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**The Health of the
Rural District of Luton**

1967



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63526 DUNSTABLE

MONTPELIER HOUSE,
DUNSTABLE.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

9th July, 1968

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Statistical Annual Report on the Health of the District.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General was 35,210; this being an increase of 260 over the previous year.

The year was a healthy one and, except for measles, was comparatively free from infectious diseases. Once again there were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

There were 713 births in the Rural District in 1967 and 250 deaths. Diseases of the circulatory system are still the commonest cause of death. There were no deaths from childbirth during the year. Road accidents caused 3 deaths.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. L.G. Hill, Chief Public Health Inspector for his assistance and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. A. A. Pargeter,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Council
CLLR. T.J. STRANGE, J.P.

Cllr. H.W. BUTLER (Chairman)

Cllr. J. BRIGHT	Cllr. S.G. HOLMES
Cllr. H.T. BRUNNING	Cllr. R.W. LANSBURY
Cllr. R. CLARK (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr. L.C. ROBERTS
Cllr. G.P. DAVIS	Cllr. R.J. STANGHON
Cllr. T. GURNEY	Cllr. D.J. SWAIN

Cllr. R.G. WILSON

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health
H.A.A. PARGETER M.A., M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
L.G. HILL M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector
T.C. OLIVER M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector
A. TURVEY

Assistant Pests Officer
E.C. TODD

Administrative
MRS. E. OSTAPCZUK
MRS. K. WAKELAM
MRS. WILLIAMS (M.O.H's Secretary)

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 1967

Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres)	46,204
Population: Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1967	35,210
Number of inhabited houses - according to Rate Books	10,231
Rateable Value as at 31st December 1967	£1,481,996
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March 1968	6,750
Number of new houses erected during year ended 31st December 1967: (a) Council	43
(b) Private	98

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>	
Total	354	359	713	<u>Crude</u>	<u>Corrected</u>
Legitimate	334	341	675	20.2	19.59
Illegitimate	20	18	38		

<u>Still Births</u>				<u>Rate per 1,000 total</u>	
Total	6	3	9	<u>Live and Still Births</u>	
Legitimate	6	3	9	12.0	
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>			
Total	360	362	722
Legitimate	340	344	684
Illegitimate	20	18	38

<u>Infant Deaths (under one year of age)</u>				<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>
Total	4	3	7	9.8
Legitimate	4	2	6	8.4
Illegitimate	-	1	1	1.4

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>
Total	3	2	5	7.0
Legitimate	3	2	5	7.0
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

Infant Deaths (under 1 week of age)

Total	3	1	4	5.6
Legitimate	3	1	4	5.6
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

Still Births and Deaths under 1 week of age

Still Births	9		
Deaths	4		
Total	13	Combined rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births = 18.0	

Illegitimate Live Births = 5.3% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths = Nil.

<u>Deaths.</u>	Male	142
	Female	108
	Total	<u>250</u>

<u>Death Rates per 1,000 population</u>	All causes: Crude	7.1
	Adjusted	6.2
	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-
	Whooping Cough	-
	Diphtheria	-
	Tuberculosis	0.1
	Influenza	-
	Smallpox	-
	Acute Poliomyelitis	-
	Pneumonia	0.5
	All causes under 1 year of age	0.2

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-	3
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	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2	8
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	18	42
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	2
16. Diabetes	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesion of nervous system	14	14	28
18. Coronary disease, angina	34	20	54
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	9	10	19
21. Other circulatory disease	7	3	10
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	8	10	18
24. Bronchitis	10	3	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	11	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
34. All other accidents	3	2	5

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
35. Suicide	-	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
37. All causes	142	108	250

Cancer of the stomach caused 4 deaths, compared with 6 last year, and cancer of the lung (bronchus) caused eight deaths compared with 13 in the previous year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths below 55 years of age	25	14	39
Deaths over 75 years of age	57	56	113

POPULATION

The population, as estimated by the Registrar-General, for 1967 was 35,210, and as will be seen from the undermentioned table, there has been a total increase of 10,640 in the last ten years.

Population 1958 - 1967

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Increase or decrease over previous year</u>	<u>Natural Increase</u>
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
1963	42,570	1,480	8.5
1964	33,580	8,990 (decrease)	11.7
1965	34,320	740	8.5
1966	34,950	630	5.6
1967	35,210	260	13.4

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

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 0.97.

