

**[Report 1962] / Medical Officer of Health, Luton R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Luton (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1962

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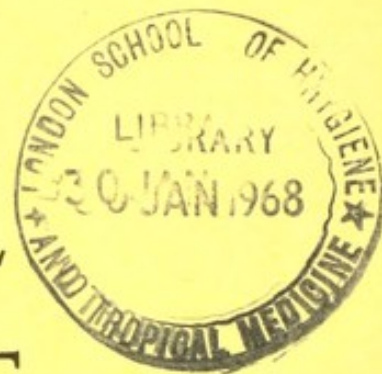


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Luton Rural District Council

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ANNUAL  
REPORT



of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1962



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# Luton Rural District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1962

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October, 1963.

The Chairman and Councillors of the  
Rural District of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Health Report for 1962.

The health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year and there were no serious epidemics except that Measles was again very prevalent as in 1961.

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.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

*Medical Officer of Health*

H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A. (Cantab.), M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),  
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

*Senior Public Health Inspector*

L. G. HILL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

*Additional Public Health Inspector*

T. C. OLIVER, M.R.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



## Statistics and Social Conditions

### Vital Statistics

Area of District .....	47,994 acres
Population as estimated by Registrar-General .....	41,090
Number of inhabited houses (approximate) .....	12,000
Rateable Value as at 1st April 1962 .....	£416,127
Product of Penny Rate .....	£1,740
Number of new houses erected:	
(a) Council .....	595
(b) Private enterprise .....	444

### Extracts from vital statistics for the year

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1962 as furnished by the Registrar General:—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
<b>Live Births :</b>	1149	563	586
Legitimate ...	1093	531	562
Illegitimate	56	32	24
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...	Crude Rate	27.9	
	Adjusted Rate	23.7	

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
<b>Still Births :</b>	18	10	8
Legitimate ...	17	9	8
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...	15.4		
Rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.4		

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
<b>Total Live and Still Births :</b>			
Live ... ..	1149	563	586
Still ... ..	18	10	8
	1167	573	594

### Deaths of Infants

#### INFANT DEATHS (under one year of age)

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male ...	13	—	13			
Female ...	15	1	16			
Total ...	28	1	29	25.2	24.3	0.87

### INFANT DEATHS (under four weeks of age)

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male ...	8	—	8			
Female ...	11	1	12			
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>0.87</b>

### INFANT DEATHS (under one week of age)

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male ...	8	—	8			
Female ...	11	1	12			
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>0.87</b>

### Stillbirths and deaths under one week of age

Still Births ...	18
Deaths under 1 week of age	20
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>38</b>

Combined rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births ... 32.5

Illegitimate Live Births = 4.9% of total Live Births.

Maternal Deaths ... Nil

### Deaths

Male ...	143
Female ...	127
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>270</b>

### Death Rate

Crude ...	2.5
Adjusted ...	9.8

## POPULATION

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1962 was 41,090, and the table below shows that there has been a total increase of population of 21,000 in the last nine years.

### Population 1954 — 1962

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
1961	37,540	7,530	13.9
1962	41,090	3,550	13.9

“National Increase” shows the difference between the birth and death rates. The average yearly increase in the last five years is 3,518.

## CAUSE OF DEATH

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
All Causes	143	127
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	2	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	3
17. Vascular lesion of nervous system	11	18
18. Coronary disease, angina	29	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	1
20. Other heart disease	14	16
21. Other circulatory disease	8	10
22. Influenza	1	—
23. Pneumonia	6	8
24. Bronchitis	7	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
34. All other accidents	2	3
35. Suicide	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—

### 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 0.85.

The Birth Rate for 1962 was 23.7 after multiplying the "crude" Birth Rate of 27.9 by the "comparability factor". The Birth Rate for England and Wales as a whole was 18.0.

The total number of live-births was 1,149.

### Still Births

The number of still births was 18 and the Still Birth Rate 0.4 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was 10.2.

### Death Rate

The uncorrected Death Rate was 6.5. To make allowance for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the "comparability factor" of 1.51, by which a corrected Death Rate of 9.8 is obtained.



