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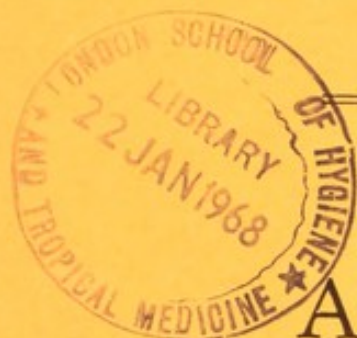


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Luton Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1960



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Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL
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Medical Officer of Health

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Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1960

To the Luton Rural District Council

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1960

The Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton

December, 1961.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Health Report for 1960.

The health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year, although there was an epidemic of Dysentery in the Sundon area during the early months of the year. All the cases were mild in character and concerned chiefly children. 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 was absent. Seven cases of Food Poisoning occurred.

There were thirty deaths from Cancer, of which eleven were Cancer of the Lung.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk of 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.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Vital Statistics.

Area of district	48,051 acres
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	30,010
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	10,600
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1960	£345,839
Product of Penny Rate	£1,484
Number of new houses erected:	
(a) Council	588
(b) Private enterprise	444

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1960 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

Live Births :

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

Total	M.	F.
833	450	383
785	430	355
48	20	28
Crude Rate	27.8	
Adjusted Rate	25.3	

Still Births :

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

Total	M.	F.
13	6	7
1	—	1
	16.5	
	0.5	

Total Live and Still Births :

Live ...	
Still ...	

Total	M.	F.
833	450	383
14	6	8
847	456	391

Deaths of Infants

Infant deaths (under one year of age):

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male ...	12	—	12			
Female ...	7	3	10			
Total ...	19	3	22	26.4	22.8	3.6

Infant deaths (under four weeks of age):

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male	9	—	9			
Female	5	2	7			
Total	14	2	16	19.2	16.8	2.4

Illegitimate Live Births = 5.8 of total live birth.

Maternal deaths	2
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	2.4

Deaths :

Male	138	Death Rate— Crude 8.2 Adjusted 10.5
Female	108	
Total	246	

Births :

	Rates per 1,000 civilian population	
	Luton R.D.C.	England & Wales
Live Births	25.3	17.1
Still Births	(0.5	(16.5
		19.7 (a)

Deaths :

All causes	10.5	11.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.0	0.0
Whooping Cough	0.0	0.0
Diphtheria	0.0	0.0
Tuberculosis	0.1	0.08
Influenza	0.0	0.04
Smallpox	0.0	0.0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.0	0.0
Pneumonia	0.47	0.53

Notifications (corrected):

Typhoid Fever	0.0	0.0
Paratyphoid Fever	0.0	0.0
Meningococcal infection	0.0	0.01
Scarlet Fever	1.0	0.70
Whooping Cough	1.1	1.26
Diphtheria	0.0	0.0
Erysipelas	0.03	0.06
Smallpox	0.0	0.0
Measles	5.5	3.48
Pneumonia	0.27	0.32
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio Encephalitis)		
Paralytic	0.0	0.0
Non-Paralytic	0.0	0.0
Food Poisoning	0.23	0.17
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.03	10.87
Dysentery	5.5	0.95

Deaths :

	Rates per 1,000 live births	
All causes under 1 year of age	22.4	21.7
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0.0	0.4

CAUSE OF DEATH

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All Causes	138	108
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1
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	3	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2
16. Diabetes	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	16
18. Coronary disease, angina	28	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
20. Other heart disease	11	17
21. Other circulatory disease	6	8
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	8	6
24. Bronchitis	12	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2
31. Congenital malformations	3	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34. All other accidents	4	1
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—

Population

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1960 was 30,010 and the table below shows that there has been a total increase of population of 9,320 in the last five years.

Population 1954 — 1960

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
1960	30,010	3,210	14.8

“Natural Increase” shows the difference between the birth and death rates. The average yearly increase in the last five years is 1,864.

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 0.91.

The Birth Rate for 1960 was 25.3 after multiplying the "crude" Birth Rate of 27.8 by the "comparability factor". The Birth Rate for England and Wales as a whole was 17.1.

The total number of live births was 833.

Still Births

The number of still births was 14 and Still Birth Rate 0.5 per 1,000 population. The Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was 16.5.

Death Rate

The Uncorrected Death Rate was 8.2. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the "comparability factor" of 1.28, by which a corrected Death Rate of 10.5 is obtained. The Rate for England and Wales was 11.5.