The birth rate for 1967 was 19.59, after multiplying the 'crude birth rate' of 20.2 by the 'comparability factor'.

The total number of live births was 713.

Still Births

The number of still births was 9 and the still birth rate 12 per 1,000 total births.

Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 7.1, as compared with 8.2 for the previous year. To make allowance for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the 'comparability figure' of 0.88, by which a corrected death rate of 6.2 is obtained.

Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 7, of which 4 were male and 3 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 9.8 per 1,000 live births over the year.

3 infant deaths were due to prematurity, 1 to cardiorespiratory arrest, 1 to multiple congenital abnormalities, 1 to asphyxiation and 1 to a cerebral haemorrhage.

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month of age was 5, corresponding to a rate of 7.0 per 1,000 live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified throughout the year:-

	Total cases notified	Rate per 1,000 population
Scarlet Fever	10	0.28
Whooping Cough	27	0.77
Measles	331	9.5
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Dysentery	4	0.1
Food Poisoning	1	0.03
Erysipelas	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0.03
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0.03
Infective Hepatitis	1	0.03

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
15 - 24 years	-	-	1	-
25 - 44 years	1	-	1	-
45 - 64 years	-	-	1	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	3	-

Cases notified during:-

					Total
1962	8	2	1	-	11
1963	4	1	-	2	7
1964	4	4	1	2	11
1965	2	2	-	1	5
1966	3	2	-	1	6
1967	1	-	3	-	4

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

Persons in need of care and attention

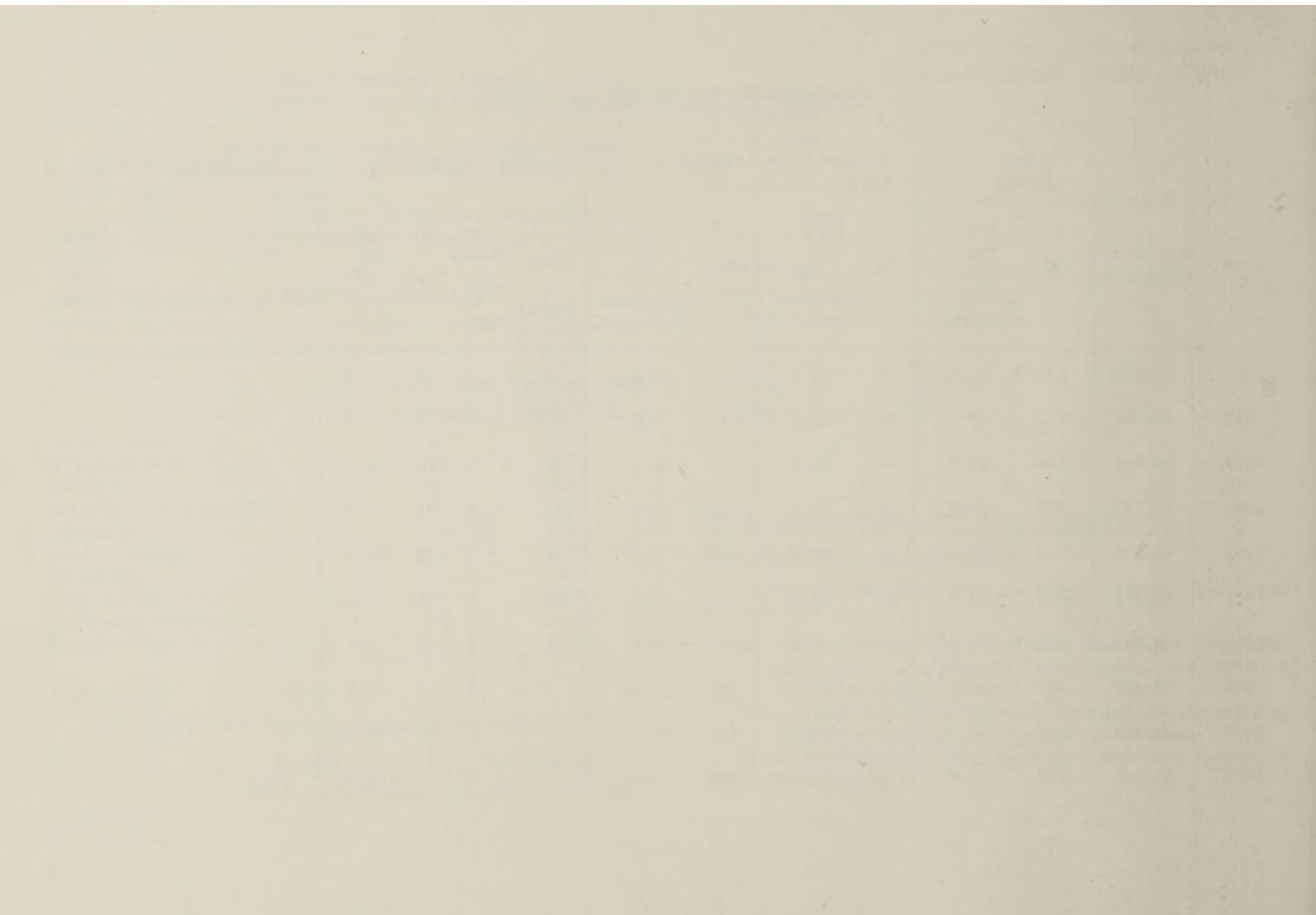
This section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who-