## 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 ... ..	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Congenital malformations	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Respiratory failure ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Broncho-Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	2	4	—	—	7
Acute epiglottitis... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Atelectasis... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Meningitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebral haemorrhage ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ..	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29</b>

## 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	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	16
Whooping Cough	1	2	4	5	4	11	5	—	1	—	33
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	26	69	84	96	76	246	9	2	—	—	608
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	6
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	6
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. encephalitis (Infective)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infective)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Glandular Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>677</b>



COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1953-1962

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
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
1961	37,540	973	22.3	10	10.1	216	8.4	17	4	21	21.6	—	—	—	—
1962	41,090	1,149	20.7	18	15.4	270	9.8	20	9	29	25.2	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1962

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5 — 14 ..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15 — 24 ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25 — 44 ..	2	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
45 — 64 ..	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
65 and over	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Age unknown	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS	7	2	1	3	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 it was not necessary to take action in any cases under this section.



# Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report 1962

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## 1. WATER SUPPLY

### Mains Water

Samples have been obtained at regular intervals for Bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton. Of the 164 samples tested only 5 failed to reach the "Highly Satisfactory" standard and the slight pollution in these instances was mostly due to the condition of the taps. The samples taken from public standpipes, a few of which remain in the district, were Highly Satisfactory.

The rate at which indoor water supplies are being provided depends largely on the availability of sewers. The Council are making satisfactory progress with their own properties in providing internal water supplies on all estates but in a few of the parishes the provision of a sewer and the installation of satisfactory drainage is necessary before the public standpipes can be abandoned.

The Council's functions as Water Undertakers were transferred during the year to two Water Boards operating within the County of Bedfordshire namely the Luton Water Company in the South and the Mid. Beds. Water Board.

### Private Water Supplies

There are still quite a number of dwelling houses obtaining their water supply from private sources, these being mostly in the Parish of Hyde and in remote parts of the Rural District where the mains supply is not available.

Thirty-two samples were examined and 11 of these were found to be polluted slightly and in three instances to a greater degree. Recommendations were made with a view to eliminating sources of pollution or carrying out such treatment as would render the water safe for domestic purposes.

### Discolouration of Water

Complaints of excessive sediment in water associated with discolouration were lodged by residents in Sundon Park, Streatley and Barton. The Engineer to the Luton Water Co., informed the Council that measures were being resorted to which should reduce considerably this form of pollution and eventually remove it entirely.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Nineteen sixty-two was a disappointing year in as much as, with the exception of a small length of sewer in the East Hyde area and the extension of existing sewers, no village project of sewer installation was carried out.

Having regard to the insanitary condition obtaining in many ditches within the district and the failure to maintain a satisfactory cesspool emptying service this situation cannot be viewed except with much disquiet. However, many of the frustrations met with in the administrative and technical preparation of various schemes appeared to be overcome by the end of the year and there is every reason to believe that early in 1963 the installation of the sewer in the villages of Kensworth and Sundon will be under way.

Five years have elapsed since the Council accepted a priority schedule for the installation of sewers within the Rural District and during those years such have been installed at Warden Hill, Tebworth, Caddington and Slip End. It is hoped that during the next five years progress will be accelerated and before the 60s are out that the outstanding schemes will have been implemented.



## **Cesspool Emptying**

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

The cesspool emptying service has been working to capacity during the year and it was found necessary to purchase a further second-hand vehicle in order to act as standby during breakdown and overhaul periods.

During the past 12 months some 5,390 cesspools were emptied comprising a total of 11,500 loads and one of the major difficulties has been in finding suitable disposal sites for this quantity of effluent.

Some is being discharged into sewers while the remainder is discharged over the land.

For the second year running, we have been using a chemical deodorant in an attempt to reduce to the minimum any chance for complaint due to this open discharge.

No relief has been made during the year with the provision of main drainage, whilst the number of properties draining to cesspools has been on the increase.

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

The circumstances obtaining in these respects depends very largely on the type of drainage in use in various villages. There is a good deal of pollution of ditches particularly evident where effluents from septic tanks, the overflow of cesspools and sometimes untreated drainage discharges directly into these places. One cannot envisage satisfactory conditions being met with until the villages are adequately sewered.