Infant Mortality

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

	0-	Weeks			Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
		1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Prematurity	9	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital malformations	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	1	—	1	2	3	1	—	—	6
Cardiac failure	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Weakness after birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	13	1	—	2	16	4	2	—	—	22

Maternal Deaths

Two maternal deaths were registered during the year. These are the first maternal deaths since 1952.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1951-1960

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
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	—	—	—	—
1960	30,010	833	25.3	14	16.5	246	10.5	16	6	22	26.4	—	2	2	2.4

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>15 to 24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>	<i>Age Un- known</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	1	—	3	6	—	16	4	—	—	—	30
Whooping Cough	4	6	4	2	7	8	2	—	—	—	33
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	5	16	18	25	15	85	1	1	—	—	166
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	8	10	5	6	49	18	5	32	29	165
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. pneumonia	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3	8
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. encephalitis (Infective)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Food poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Glandular Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	18	31	35	39	28	159	27	7	37	34	415

Scarlet Fever

Thirty cases were notified compared with thirty-one in 1959.

Whooping Cough

Thirty-Three cases were notified. There were six cases in 1959.

Measles

One hundred and sixty-six cases were notified as compared with four hundred and nineteen in 1959.

Diphtheria

Once again no cases were notified.

Dysentery

One hundred and sixty-five cases were notified compared with four in 1959. Of these, one hundred and twenty-nine occurred in Sundon Park in the early months of the year.

Poliomyelitis

The district was free from this disease during 1960. There were no cases in 1959 either.

Food Poisoning

Seven cases were notified within the area during the year. Three of these were infants at a residential nursery at Kensworth where the causal organism was *Salmonella Typhimurium*. One case occurred at Houghton Regis, one at Totternhoe, and two at Sundon Park.

TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1960

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

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.

During the year in only one case was it necessary to take action under this section.

Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report 1960

1. WATER SUPPLY

Mains Water

Mains water throughout the District has been sampled at regular intervals and the Public Health Laboratory reports are as follows:—

Number of Samples obtained 104

all of which were Highly Satisfactory

The rate at which dwelling houses formerly served by standpipes have been provided with an indoor water supply has proceeded satisfactorily.

Water services have been extended at Leighton Road, Billington, and an improved supply became available at Slip End and Caddington during the year.

Private Water Supplies

The private borehole supply serving the Holywell Road Estate, Studham, failed during the year and subsequently the houses being served thereby have been connected to the Council's main.

Apart from the water supply serving Dane Street Farm and cottages, 14 other private sources of water were sampled and the bacteriological reports are as follows:—

Highly Satisfactory	...	...	...	8
Satisfactory	...	...	...	3
Polluted	...	...	...	3
				<u>14</u>

Where pollution has become evident steps have been taken to render the water safe for drinking and domestic purposes.

With respect to the borehole supply at Dane Street Farm, bacteriological examination revealed serious pollution and this was traced to birds having entered the storage tank. Various other improvements were carried out in connection with this supply and the Laboratory Reports are now satisfactory.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Further progress was made during the year in the provision of sewerage to various areas within the Rural District. The most important progress to be noted in this respect was that the sewer became available to the Warden Hill area in the Streatley parish early in 1960, and before the end of the year most of the dwelling houses were connected thereto.

At Lower Woodside, Upper Woodside and Slip End, works of extending the Caddington sewer commenced during the year and where it became available for connection thereto satisfactory progress was made in connecting dwelling houses.

A sewer was laid in the S.W. corner of the vil age of Eggington, and this apart from having the advantage of serving some new housing development, provided improved drainage facilities for all the Council's dwelling houses in the parish and also served a number of older types of private dwelling houses.

During the post-war years sewers have been laid in the parishes of Heath and Reach, Tebworth, Caddington, Warden Hill and in the parish of Barton an old sink waste sewer has been replaced and extended.

However, much remains to be done in this connection and the Priority List of parishes for the installation of sewers agreed to by the Council in 1958 has not been progressed through at the rate hoped for at the time. The Tilsworth and Sundon Schemes have been subjected to many unforeseen delays and having regard to the insanitary conditions obtaining in these villages, this is a matter for serious misgiving. The rate of development at Kensworth in particular and in the Eaton Bray-Totternhoe area, makes the question of the provision of adequate sewerage facilities one of extreme urgency. It is quite natural that every unsewered village makes claim to a priority for adequate sewerage, having regard to the increasing difficulties the Cesspool Emptying Service is meeting with and the insanitary condition of ditches and watercourses traversing them.

3. PONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES.

The improvement in sewerage facilities referred to in Paragraph 2, (Drainage and Sewerage), is reflected in the improved condition of ditches and watercourses in those parishes where the improvement has been effected. The services of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department in the cleansing and maintenance of some of the village ditches helps to maintain reasonable conditions but there are a number of instances to be found in most of the unsewered parishes where the conditions in this respect leave a lot to be desired.

Ponds in various parishes are a source of recurring Nuisances which are usually evident during the Summer and Autumn. The Highway Authority has a right of drainage into the ponds but appear to accept no responsibility for their cleansing and maintenance. Over a period of months, sometimes years, a relatively large quantity of filth may be washed off the highway and is deposited in the ponds as surface water passes through. It seems unreasonable to require the frontager to clean the pond when it appears that almost the entire pollution comes off the highway. It is time that the Highway Authority accepted its responsibility as a person by whose act or default such conditions as I referred to above arise.

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

The installation of sewers in various parts of the Rural District is another factor which ultimately contributes to improved conditions in this respect.

5. CLOSET ACOMMODATION.

Progress in the conversion at a very satisfactory rate of Pail and Earth Closets into Water Closets at Tebworth, Caddington, Woodside and Eggington is being maintained. Owner/Occupiers are anxious to proceed with the conversion and generally there has not been great difficulty experienced in persuading owners of tenanted houses to effect the necessary improvements.

6. PUBLIC CLEANSING—Cesspool Emptying and Refuse Collection.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for the control and operation of these services.

The Cesspool Emptying Service worked under maximum demand during the year. The relief obtained in the Caddington and Slip End area was cancelled by the

housing development in unsewered areas such as Kensworth, Studham and Tilsworth. The extreme difficulty in finding suitable sites for the disposal of Cesspool Emptier contents was however the major problem with which this Service had to contend. This situation emphasises the need for urgency in providing sewers in the parishes which give rise to this hazard.

With respect to refuse, by the end of the year the Service was approaching a weekly to eight day frequency of collection but difficulties in obtaining suitable sites for refuse disposal tended to limit further improvements. During the year the Council considered the questions of disposal of refuse by composting and improving the system of storage of refuse and collection by means of the non-returnable "Paper Bag" method.

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	851
Ditches	23
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc.	59
Water Supply	54
Water Samples	147

NUISANCES

Premises (defects)	204
Filthy or Verminous Premises	1
Disinfestation (Bugs, fleas)	12
.. (Other insects)	38
Animals	27
Smoke and Dust	128
Rodents	43
Miscellaneous Visits and Reinspections	399

SPECIAL PREMISES

Factories and Outworkers	41
Knacker's Yards	33
Village Halls, Institutes etc.	1
Schools	18
Hotels and Public Houses	77
Petroleum	135
Moveable Dwellings	1335

FOOD

General Stores	149
Butcher's Shops	39
Fish Shops and Vehicles	11
Bakehouses	5
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	76
Meat and Food Inspection	764

MILK AND ICE CREAM

Dairies	11
Milk Samples	4
Ice Cream Premises	6
Ice Cream Retail Vehicles	1
Ice Cream Samples	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations	518
Disinfections	6
Food Poisoning	10

CLEANSING SERVICES	...	...	...	...	...	44
HOUSING						
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	266
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	184
MISCELLANEOUS						
Burial Acts	...	...	...	...	...	2
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	4
Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	39
						<u>5777</u>

8. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

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

In two instances it was found necessary to resort to Statutory Action in order to effect the abatement of Nuisances.

The abatement of Nuisances which have arisen as a result of the absence of proper drainage schemes and a public sewer have been expedited as a result of the provision of such sewers in the Warden Hill and Caddington areas. Conditions which have usually related to conditions of disrepair in premises have generally been abated satisfactorily although as I have reported in previous years there is some difficulty in parishes which have no builder established within. Builders who are primarily engaged on the construction of new houses are usually reluctant to undertake works of general or minor repair.

9. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 came into operation.

By the end of the year there were 674 caravans in permanent use and 81 being used temporarily.

Number of sites stationing more than 100 caravans	...	2
Number of sites stationing more than 50 caravans and less than 100	...	3
Number of sites with 6 or more but less than 50 caravans	...	13
Number of sites with less than 6 caravans	...	56

The Model Standards which in the opinion of the Minister should normally be expected as a matter of good practice on sites which are used regularly as residential caravan sites were adopted with slight modifications according to particular circumstances. It is hoped that as a result of this new Charter for caravan sites, conditions obtaining on caravan sites will approach within reason those which should normally be found on a housing site. If Planning Permission of reasonable duration, preferably not less than 15 years is granted, site owners should provide all the necessities, facilities and conveniences which are found on housing sites and this includes the provision of good drainage and water closet accommodation.