- (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.

It was not necessary to take steps for compulsory removal of any person during the year.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1958-1967

Year	Estimated Population	LIVE BIRTHS		STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
		No	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	No	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	No	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks To 12 Months	Total	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Number			Rate Per 1,000 Total Births
												Sepsis	Other	Total	Total Births
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	-	-	-	-
1963	42,570	1,050	19.5	21	15.0	313	11.0	12	6	18	16.8	-	-	-	-
1964	33,580	902	22.2	6	6.6	236	10.5	8	2	10	11.1	-	1	1	1.1
1965	34,320	777	18.8	14	17.7	245	10.15	8	6	14	18.0	-	-	-	-
1966	34,950	727	17.3	8	10.8	288	11.7	9	1	10	13.8	-	-	-	-
1967	35,210	713	19.6	9	12.0	250	6.2	6	1	7	9.8	-	-	-	-



CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S
ANNUAL REPORT 1967

HOUSING

Twenty-six unfit houses were demolished and a further twenty-eight Demolition Orders were made. Five houses became subject to Closing Orders.

Fourteen dwellings which might have been the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders were restored as a result of informal action.

A survey carried out in connection with the South Bedfordshire Sub-Regional Study Survey of Housing Requirements and Land Resources, enabled the five year cursory survey to be brought up to date and there are approximately 263 dwellings in the district which are scheduled for action under Parts II & III, of the Housing Act 1957, before 1st April, 1973.

Progress report on unfit houses

	Action		Total
	Formal	Informal	
Demolished.	207	144	351
Dwellings demolished to make way for other development, or through obsolescence.	-	11	11
Houses subject to Demolition Orders.	82	-	82
Demolition Orders revoked.	24	-	24
Substitution of Demolition Orders.	4	-	4
Closing Orders.	24	-	24
Closing Orders (restored).	11	-	11
Undertakings not to use for human habitation.	4	43	47
Undertakings to render fit (executed).	31	51	82
Undertakings to render fit (outstanding).	3	-	3

CARAVANS

Residential and Holiday Sites

Permanent Licensed Sites	Number	Number of caravans
Holding 1 caravan	20	20
2 to 6 caravans	9	29
7 to 50 caravans	9	231
51 to 100 caravans	2	134
more than 100 caravans	2	208
Total	42	622

There are three holiday sites within the district with a total capacity of 105 caravans.

Eight breaches of licensing conditions were discovered and of these, six were remedied.

Local authority site

The Council provides a residential site at Hockliffe with standings for 60 caravans.

Gypsies and other travellers

Several parishes within the southern part of the district have a large population of travelling itinerant scrap metal dealers, persons employed in tarmac, tree loppers and casual agricultural workers, all of whom reside in caravans.

Travellers present a picture of a society undergoing changes which fundamentally alter their way of life. The concept of prestige for a family is no longer a good Romany pedigree, but the latest model lorry and 'flash' trailer. Over 90% of the travelling gypsies live in such caravans.