There remain a few ponds within the district, particularly the Sundon Road pond at Houghton Regis, which, apart from being a nuisance, is also a danger in other respects. It is somewhat of a strange and paradoxical situation whereby the County Highway Authority discharge highway surface water which contains much filth into these ponds yet disclaim responsibility for the removing of such silt and filth which gives rise to conditions which constitute a nuisance. These ponds serve an extremely useful purpose in draining large areas of surrounding development and it would be reasonable therefore for the Highway Authority to accept responsibility for keeping the ponds clear and free of conditions which constitute a nuisance.

## **4. RIVERS AND STREAMS**

The circumstances in this respect have shown little improvement over the past few years this being almost entirely due to the fact that there have been no sewers installed in those parishes where ditches and watercourses are being polluted by drainage which eventually reaches a stream or river. Where any improvement has been carried out in ditches and watercourses the benefits are immediately evident.

## **5. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION**

During the year the outstanding dwelling houses in the Parish of Caddington, apart from those scheduled for demolition, were subject to improvements including the conversion of earth and pail closets into water closets and in most instances the provision of new closet accommodation.

By reason of the halt in the installation of sewers there is little progress to report in other Parishes. There are still far too many villages where pail and earth closets are the only type of sanitary convenience available and some of these have no night soil collection service.

As one prepares paragraphs No. 2-5 of this report the need for sewers assumes paramount importance if the sanitary circumstances in villages is to reach the standard considered to be desirable and essential.

## 6. REFUSE COLLECTION

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

A further new compression type vehicle was delivered during the year and the fleet available has been:—

5 — 16/24 cu. yd. Compression type vehicles.

2 — 11 cu. yd. side loading vehicles.

During the year a reasonable service was made available in spite of difficulties in maintaining a constant complement of labour.

The Council's only refuse disposal tip at Park Road, Toddington, was completed during the year and this is now receiving final treatment prior to reversion to some form of agricultural use.

The disposal of refuse is becoming more difficult but it is hoped in the near future that the Council's own disposal Tip at Blue Waters, Houghton Regis, will come into use and thus reduce some of the present long transport hauls.

## 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 ... ..	172
Ditches ... ..	33
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc. ... ..	78
Water Supply ... ..	55
Water Samples ... ..	161

### NUISANCE

Premises (defects) ... ..	178
Filthy or Verminous Premises ... ..	4
Disinfestation (Bugs, fleas) ... ..	15
Disinfestation (Other insects) ... ..	17
Animals ... ..	47
Smoke and Dust ... ..	94
Rodents ... ..	63
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and Reinspections ... ..	301

### SPECIAL PREMISES

Factories and Outworkers ... ..	38
Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards ... ..	12
Village Halls, Institutes, etc. ... ..	38
Hotels and Public Houses ... ..	36
Petroleum ... ..	165
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	187
Farms Welfare ... ..	22
Pet Animals Act ... ..	2
Swimming Pools ... ..	5



## FOOD

General Stores ... ..	165
Butchers' Shops ... ..	42
Fish Shops and Vehicles ... ..	7
Bakehouses ... ..	19
Cafes, Restaurants, etc. ... ..	68
Meat and Food Inspection ... ..	461
Mobile Shops ... ..	48

## MILK AND ICE-CREAM

Daries ... ..	7
Milk Samples ... ..	10
Churn Rinsings ... ..	17
Ice-Cream Premises ... ..	19
Ice-Cream Retail Vehicles ... ..	36
Ice-Cream Samples ... ..	30

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations ... ..	95
Disinfections ... ..	4
Food Poisoning ... ..	5

## CLEANSING SERVICES

... ..	26
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## HOUSING

Houses Inspected ... ..	261
Overcrowding ... ..	8
Reinspections ... ..	46

## MISCELLANEOUS

Burial Acts ... ..	4
Civil Defence ... ..	2
Welfare ... ..	23

Total 3,126

## 8. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

One hundred and eighteen Nuisances were abated during the year as a result of informal action.

The majority of Nuisances investigated related to insanitary circumstances or defects arising in connection with dwelling houses but other Nuisances were found in connection with the keeping of animals, deposits of rubbish, insanitary ditches and overflowing drainage.

It was necessary to take Statutory Action in three instances in order to effect the abatement of Nuisances. Two of these related to conditions of disrepair and the third to the improper keeping of animals.



