½
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tuberculosis ...	279 lbs.	
Other Diseases ...	429½ ..	
	<hr/>	
	4573½ ..	
	<hr/>	

Three cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected. In all cases the cysts were degenerated and all necessary precautions were taken to protect the public. Details were forwarded to the appropriate Local Authorities in order that any necessary investigations could be carried out. In so many cases however, the animals concerned have been moved from one part of the country to another via various farms and markets and no firm conclusions can be reached as to the possible source of infection.

#### **Poultry Slaughter, preparation and Packing.**

During the year, a new plant was erected within the District for this purpose. In its early stages, production started on a small scale but towards the end of the year the output had begun to reach the figure of practically 4,000 birds per week.

The factory is equipped with modern plant and machinery, and inspections carried out from time to time, found that the standard of hygiene being maintained was satisfactory. The regular system of meat inspection at such premises is hardly practicable without full time staff, and in this connection I am of opinion that this would not be justified. Fortunately, poultry disease to a very large extent provides its own safeguards, insofar that the bird either quickly succumbs to disease or its condition is so affected that it could not be produced in a marketable state. However, the condition of these premises is kept under constant observation.

#### **Rodent Control.**

This service has been maintained in a satisfactory manner. The District is regularly surveyed and particular attention is constantly paid to the Public Sewers, Sewage Disposal Works, Refuse Tips, Pig Keeping and Poultry Establishments and business premises where quantities of food are stored.

During the year not more than 139 complaints were received and this reasonably low figure is some indication of the efficiency of control in this matter.

The only regrettable feature in this service is the fact that the County Pest Department is no longer responsible for rodent control, the service having been handed over to private Pest Contractors, and although co-operation with these firms is reasonable, it can hardly be expected to be as effectual as that obtaining between two Local Authorities.

The Council's Rodent Operative is Mr. E. Todd who has completed his two years as Rodent Operative after having served the Council in other capacities for nearly 30 years.

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

	RATS	MICE
Houses Surveyed ... ..	1043	18
"  Treated ... ..	221	17
Business Premises Surveyed ... ..	193	10
"  "  Treated ... ..	52	10
Agricultural Premises Surveyed ... ..	4	—
"  "  Treated ... ..	2	—
Sewers Surveyed ... ..	16	—
"  Treated ... ..	11	—
Sewage Disposal Works Surveyed ... ..	110	—
"  "  Treated ... ..	34	—
Refuse Tips Surveyed ... ..	62	—
"  "  Treated ... ..	7	—
Other Places Surveyed ... ..	45	—
"  "  Treated ... ..	18	—

### 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, bees and other pests.

### Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

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)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	4	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	53	23	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>

It was found necessary in 5 cases to issue written notices concerning insufficient, unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences, and by the end of the year all 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.

With few exceptions, Electrical Pumps and Appliances within the District comply with the Model Code Requirements in respect of Electrically Operated Meter Pumps.

### **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 six old persons. In one case arrangements have had to be made for the burial of a person who had died within the District and whose relatives were unable to arrange the burial.

### **Prevention of Fowl Pest.**

Where it becomes evident that bins used by Waste Food Dealers are returned to premises in an unsterilised condition, the information is sent to the Divisional Veterinary Officer.

### **Public Health Department — Staff.**

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to the members of my staff who have proved to be most efficient and loyal 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).

Mr. E. Todd—Rodent Operative.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**L. G. HILL,**

Senior Public Health Inspector.