My Council appreciated that moving gypsies on from unauthorised sites without providing alternative accommodation, was only perpetuating the problem. Discussions were held with the County Council to find a positive, as opposed to a repressive

solution. A temporary site was provided by the County Council and this authority provided the sanitary services. Conditions on the site were generally satisfactory.

This first site had to be closed at the expiration of the period agreed to with the owners and a second site was established rather nearer to a large centre of development and industry. This site provided standings for twenty-two caravans but after a time the site was invaded by Irish tinkers and conditions began to deteriorate and it was eventually closed.

There are still a number of travellers about the district which, despite being moved on by the police, will remain a constant source of complaint.

These people do not want to remain social outcasts - they want to be accepted. Gypsies are here to stay. It is no use to pretend that they can be made to disappear, for this has been tried with nil results. Before matters get worse, it is essential to establish a status and a reasonable way of life for these people.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Of the nineteen parishes within the district, nine are sewered and three partly sewered. The £³/₄ Million Eaton Bray Main Drainage Scheme which started this year and is expected to be in operation during the early months of 1969, will provide sewers to four parishes which at the present time are without, will extend the sewer into two parishes and will renew, extend and improve the sewer in the parish of Eaton Bray. On completion of the scheme, the entire district will be provided with main drainage apart from the parishes of Streatley (pop 697), Studham (pop 854) and Whipsnade (pop 650).

Cesspool Emptying Service

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer & Surveyor. A free service is given to domestic properties of up to twelve emptyings per year, depending upon the availability of the service, there being at the end of the year a total of 1,074 cesspools in the district.

The service is operated by five 1,000 gall. cesspool emptying machines manned by ten men and during the year 5,374 cesspools were emptied, a total of 12,741 loads covering a total of 81,561 miles.

Rivers, Streams, Ponds, Ditches & Watercourses

As more villages are provided with a public sewer so the pollution of ditches and watercourses decreases. Where complaints concerning pollution were received, owners were persuaded to take cleansing and other abatement action and where necessary, works of improvement. These watercourses will only be able to carry out their intended function of land and stormwater drainage when all foul drainage is connected to a public sewer.

FOOD

Food Premises in District

Bakehouses and Shops	5
Bakers Shops	1
Butchers	18
Catering Premises	13
Canteens	11
Confectioners	20
Fish Shops	6
Greengrocers	10
Grocers/General	60
Licensed Premises	70
Off Licence Premises	5
Supermarkets	1
	220

All the 220 food premises in the district have hand-washing facilities and therefore comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Regulation 19 which requires the fitting of sinks for washing food and equipment is complied with in all the 195 premises to which it applies.

Mobile Shops

The Food Hygiene (Market Stalls & Delivery Vehicle) Regulations 1966 came into force on 1st January, 1967. Since that time 34 mobile shops have been inspected.

The following mobile shops are known to be operating in the area:-

Bakers	18
Butchers	6
Fishmongers	3
Greengrocers	3
Grocers	3
Ice Cream	11
Snack Bars	2
	46

Licensed Premises

One of the oldest houses in the district has now been modernized and a number of improvements have been carried out at several other premises.

It has become evident that the licensees in many public houses are paying more attention to the catering aspect of their business and as a result catering operations which have often started on a small scale tend to outgrow the kitchen facilities provided.

The principle of providing both a kitchen for domestic use and a separate kitchen for catering purposes is being taken up with the breweries concerned.

Meat Inspection

One hundred per cent meat inspection is maintained at the two private slaughterhouses in the district, for which the maximum charges permitted by the Regulations are made.

Informal arrangements specifying days and times of slaughtering at these slaughterhouses have been made following the operation of the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966.

Carcases and offal inspected

	Bovine	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs
Number killed	153	9	24	1,945
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.				
Whole carcase condemned	1	3	2	48
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	18	nil	8	360
% affected with disease	12.4	33.3	31.3	21.0
Tuberculosis	nil	nil	nil	nil

Cysticercus bovis:

One degenerate cyst was detected in a diaphragm. The affected organ was condemned and the carcase released.

Particulars of unsound meat surrendered

	Meat (lbs)	Offal (lbs)
Bovine	500	208
Calves	150	2
Pigs	300	38
Sheep and Lambs	1,977	824½
	2,927	1,072½
Total of 1 ton 15 cwt. 79½ lbs.		