### **Dumping of Rubbish in Ditches, on Verges, Laybys, etc.**

This practice appears to be on the increase and the material being disposed of in this manner is closely related to the post-war trends. Refrigerators, cooking stoves, perambulators, washing machines and motor vehicles, all of which had passed their usefulness, are the types of waste material being dumped in the countryside. An increasing quantity of cardboard boxes, wrappers and tins are also being disposed of in this manner.

This practice is to be deplored wherever found to occur but particularly along the old bridleways which traverse the district and various beauty spots such as on the foot of the Warden Hills where there appears to be an increasing amount of rubbish being "dumped". The Council in conjunction with the County Constabulary, the County Highways Department, the South Beds. Preservation Society and the National Farmers' Union, are doing their utmost to control and prevent this irresponsible practice and vandalism in the countryside. Vigilance on the part of members of the public who wish to safeguard the countryside would be welcomed as early reports enables the Police or the officers of the various authorities concerned to trace the culprits.

## **9. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**

### **Emission of Dust from Cement Works**

**Houghton Regis.** There are two deposit gauges stationed near the A.P.C.M. Works at Houghton Regis; one being sited to the south-west at Douglas Crescent and the other to the north-east in Manor Park.

The average monthly deposit recorded at Douglas Crescent during the year was 19 tons per square mile, which is a marked improvement upon the 1961 figure of 29.33 tons per square mile.

The average monthly deposit recorded at Manor Park during the year was 32.1 tons per square mile. The fact that this gauge collects dust on the prevailing wind side of the Cement Works accounts for the much higher deposit. In so far as this site is not identical with that on which records were kept in 1961, fair comparison cannot be drawn. However, both sites are situated at a reasonable distance from the works on the prevailing wind side thereof and with the 1961 figures being 47.99 tons per square mile, it would be fair to conclude that there has been a decrease in dust emission. This was doubtless due to the overhauling of the third precipitator, work on which was completed in July.

During the past four years, the three precipitators have been overhauled and these factors, in addition to other major improvements carried out, should make for a reduction in the amount of dust emitted over Houghton Regis.

**Sundon and Chalton.** The installation of dust precipitators at the Sundon Works was completed about the middle of the year. However, for some months subsequently they did not function efficiently and the improvement anticipated was not evident until the end of the year. The average monthly deposit at Sundon was 21.85 as compared with 22.34 in 1961, and at Chalton 16.11, compared with 18.33 over the previous year.

### **General Observations**

It is hoped that as a result of the several improvements carried out at the Houghton Regis Works and the installation of dust arrestment by electrical precipitation at Sundon, the reduction in the quantity of dust deposited generally in the north and north-easterly parts of the rural district, will be evident to residents who have previously suffered from this Nuisance.



### **Other Sources of Complaint**

Deposits of soot and dust in connection with special processes being carried out at the factory of the Empire Rubber Company at Dunstable, have given rise to a condition which constitutes a Nuisance and excessive deposits of chalk on the highway near to the Barton Lime Works together with occasional excessive amounts of dust therefrom have been complained of. Steps have been taken with respect to both complaints to effect abatement of the Nuisance in a manner which will prevent the recurrence thereof.

### **The Noise Abatement Act 1960**

Informal action proved successful in the following instances which were the principal complaints with respect to noise received during the year:—

(1) A grain drying plant in the Sundon Park area which operated for approximately 12 hours a day seven days a week during the months of August and September, disturbed a number of persons residing nearby. The noise itself was not excessive but the persistent vibration appeared to prevent night-shift workers obtaining sufficient sleep during the day. On drawing the management's attention to this vibration, steps were taken to improve the seating of the plant and to provide such insulation as was practicable.

(2) The second complaint concerned the noise arising in connection with a motorcycle scramble at Kensworth. Although the scramble was limited to three meetings during the year the fact that these were held on Sundays appeared to justify a number of complaints from residents. The matter was taken up with the Auto-Cycle Union, South Midlands Centre, who organized the scrambles, and it became quite obvious that they were prepared to consider the taking of every practicable means of limiting the noise and to avoid being a Nuisance.

The 1963 arrangements would reduce the number of Sunday meetings to one, silencers were to be used on each vehicle, a sound meter was to be installed to test each vehicle for noise and notices would be erected requesting competitors to reduce noise to a minimum.