A disquieting feature about the use of caravans as permanent homes is the tendency to overcrowd them. There are the equivalent of 3 adults (2 children under 10 counting as an adult), in 4 out of every 10 caravans and in 2 out of every 10 caravans that number is exceeded. In some instances caravans are occupied by the equivalent of 5 adults or families of 4 and 5 children.

10. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Dust Emission at Houghton Regis, Chalton and Sundon.

During the year Deposit Gauges have been in use as follows:—

2 sites in Houghton Regis—Malmsey and Houghton Road (six months only in Houghton Road) and sites at Sundon, Chalton and Barton (6 months only at Barton).

Houghton Regis (Malmsey). The average monthly total deposit of dust was higher than that recorded in 1959 and it is to be regretted that the improvement had not been sustained. However, having regard to the close proximity of the Deposit Gauge to the Cement Works the reading is considered to be satisfactory.

Houghton Regis—Houghton Road. The readings here were expected to be less than those which have been obtained having regard to the fact that this area is situated to the S.W. of the Works and therefore is favourably placed having regard to the prevailing wind in that area. The deposit here should however, show an improvement in the future as Dust Arrestors have recently been installed at all the loading bays. The failure to maintain the low figure recorded in 1959 is doubtless partly due to the need for overhauling No 3 Kiln and Precipitator at the Works and it is intended to commence these works early in 1961.

Sundon and Chalton. The readings here are slightly in excess of those recorded in 1959. The reduction of dust deposits in these areas will not be forthcoming until the Works are modernised insofar as Dust Arrestment facilities are concerned. I am glad to be able to report that after lengthy consideration and delays it is intended to install a method of dust arrestment by electrical precipitation during 1961.

Barton. The average monthly deposit here is quite low and is typical of that for Rural areas without industry. Having regard to the close proximity of the Lime Works one can only consider the position here as being satisfactory.

	Houghton Regis Malmsey	Houghton Regis Houghton Road	Sundon Village	Chalton	Barton
1960 ...	45.21	39.46	24.60	18.35	8.70
1959 ...	39.20	—	22.75	17.10	8.98
1958 ...	52.88	—	29.70	15.13	—

11. HOUSING ACTS 1936-1960.

The following is a summary of the results of procedure taken under the above mentioned statutes during the years 1954-1960:—

(i) Undertakings given to render houses fit for habitation ...	14
(ii) Undertakings given not to use for human habitation ...	6
(iii) Closing Orders made ...	12
(iv) Reconstructed under Section 24 ...	6
(v) Demolished ...	96
(vi) Demolition Orders operative where demolition can be effected forthwith ...	14
(vii) Demolition Orders operative but works of demolition can only be satisfactorily effected when adjoining houses are vacant ...	23
(viii) Demolition Orders made but cannot be operated until tenants are rehoused ...	38
(ix) Houses dealt with by the Committee but on which a resolution has not been formed ...	3
(x) Houses reported to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and to be dealt with during 1961 ...	35
(xi) Houses demolished as a result of Informal procedure ...	51
(xii) Unfit houses occupied by elderly persons which will be demolished by the owners on becoming vacant ...	13
Total ...	311

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Year Ending 31.12.60

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Displaced during Year Persons	Families
IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	—	—
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	15	33	12
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	—	—
A2. Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed	Nil	—	—

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

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

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

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local authority	58	—
(12) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	Nil	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	1	—
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	—

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

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

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 ...	Nil	—

FOOD INSPECTION — FOOD HYGIENE.

Ice Cream.

Five premises were registered for the sale and storage of Ice Cream. The occupiers of the premises are always advised as to the necessary precautions to be taken to prevent contamination and during inspections particular attention is paid to conditions under which Ice Cream is stored.

Shop-keepers invariably sell pre-packed Ice Cream. This is considered to be essential having regard to the wide variety of goods sold.

Four samples of Ice Cream were obtained during the year, each of which was found to be Grade 1.

With rare exception Ice Cream sold within the District is supplied by four large manufacturers.

Milk — Milk Sampling.