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

Shortly before Christmas, a guide to the hygienic preparation of poultry was sent to smallholders and farmers who may have been engaged in the dressing and packing of poultry for the Christmas trade. The guide, prepared by the Department, outlined the main requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, and emphasised the need for thorough cleanliness at all stages in the preparation of poultry.

It was not possible to visit all the premises used for this purpose, but in those inspected, the principles of food hygiene were observed and it was not necessary to recommend the institution of legal proceedings in respect of any premises.

Milk - Brucella Abortus

The organism responsible for this disease was not found in the three samples of untreated milk which were taken.

Refrigerated Milk Dispensers

Six samples were taken from refrigerated milk dispensers, two of which failed to pass the methylene blue test.

Ice Cream

Two premises were registered to store and sell ice cream bringing the total on the register to 99.

Unfit Food

Eleven complaints were received from members of the public concerning the condition of food purchased by them.

All the cases were thoroughly investigated and where necessary any relevant information was passed on to the Public Health Inspector in the area in which the food originated.

In two cases it was necessary for the Council to send to the tradesman responsible for the contravention, a letter warning them that should they be involved in similar incidents the Council would consider legal action.

Health Education

Lectures on the work of the Health Department were given to the members of three local organisations.

Training of Food Handlers

A short lecture on food hygiene was given to about 20 food handlers. During December a St. John's Ambulance Association course on hygienic handling of food was commenced. The course consists of 6 lectures given by a Public Health Inspector followed by an oral examination. Successful candidates are awarded the certificate of the Association.

WATER SUPPLY

Private sources

Samples were taken from wells and boreholes supplying dwellings not yet served by public mains. In cases where bacteriological examination indicated the water to be suspect, advice on the chlorination of the supply was given if the source of pollution could not be determined and eliminated.

Public mains supply

One hundred and eleven samples were taken from premises for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Most samples were satisfactory but on occasions, slight pollution was indicated. This pollution may have been 'tap pollution' or, as the laboratory ceased their practice of securing the bottle stoppers with sterile paper and string, it may have been the result of stoppers becoming loose in the bottleneck and becoming contaminated. Repeat samples were obtained from sterile taps and in bottles with secure stoppers, and in every case, these samples were satisfactory.

Discolouration

Complaints of water discolouration were received from residents within the parishes of Billington and Eggington.

This discolouration probably occurs following the shutdown of mains whilst repairs are effected. Flow rates fluctuate, deposits are stirred up and discolouration occurs at the consumer's take-off points, particularly where these are at dead ends.

Use of ortho-tolidine

Ortho-tolidine has for many years been used as an indicator in chlorine residual determination tests of private water supplies and swimming bath waters. However, work by the Chester Beatty Research Institute has shown ortho-tolidine to be a potential carcinogen and consequently this department stopped using this substance. The Palin-DPD Method has been adopted for future use.

REFUSE COLLECTION

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

A weekly refuse collection service is given in respect of domestic premises. The skip system of collection is used and the service is operated by twenty six men with five vehicles, viz:

Two 50 cu. yd. Bedford Eagle Crush Loaders.

One 35 cu. yd. Bedford Eagle Compressmore.

Two 18/24 cu. yd. Bedford Eagle Compressmores.

A separate trade refuse service is given by two men with a Shelvoke & Drewry 25 cu. yd. fore and aft tipper with bulk container attachments which also provides a collection four days each week from the Motorway Service Station at Toddington.

Refuse is disposed of at one central control tip.

The weekly task incentive bonus scheme has continued to work satisfactorily.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Abstract of the Act

A copy of the abstract of the Act is provided by the Council to the occupiers of all newly registered premises.

STATISTICS

Registration of premises

Eleven new premises were registered under the provisions of the Act.

No applications were made for exemption under the provisions of sections 5, 6, or 9 of the Act.

Classification of registered premises

Offices	-	23
Retail Shops	-	86
Catering Establishments	-	23
Fuel storage depots	-	1
		133

Analysis of persons employed

Offices	-	175
Retail Shops	-	364
Catering Establishments	-	371
Canteens	-	5
Fuel storage depots	-	2
		917 (305 males, 612 females)

INSPECTIONS

One hundred and three visits were made to premises in connection with the Act. This total includes 39 General Inspections.