## **AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956**

### **Sanitary Accommodation Section 3**

During the year 22 inspections and reinspections were carried out. In four instances it was necessary to draw the attention of the farmer or contractor to the need for providing suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences. The temporary sanitary accommodation provided for casual workers during the harvest season, particularly with respect to pea-picking and potato lifting, leaves much to be desired. The farm contractors responsible have been asked to provide such sanitary conveniences as satisfy the requirements of this Act.

### **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

#### **Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960**

During the year progress was made in bringing the various sites, particularly the larger ones, up to the required standard.

It is to be regretted that the necessary improvements on these sites are not being made as rapidly as had been hoped. However, in some instances the difficulties in providing adequate and satisfactory drainage have influenced this position and had public sewers been available, doubtless more satisfactory progress might have been reported.

During the year owners of two caravan sites were prosecuted for failing to comply with conditions attached to the licence.

Efforts to establish unauthorised sites have been made in several instances but I am glad to be able to report that instant statutory action taken by the Council has thwarted these efforts and after the usual lapse of time in such situations the sites have been cleared. There remains however several unauthorised sites within the district but the numbers of caravans concerned have reduced substantially during the year and the figure is now approximately 60; a decrease of 50 caravans within the year.

The total number of Licenced Sites = 61

The total number of caravans on Licenced Sites = 668

These are constituted as follows:—

Sites with more than 100 caravans	...	...	...	...	2
Sites with 50/100 caravans	...	...	...	...	2
Sites with 20/50 caravans	...	...	...	...	6
Sites with 5/20 caravans	...	...	...	...	5
Sites with 2/4 caravans	...	...	...	...	7
Sites with only one caravan	...	...	...	...	39



**HOUSING**  
**HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957**

The following is a summary of the results of procedure with respect to Unfit Houses found to be incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

PARISH	Unfit Houses Demolished	Unfit Houses Subject to Demolition Orders but not Demolished	Demolition Orders Revoked	Unfit Houses Closed	Unfit Houses Subject to Closing Orders but not yet Vacant	Closing Orders Determined	Undertakings to Render Fit Completed	Estimated Number of Unfit Houses Remaining
BARTON-LE-CLAY ...	12	2	4	—	—	—	5	1
BILLINGTON ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	2	4 + 2 caravans
CADDINGTON ...	36	30	1	2	—	—	1	10 + 2 caravans
CHALGRAVE ...	11	8	—	—	—	—	1	10
EATON BRAY ...	11	3	—	5	—	1	4	15
EGGINGTON ...	3	—	—	3	—	1	4	7
HEATH AND REACH ...	6	1	2	2	—	—	1	3
HOCKLIFFE ...	4	4	—	3	1	—	3	4
HOUGHTON REGIS ...	32	10	1	9	4	1	—	40
HYDE ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
KENSWORTH ...	8	12	—	1	4	—	—	16
STANBRIDGE ...	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	8
STREATLEY ...	10	3	—	1	—	—	5	7
STUDHAM ...	3	—	2	3	—	—	—	8
SUNDON ...	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	10
TILSWORTH ...	2	1	—	1	—	—	2	4
TODDINGTON ...	24	9	2	1	—	—	3	12
TOTTENHOE ...	17	3	—	—	—	—	2	8 + 4 caravans
WHIPSNAD ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 + 3 caravans
TOTAL ...	197	93	12	35	9	3	33	185

## HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

### Year Ending 31.12.62

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	HOUSES DEMOLISHED
As a result of formal or informal Procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	25
Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed	—
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	
Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	8
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—
C. UNFIT HOUSES AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED	
	By Owner
After informal action by local authority ... ..	61
After formal notice under	
(a) Public Health Acts ... ..	3
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—
Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	4

## FOOD INSPECTION — FOOD HYGIENE

### Mobile Shops

The following is a list of Mobile Shops found to be operating in the District:—

Bakers ... ..	23
Butchers ... ..	9
Fishmongers ... ..	1
Greengrocers ... ..	11
Grocers ... ..	6
Ice-Cream ... ..	22
Snack Bars, etc. ... ..	2
	74

The above figures show an increase of one over the total number of mobile shops operating in 1961. However, as far as the individual trades are concerned, the numbers of Bakers and Ice-Cream vendors have increased, while the Grocers and Greengrocers have decreased.

The Butchers' vehicles are well equipped and without exception manufactured specifically for the sale of meat and as a consequence give no cause for concern.

