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MAIDENHEAD BOROUGH
and
COOKHAM RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1972



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and
COOKHAM RURAL DISTRICT

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OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1972**

Printed by W. H. Lee Ltd., Wokingham.

MAIDENHEAD BOROUGH & COOKHAM RURAL DISTRICT

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

R. M. LASLETT, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Secretary to Medical Officer of Health :

Mrs. J. C. BONESS (commenced May 1973)

Mrs. G. M. HOUNSLOW (left February 1973).

MAIDENHEAD BOROUGH

Chief Public Health

Inspector :

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M.I.S.A.A.

Senior Public Health

Inspector :

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Additional Public

Health Inspectors :

M. G. GRAVETT, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
(left Oct. 1972)

J. A. KLEMP, Dip. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.
(left Apr. 1972)

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Technical Assistants :

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K. WHEELER.

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Deputy Senior Public

Health Inspector :

K. ARNDELL, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Rodent Operator and

General Assistant :

S. A. RUTLAND (retired June 1972)
J. POWNEY.

Secretary/Shorthand-

Typist :

Mrs. R. O'REILLY.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Maidenhead Borough and
the Cookham Rural District Health Committees.**

The reorganisation of local government and of the National Health Service overshadows everything else at the present time. The Local Government Act received the Royal Assent in October 1972. As is well known the new District 4 will have a population of about 123,000 and comprise the Boroughs of Maidenhead and New Windsor, Eton Urban District, Cookham Rural District, Windsor Rural District and 3 parishes of the Eton Rural District. The new district known as Windsor and Maidenhead will assume its functions in April 1974. The National Health Service Reorganisation Bill is about to receive the Royal Assent (July 1973). After this, regional and area health authorities will be appointed and health districts defined. It is known that the area health authority for this area will be coterminous with the New Berkshire. There will be no such matching at district level however. It seems likely that there will be one health district for East Berkshire centred at Windsor and covering the areas of local government districts Windsor and Maidenhead (4), Slough (5) and Easthampstead (6). The new health authorities will assume their full functions in April 1974. The Medical Officers of Health will of course disappear from the local government scene. Some of them will re-emerge as community physicians in the reorganised National Health Service either at area or district level. A district community physician is likely to act as the proper officer to a local government district for matters in which his advice is required. Links will also have to be established between the reorganised NHS and the Social Services Departments. The latter will remain in local government and be a responsibility of the new Berkshire. The necessity for all these bridging arrangements stems from the original decision to unify the N.H.S. outside local government.

We await with eagerness in October 1973 the start on a new Out-Patients Department at a site in St. Marks Road. The estimated cost is £275,000 and it will increase the present accommodation for out-patients about four times. There was, however, much impatience and frustration during 1972 that no further progress was made in trying to obtain a complete new hospital for Maidenhead. A deputation from the two authorities has however recently seen a Parliamentary Under Secretary of the Department of Health at the House of Commons (June 1973). Unfortunately hopes of a new district general hospital for Maidenhead were again dashed but there was talk of a support or community hospital being built on the St. Marks Road site with some 100 to 150 beds. Much more needs to be known about exactly what facilities such community hospitals will provide.

Presumably we must await guidance from the Department of Health on this subject.

As this may be my last or next to last Annual Report it is perhaps interesting to make a comparison with the report of my illustrious predecessor, Dr. James Paterson, for 1911. At that time Maidenhead had a population of 15,217 and Cookham Rural District 12,301. The deaths of infants under one year numbered 94 out of 1,222 births, a rate of 76.92 per 1,000 births. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 130. Both these rates would now be regarded as enormously high and should be compared with the figures in the statistical table for 1972. Again there were 50 cases of Diphtheria in Maidenhead in 1911 with 4 deaths all in children under 15, whilst in Cookham Rural District there were 51 cases of diphtheria with 9 deaths, all in children under 15. A single case of diphtheria now gives rise to serious concern and careful enquiry into the failure to prevent it by immunisation. There were 5 cases of typhoid in Maidenhead with 1 death in 1911 and 4 cases in Cookham Rural District again with one death. There was one case of typhoid fever in Maidenhead in 1972 contracted, as is usually the case nowadays, abroad. In 1911 tuberculosis was a great scourge and was responsible for 19 deaths in Maidenhead and 10 in Cookham Rural District. Modern drugs have now brought this disease under control. Our modern scourges are not the infectious diseases but Coronary Thrombosis, Cancer, particularly of the lung and breast, and Road Traffic Accidents. The solutions to these problems are not easy. We know that cigarette smoking is the chief cause of lung cancer and that it increases the risk of coronary heart disease. To persuade people to stop smoking is however proving very difficult, and no one knows how to tame the motor car.