Contraventions

A summary of the contraventions found is set out below:-

Section 6 Temperature	-	9
(includes 8 cases where thermometer was not provided)		
8 Lighting	-	1
10 Washing facilities	-	2
12 Clothing accommodation	-	1
14 Seats for sedentary workers	-	2
16 Floors, passages, stairs	-	14
17 Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-	2
24 First aid provisions	-	3
Total		34

Letters were sent to the owners of the premises concerned requesting them to remedy these contraventions.

Prosecutions

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings in respect of any offence at registered premises.

ACCIDENTS

Number of accidents notified	-	Males	2
	-	Females	4
Total (all non-fatal)			6
Number of days lost through accidents	-		51
Average number of days lost per accident	-		8.5

Classification of causes

Falls of persons	-	2
Involving catering equipment	-	2
road traffic	-	1
machinery	-	1

One accident occurred for every 152.8 persons employed in registered premises in 1967 compared with 1 accident for every 56.2 persons employed in 1966. The number of days lost through accidents in 1967 was 51 compared with 533 in 1966, which shows that not only has the incidence of accidents decreased, but their severity has also decreased.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 to 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	nil	nil	nil	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	64	30	10	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	2	nil	nil
Total	65	32	10	nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	10	-	2	-

Outwork

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in Aug. list
Wearing apparel - making etc.	83
Xmas stockings, etc.	18
Lampshades.	1
Making of Brushes.	1
	103

PEST CONTROL

Rodents

Following the pattern of recent years, there again appears to have been an increase in the rodent population despite the efforts by all concerned in executing the destruction of these pests. In a rural district, the problem is aggravated where measures of rodent control on agricultural land, banks and ditches adjacent to groups of dwellings are not carried out effectively. Many farmers no longer employ the private pest eradication companies to whom the func-

tions were transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture, and in many instances where they have tried to carry out treatment themselves they have not succeeded. Farmers tend to expect a few lbs. of Warfarin mix to "work wonders", where in fact, they should be thinking in terms of hundredweights for treating the banks and ditches where cover is provided.

In an effort to combat this annual increase by making a complete coverage of all infestations in the district, advertisements and press notices were released in January and October warning the public of the dangers associated with rodents and inviting them to contact the Department when rodents were seen. This action was probably a contributory factor in raising the number of complaints to this Department by over one hundred, and the number of properties found to be infested by rats to be more than twice as many as last year.

The increase in the unauthorised and irresponsible dumping of waste material on roadside banks and in ditches provides cover and food for rats and thus contributes to the problem. Ready mixed Warfarin packed in 2oz. polythene sachets again proved successful during the peak period of infestation. These "throw packs" save time and unlike loose baits, which in bad weather may be blown or washed away, its use is independent of the elements and thus there is a saving in the amount of bait that loses its effect or becomes unpalatable to the rat through damp.

The number of complaints of rodent infestation received by the Department was 356, an increase of 108 on the previous year.

Rodent control report

	Type of property	
	NON AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
<u>Number of properties in district</u>	11,841	425
Total no. of properties inspected following notification	2,197	10

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number infested by		
1. rats	415	1
2. mice	18	nil
Total no. of properties inspected other than after notification	139	nil
Number infested by		
1. rats	30	nil
2. mice	nil	nil
<u>Insects</u>		

In addition to the above rodent work, the Assistant Rodent Officer dealt with miscellaneous insect infestations including 102 wasps nests.

Residents near to a poultry producing establishment complained of a serious fly infestation. The investigation revealed that the premises were well managed and that very few flies were about the establishment. A pond which was receiving effluent was sprayed with insecticide. No further complaints were received.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious diseases reported by the Medical Officer of Health, especially those in which the causative organism may be food-borne, are investigated to find the source of infection and to determine whether there is any possibility of food becoming involved.

During November, the Department was involved in tracing persons who dined at the busiest service station on the M.I. and who may have been in contact with a suspected case of smallpox, who had stopped for a meal at the service area whilst travelling from Gatwick airport to Bury. Vaccination of the staff had been put in operation when we were informed the diagnosis had not been confirmed.