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	2	2	—
T.T.	1	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	3	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

No complaints with respect to sour milk were received during the year. This is doubtless due to the increasing standards of hygiene and improved methods of storage at every stage of production and retail. It is also pleasing to report that only one complaint concerning milk bottles was received. This indicates a steady improvement in methods of cleansing and sterilising and following a series of complaints in former years, this improvement is noteworthy.

Catering Premises.

Regular inspections were carried out and except for two cafes the standard of hygiene showed gradual improvement. With respect to the cafes where contraventions had been observed, a decided improvement had become evident in one of these by the end of the year following a warning of Statutory Action by the Council. It became obvious at the other cafe that shortage of labour was mainly responsible for failure to reach a satisfactory standard of hygiene and owing to the general decline in trade which had affected some of the Watling Street Transport Cafes, the necessary structural improvements and alterations did not appear to be warranted. The premises were closed towards the end of the year.

Retail Shops.

Particular attention has been paid to the standards of hygiene existing in these premises from which is sold food and various kinds of household necessities. Attention has been paid particularly to ensuring that suitable precautions are taken where potatoes and soiled vegetables are sold and advice is given where necessary with respect to the sale of paraffin.

School Canteens.

Inspections have been maintained regularly and co-operation from the County Health Authority has been excellent. Where improvements have been considered necessary attention has been drawn to them and usually there has been no delay in effecting the works.

Bakehouses.

These have been inspected from time to time and generally the standard has been satisfactory. There is only one of the older type of bakehouse left in the District and improvements to modernise are contemplated here.

Licensed Premises.

These have been inspected regularly and during the year improvements were carried out at many such premises in order that the Food Hygiene Regulations could be satisfied. One of the difficulties being met with is the use of detergents in sterilising glass, etc. There appears to be some doubt concerning the effect of these cleansing agents on the commodity sold but doubtless these prejudices will be overcome when the proper use of detergents is understood or such are used in the manner prescribed by the makers.

Inspection of Food.

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

- 5 Tins Apricots (14 oz.)
- 1 Tin Pineapple (20 oz.)
- 2 Tins Pineapple (16 oz.)
- 2 Tins Grapefruit (20 oz.)
- 1 Tin Grapefruit (10 oz.)
- 1 Tin Orange Juice (20 oz.)
- 2 Bottles Orange Juice (16 oz.)
- 1 Tin Stuffed Pork (10 oz.)
- 1 Tin Tomatoes (8 oz.)
- 5 Tins Peas (5 oz.)
- 1 Jar Pickle (10 oz.)
- 1 Jar Jam (16 oz.)
- 2 Tins Pork Luncheon Meat (14 oz.)
- 16 lbs. Ham
- 14 lbs. Haddock Fillets
- 1—4 lb. Tin Minced Pork.

Only one complaint with respect to extraneous matter in food was made, this being in connection with a piece of sacking found in a sliced loaf of bread. The Bakery concerned is situated within an adjoining Authority's area and a thorough investigation has been carried out. Subsequently the customer received a visit from the Management and I understand that further precautions have been taken to ensure that the trouble could not recur.

Food Poisoning.

Seven cases of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

Two of these were traced to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital and 2 cases in babies at the Nursing Home, Red Row Cottages, Kensworth. This Nursing Home is maintained in a scrupulously clean condition and the Foster Mother expressed the opinion that one of the babies had been infected before arriving at the Home.

Cases of sickness and diarrhoea occurred amongst a number of children at Sundon Village School and on investigation the only source of infection common to all cases were blackberries which had been gathered from the hedges. There had previously been heavy spraying of Pesticides by aeroplane, helicopter and tractor for agricultural purposes in the locality, these having included Sulphuric Acid, Perinox, Zineb (which contains Zinc Carbonate), Sodium and Potassium Arsenite, Cuprous Oxide and Copper Oxy-Chloride.

The various firms and farmers concerned were communicated with regarding this matter and advised to use such sprays strictly in accordance with the Manufacturer's directions.

Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.

The Statutory Reports required for submission under Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 and the Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction 1959 were submitted to the Council on the 17th October.

At the time of reporting there are seven slaughterhouses within the Rural District, 2 of which have not been used during the past year and a further two premises where it would be extremely difficult to satisfy the requirements of the new Construction and Hygiene Regulations. Consequently the owners have indicated their reluctance to continue using the premises as slaughterhouses. It would appear that by the time the day appointed for compliance with the Act and Regulations is reached, there will be not more than three private slaughterhouses within the Rural District, two of these being sited at Toddington and one at Houghton Regis. There are no public slaughterhouses within the Rural District.