The number of Bakers' Roundsmen is also increasing. Efforts were made during the year to encourage the larger distributors to provide handwashing facilities on the vehicles. One Company with several vans operating in the district did provide hand-washing units, but the other large firms seem reluctant to do this although they have provided soap, towel and nailbrush for their drivers' use.

### Ice-Cream

Eight premises were registered to sell ice-cream during the year, bringing the total on the Register to 87.

Twenty-five samples were taken with the following results:—

Grade I ... ..	18
Grade II ... ..	4
Grade III ... ..	2
Grade IV ... ..	1



The Ice-cream sales vehicles have also reached a high standard of design and cleanliness. The frequent changes of staff employed by the ice-cream companies have given rise to difficulties in connection with the operation of soft ice-cream manufacturing units and was probably the cause of disappointing laboratory reports on the samples taken. The seven samples not placed in Grade I were obtained from sales vehicles.

### Milk — Milk Sampling

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised ... ..	6	6	—

Difficulties encountered by a dairy farmer in connection with dirty churns returned to him by the bottling dairy made it necessary to take eight churn rinsings. Four of these were satisfactory and four fairly satisfactory. The introduction of a new churn washing machine at the dairy seems to have solved the problem.

### Retail Premises

The following is a list of Retail Premises in the district:—

Bakers/Bakehouses	...	...	8
Butchers	...	...	21
Catering Premises	...	...	25
Confectioners	...	...	20
Fishmongers	...	...	7
Greengrocers	...	...	13
Grocers/General	...	...	74
			168

It is becoming more and more difficult to classify these shops in their respective trades. It is not uncommon to find a Grocer that sells Greengrocery, confectionery, bread and cakes, together with a wide variety of frozen foods and fresh meat. The super-store principle seems to have found its way to our villages where the shop-keeper endeavours to get his customers to purchase all their food from his shop.

### Bakehouses

Seven Bakers still bake their own bread in the district. Regular inspections of the bakehouses are carried out and improvements are effected as a consequence.

### Catering Premises

These are of a good standard and are managed well. It seems that although the managements of catering premises are only too willing to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations they often have difficulty in getting their staff to show the same concern. Some attention was paid therefore to the instruction of hygiene principles to the food handler.

### Licensed Premises

There are 68 Licensed premises in the district. Five of these were rebuilt and brought up to an extremely modern standard. Improvements of a more minor nature were carried out in many other cases.

## Unfit Food

Nine complaints were received from the public concerning unfit food, they were as follows:—

1. Nail found in a loaf of bread.
2. Decomposition of tinned corned beef.
3. Potato crisps containing extraneous matter.
4. Mould growths on prepacked sausages.
5. Stale sausages.
6. Snail in packet of frozen peas.
7. Insect in prepacked cake.
8. Foreign matter in bread.
9. Extraneous matter in bottle of milk.

All these cases were investigated and advice given to retailers where necessary. In a number of instances the manufacturers were not in this district. Where this was so, the matter was referred to the Public Health Inspector concerned.

The retailers and manufacturers were warned by letter that the Council would consider legal action should their premises or products be involved in further justified complaints.

The most serious of the cases listed above was the one concerning a two inch nail found in a loaf of bread. Examination proved that the nail had been baked in the loaf. The bakery involved was within the area of another Authority whose Public Health Inspector was able to trace the source of the nail to a wooden proving tray which contained similar nails in its construction. Within a week of the complaint being made the wooden trays were replaced by polythene trays.

## MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed ... ..	829	108	47	1883	1057	3924
Number Inspected ... ..	829	108	47	1883	1057	3924
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	2	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	96	38	2	36	44	216
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	11.52	35.15	6.39	1.87	4.32	5.48
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	9	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	.12	—	—	—	.85	.25



## Cysticercus Bovis

Three cases were detected during the year.

In one instance a degenerated cyst was found in the heart and the carcass was released as being fit for human consumption. In the remaining cases sufficient evidence was found to warrant the detention of the carcasses under the approved cold storage conditions.