Immigrants

All "long stay immigrants" settling in this district are visited in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

Library books

Books issued by a Branch Library within the district which subsequently come into contact with an infectious disease are disinfected before being returned to circulation. One hundred and thirty four books were so treated.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Houghton Regis

The extensions to the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Works at Houghton Regis which went into operation during June, 1966, continued to cause a serious dust nuisance to residents on the North East and East sides of the works. Dust emissions recur so frequently and with such intensity that the Council were left with no alternative but to consider the taking of Statutory Action in order to have the nuisance abated.

The promises and assurances which had been made by the Cement Company when permission to extend the works was being sought, had not been fulfilled. The intervention of the Chief Alkali Inspector, who indicated that his department would take appropriate Statutory Action in due course if emissions of dust were not controlled and limited effectually, influenced the Council to "hold their hand" for the time being.

Complaints from residents refer to dust from high level sources, these being continuous blobbing, encrusted flakes of cement works dust which appeared to come from the new flue or chimney, and black bituminous dust. From low level sources there were general and continuous emissions of dust these containing a high proportion of cement which settled on exposed surfaces including dwelling houses, outhouses, orchards etc. The nuisance from this source reached very serious proportions.

During the year two precipitators were added to the No. 4 kiln. The case for urgent implementation of further dust abatement proposals cannot be overstressed.

Measurement of Dust. (Tons/sq. mile)

	<u>1962-1964</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>Jan-June 1967</u>	<u>July-Dec 1967</u>
Manor Park	29.06	52.74	39.65	37.63
Dunstable Road		123.20	117.50	81.64
		(Sep-Dec)		

The figures indicated a progressive improvement but the emission of dust remains so high that householders receive little or no satisfaction from statistics. However, if the measurement of dust deposits continue to fall at this rate it should reduce the nuisance appreciably within two years.

Sundon and Chalton

Whereas the amount of recorded dust reaching Sundon shows a slight decrease over the year, during the months of May and August the deposits were much above average. In fact the average monthly deposit was exceeded on several occasions during the year. This gives much cause for anxiety when bearing in mind the distance the deposit gauges are situated from the cement works.

The District Alkali Inspector has promised to carry out further investigations with a view to obtaining more efficient dust arrestment.

Measurement of Dust. (Tons/sq. mile)

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Sundon	26.80	23.30	22.39
Chalton	20.53	23.58	18.14

Control of Chimney Heights

Section 10 of the Clean Air Act 1956 requires the local authority to reject plans if they consider that the height of new chimneys serving boilers is not sufficient to prevent the flue gases from being prejudicial to health. On three occasions plans were submitted to the Council where the proposed chimney heights were not sufficient but following discussions with the applicants the plans were amended in every case to show increased chimney heights which were to the Council's satisfaction.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

The complaints of noise nuisances received included:-

- Precipitators at a Cement Works
- Ventilators in battery house
- Barking guard dogs
- Engineering processes.

Investigations revealed that these noises hardly register on the sound meter and although their presence disturbs the quietness in rural areas, they can hardly be termed "statutory nuisances". It was found that even in instances where the noise level was reduced, e.g. insulation to exhaust fans, the complainants' opinion was that there had been no improvement.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928/36

271 inspections were made of the 78 premises licenced to store petroleum. The Council granted 3 new licences and gave permission for the extension of the petroleum storing facilities at 4 other premises.

Testing of old tanks

A 24 hour nitrogen pressure test was applied to 9 old underground storage tanks which were known to be more than 20 years old. All of them were found to be satisfactory.

Home Office code for electrically operated petrol pumps

All new electrical installations are tested by arrangement with the Eastern Electricity Board; it is interesting to note that since this scheme was commenced in 1964 only 5 of the 17 installations tested were found to be satisfactory on the first inspection. In the other cases modifications were necessary before the Eastern Electricity Board were satisfied that the Home Office code had been complied with.

Self Service Post Payment Filling Station

The Council granted a licence for the installation of self-service apparatus to the owner of an existing filling station at Houghton Regis. The equipment is designed to enable customers to serve themselves with petrol from a number of pumps without the need for forecourt staff to be present. The whole operation is controlled and supervised by an operator at a kiosk, having a full view of the forecourt. Payment for the petrol is made after delivery at the control office.