Most of the meat inspection is carried out between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 9 a.m., and this takes place every morning with the exception of Sundays. All meat intended for human consumption is inspected.

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

MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	1042	85	52	2353	1209	4741
Number Inspected	1042	85	52	2353	1209	4741
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All diseases except						
Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	—	3	7	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	175	41	—	39	71	326
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	16.89	49.41	—	1.78	6.45	7.13
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	1	—	—	5	9
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tubercu- losis ... ..	.29	1.18	—	—	.41	.19

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

	MEAT lbs.	OFFAL lbs.
Cows	186	441
Other Cattle	507	1851
Calves	—	—
Sheep	187	116½
Pigs	856	380
	<hr/> 1736	<hr/> 2788½
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tuberculosis	194 lbs.	
Other Diseases	4330½ ..	
	<hr/> 4524½ ..	

Only one case of *Cysticercus Bovis* was detected. The cysts were found to be degenerated and the necessary precautions were taken. Details were forwarded to the appropriate Local Authority in order that any investigation considered necessary could be carried out.

Poultry Slaughter, Preparation and Packing.

The recently erected Poultry Packing Factory at Eaton Bray reached its full capacity during the year and the output during some weeks totalled 5,000 birds.

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.

Certain large food firms who are supplied with poultry from the Packing Station also have a system of inspection of the poultry and this provides further safeguards.

Rodent Control.

The following is a summary of inspections, treatments, etc., carried out during the year:—

	RATS	MICE
Number of houses surveyed	1294	15
" " " treated	167	14
Number of business premises surveyed	195	7
" " " " treated	33	6
Number of agricultural premises surveyed	20	—
" " " " treated	9	—
Number of sewers surveyed	34	—
" " " treated	29	—
Number of sewage disposal works surveyed	100	—
" " " " " treated	20	—
Number of refuse tips surveyed	69	—
" " " " treated	10	—
Number of other places surveyed	53	—
" " " " treated	26	—

The number of complaints being received towards the end of the year showed an increase on previous years. This may have been due to the mild winter or possibly changing trends in farming methods. I am inclined to the view however, that most of the trouble arises from the fact that agricultural lands and premises are not being covered as extensively as when the County Pest Department were responsible for this service. Whereas between the two authorities good liaison had been established in this matter this is less practicable with private firms which contract to destroy rodents. Furthermore, whereas the County when carrying out this work concentrated on the destruction of rats and mice the private contractors also specialise in the destruction of every other kind of agricultural pest.

Other Pests.

The Public Health Officers and the Rodent Operative have given much advice to householders on the destruction of various pests and during the year 67 wasps nests were destroyed.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

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

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occ's Pros. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	38	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	57	41	5	—

Outworkers.

From time to time an inspection is carried out in the homes of "Outworkers" and occasionally it has been found necessary to draw attention to the need for the maintenance of a high standard of cleanliness in such homes.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts 1928 & 1936.

All installations are inspected during the year. Generally conditions were found to be satisfactory but where contraventions are observed the licence holder's attention is drawn to same. Of the 72 licences issued 42 of these are with respect to electrical installations and 30 where handpumps are being used. Only in five instances was it found that the Model Code of Requirements for electrical equipment was not complied with and with respect to these, proposals for meeting the requirements were under consideration.

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

Infectious Diseases.

Cases reported by the Medical Officer of Health are investigated with a view to tracing the source of infection. The epidemic of Sonne Dysentery referred to in the report of the Medical Officer of Health called for a considerable amount of work in investigating and preventive measures

National Assistance Act 1948.

Care of Old Persons and Burial of the Dead.

During the year it has been necessary to submit reports with respect to four persons who were incapable of properly caring for themselves and in one instance an application to the Court for the appropriate order for removal was made. This step is not taken until every possible informal approach has been made.

In one instance arrangements had to be made for the burial of a person who had died within the District but whose relatives were unable to arrange burial.

The Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957.

Prevention of Fowl Pest, etc.

Two cases of contravention of the Order were reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer during the year.

Public Health Department — Staff.

Mr. R. G. Burch who was appointed as an Additional Public Health Inspector to the Council in 1952 succeeded in obtaining the post of Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector to the New Forest Rural District Council in November and he thus terminated his duties here on 31st December.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to Mr. Burch for his loyalty and co-operation during the years he acted as my Deputy. I am also grateful to the other members of my staff who have been most efficient and loyal during the year:—

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.