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

	MEAT (lbs.)	OFFAL (lbs.)
Cows ... ..	85	707
Cattle ... ..	263	925
Calves ... ..	30	12
Sheep ... ..	7	111
Pigs ... ..	537	176
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	922	1,931
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tuberculosis ... ..	116 lbs.	
Other Diseases ... ..	2,737 lbs.	
	<hr/>	
	2,853 lbs.	
	<hr/>	

## Rodent Control

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

	RATS	MICE
Number of houses surveyed ... ..	1085	13
"  "  "  treated ... ..	128	13
Number of business premises surveyed ... ..	149	6
"  "  "  "  treated ... ..	31	6
Number of agricultural premises surveyed ... ..	16	—
"  "  "  "  treated ... ..	2	—
Number of sewers surveyed ... ..	16	—
"  "  "  treated ... ..	8	—
Number of sewage disposal works surveyed ... ..	123	—
"  "  "  "  "  treated ... ..	30	—
Number of refuse tips surveyed ... ..	45	—
"  "  "  "  treated ... ..	5	—
Number of other places surveyed ... ..	31	—
"  "  "  "  treated ... ..	7	—

**RODENT CONTROL REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS  
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962**

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	Non-Agricultural		(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) and (3)	
		(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Others (including Business Premises)		
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ... ..	58	10,965	1,099	12,122	378
II. Total number of <b>properties inspected</b> as a result of <b>notification</b>	10	92	21	123	2
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common rat—Major	1	1	1	3	—
Minor	8	77	10	95	—
Ship rat—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	1	14	10	25	—
III. Total number of <b>properties inspected</b> in the course of <b>survey under the Act</b> ... ..	677	1,768	39	2,484	9
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common rat—Major	1	1	1	3	—
Minor	23	227	51	301	9
Ship rat—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	3	38	19	60	—
IV. Total number of <b>properties otherwise inspected</b> (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose ... ..	4	11	4	19	—
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common rat—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	4	18	5	27	—
Ship rat—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	7	3	10	—



TYPE OF PROPERTY

Non-Agricultural

	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Others (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) and (3)	(5) Agricultural
V. Number of infested properties (in Sections II, III and IV) treated by the L.A. ... ..	17	102	18	147	7
VI. Legal Proceedings (see XII below) ... ..			None		
VII. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ... ..	Practically all Rodent Control carried out by "Block" Control				
VIII. Any other points of interest ... ..	There is evidence of a lessening of control on Agricultural Premises during recent years and since the County Pest Control Committee ceased to deal with Rodent Control Private Companies treat premises but less attention is paid to ditches and hedges.				

Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occ's Pros. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	6	5	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	59	33	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	65	38	9	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Factories without Mechanical Power

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ... ..	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ... ..	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—

Factories with Mechanical Power

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	3	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	5	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	8	7	—	1	—



## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### Outwork

#### (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	No of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	Section 133	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Section 134	Prosecutions
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council			Notices served	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel— Making etc. ...	125	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning & Wash- ing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	4	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed Toys ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christ- mas stockings, etc. ...	20	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	152	—	—	—	—	—

### Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936

The enforcement of licencing conditions continues to take up a great deal of time, 165 visits having been made in this connection.

Four new licences were granted and the storage capacity of two filling stations was increased.

Eighty-one licences were issued during the year.

### 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.

A case of Typhoid Fever was reported, the person concerned being a resident within one of the Metropolitan Boroughs but working within the Rural District. Despite a thorough investigation the source of infection was not traced and the fact that a second case did not arise, to some extent confirmed the belief that the infection must have arisen elsewhere.

## **National Assistance Act 1948**

### **Care of Elderly Persons**

During the year reports with respect to ten elderly persons were submitted to the Council's Public Health Committee and in one instance an application to the Court for the appropriate Order for removal to residential accommodation was made. In three other instances accommodation was accepted voluntarily and the remainder are being cared for by other persons or have since died.

### **Burial of the Dead**

In one instance it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial of a person who had died within the district but whose relatives at the time were either unknown or unable to arrange burial. The cost of the burial was subsequently met by the Death Grant and relatives who later accepted responsibility.

### **Other Duties**

These included the control of a swimming pool, reporting on dangerous structures, inspections in connection with the Pet Animals Act 1951, The Rent Act 1957 and the Licencing Act 1961.

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

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my Deputy, Mr. T. C. Oliver, for the efficient manner in which he has carried out his duties and for his loyalty and co-operation during the year.

I am also grateful to the office staff for the excellent work they have done.

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.