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE DEPARTMENT

Welfare

Reports under the National Assistance Act 1948 were made in respect of 4 elderly persons living in unsatisfactory conditions, one of whom accepted voluntary accommodation at a residential home.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

Six establishments were licensed during the year and were inspected to ensure that satisfactory conditions were maintained.

Since the commencement of the Act, the Inspectors of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have rendered invaluable assistance with regard to animal welfare during the inspection of these premises. However, this year the Inspector indicated that he would not be able to assist in the future. Subsequently, the Council appointed a veterinary surgeon as an authorised officer under this Act and the Pet Animals Act 1951.

NEW LEGISLATION

New legislation of interest included the following:-

Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 provides for the humane slaughter of turkeys and domestic fowl and the registration of premises where stunning is performed.

Refreshment Houses Act 1967 amended earlier legislation and provided power to prohibit refreshment houses from being open between 11.00 p.m. and 5.00 a.m., to avoid unreasonable disturbance to residents of the neighbourhood.

Civic Amenities Act 1967 made provision for the orderly disposal of disused vehicles, equipment and other rubbish.

The Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations 1967 prohibit the irradiation of food except for the use of monitoring and other nucleonic equipment which subjects food to an amount and energy of radiation below a very low level.

The Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations 1967 prohibit the sale of any artificial sweetener for human consumption, other than those permitted and prescribes compositional requirements for sweetening tablets and the names by which they shall be described. These Regulations permit the use of cyclamates as sweeteners in food.

The Meat Pie and Sausage Roll Regulations, The Canned Meat Product Regulations and the Sausage and Other Meat Product Regulations, all of 1967, specify requirements for the composition, labelling, advertising and description of the respective products.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

ANIMALS

Animal Boarding Establishments	13
Pet Shops	2
Riding Stables	7

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Premises and Observations	223
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FACTORIES

Mechanical	30
Non-mechanical	1
Building Sites	5
Outworkers	6

FOOD

Bakehouses	5
Catering Premises	46
Food Complaints & Investigations	35
Licensed Premises and Clubs	17
Meat Inspection	278
Mobile Shops	34
Retail Food Shops	43
Ice-cream	3

HEALTH EDUCATION

HOUSING

Houses Inspected	401
Reinspections	92
Other visits	197

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Investigations	39
Disinfections	6
Swabs and Specimens	19

NUISANCES

Premises	22
Animals	44
Disinfestations	8
Noise Abatement	54
Rodent Control	441
Pests	116
Miscellaneous Visits	139

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

General Inspections	39
Reinspections	52
Accident Investigations	12

PETROLEUM

Routine Inspections	224
New Installations	47

SAMPLING

Milk	6
Water	111

SANITATION

Ditches and Watercourses	132
Refuse Accumulations, etc.	127
Sewerage and Drainage	207
Water Supply	48

SPECIAL PREMISES

Caravans	544
Farms (Welfare Provisions)	19
Halls	1
Schools	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	4
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	4
Launderettes	1

WELFARE

Welfare	24
Long Stay Immigrants	1

Abatement of nuisances

The nuisances dealt with included disrepair and defects to premises, defective and choked drainage, overflowing cess-pools, indiscriminate dumping of rubbish on roadsides and greenways, the keeping of animals and the preparation of animal foodstuffs.

Informal action was sufficient to secure the abatement of the nuisance in all cases.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the loyal and efficient manner in which the staff of the Department have carried out their duties.

Mr. T.C. Oliver - Additional Public Health Inspector who carries the responsibility of being my deputy.

Mr. A. Turvey - Student Public Health Inspector.

Mr. Turvey passed the third year examination for the Public Health Inspectors' Diploma and progressed to the fourth year of the course held at the Hertfordshire College of Building.

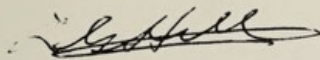
Mrs. E. Ostapczuk - Secretary.

Mrs. K. Wakelam - Clerk/Shorthand Typist (Part-time).

Mr. E. Todd - Assistant Pests Officer.

Mr. Todd completed 40 years' service with the Council and during the year he was presented with a Long Service award. He has been a loyal and faithful servant and for many years was in charge of the cesspool emptying service. Mr. Todd will terminate his service with the Council at the end of March 1968.

Your obedient servant,



L. G. HILL,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