I conclude these introductory remarks by thanking once again all those colleagues who during the year maintained such high standards in the difficult circumstances preceding the reorganisation of local government.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. LASLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
Maidenhead.

MAIDENHEAD MUNICIPAL BOROUGH.

COMMENT ON STATISTICS.

The estimated mid-1972 population of 47,220 showed an increase of 690 over the previous year. The birth rate continued to decline from its peak in 1964 but there were still 221 more births than deaths in Maidenhead during the year.

It was disappointing that the death rate of infants under 1 year (21.2 per 1,000 live births in 1972) exceeded the figure for England and Wales of 17.2. The last time this happened was in 1968. Of the 15 infants that died, 7 were under 1 week old and prematurity was a contributory cause in 4 of these.

The causes of death of the 8 infants that died between 1 week and 1 year old are as follows :—

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 2 weeks | Coarctation of the Aorta. |
| 2 weeks | Lung Infection. Prematurity. |
| 1 month | Lumbar myelomeningocele with associated hydrocephalus. |
| 1 month | Asphyxia—Accidental suffocation. |
| 6 weeks | Inhalation of gastric contents—myelomeningocele. |
| 3 months | Bronchopneumonia—Congenital heart disease. |
| 3 months | Inhalation of vomit—Congenital heart disease. |
| 6 months | Bronchopneumonia—Spina Bifida. |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infective jaundice was made notifiable in 1968. The incubation period is a long one, 15 to 40 days, and the transmission of infection occurs mostly by person to person contact. Of the 8 notified cases in January and February, 3 were in one family. Three others all came from one neighbourhood in the town. Of the two cases of paratyphoid one was certainly contracted in the Persian Gulf but the other was contracted in this country, probably in the London area. The case of typhoid fever (mentioned in the introduction) was a boy of 14 who had recently returned from Asia. These 3 persons all made satisfactory recoveries and no secondary cases occurred. The numbers of persons on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December 1972 are shown below :—

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	20 (29)	17 (23)	37 (52)
Non-Pulmonary	6 (8)	11 (8)	17 (16)

Figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 31st December, 1971.

HOUSING

I am grateful to the Housing Manager for the figures given below :

119 applicants were re-housed in 1972 as against 130 the previous year. The waiting list for families increased from 224 in January 1972 to 293 in January 1973. The waiting list for elderly persons accommodation increased marginally from 166 applicants in January 1972 to 173 applicants in January 1973.

I am constantly made aware in my work of the need for both types of housing. High mortgage rates and the continued rise in house prices inevitably increase the pressure of demand for Council housing.

CHILD HEALTH

Child Health Clinics were held during the year at the Wilderness and the Methodist Church Hall, Allenby Road. Attendances were as follows :—

	1972	1971
Wilderness	2,430	2,322
Methodist Church Hall ...	3,425	4,038

Immunisation of children under 16 against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles is done by General Practitioners as well as at the Child Health Clinics and in schools.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	5,007
Number of dwelling houses including flats according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1973	...	...	...	...	14,892
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1973	...	...	...	...	£8,006,283
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£77,700
Population (estimated mid-year)	...	...	...	...	47,220
Live Births :	1972	1971	1970	1969	
Legitimate	662	733	738	721	
Illegitimate	44	46	42	57	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000					
Population :					
Actual	15.0	16.7	16.6	16.9	
Corrected	14.4	15.4	15.3	15.5	
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	6.2	5.9	5.4	7.3	
Still Births	6	11	12	7	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	8.4	13.9	15.2	8.9	
Total Live and Still Births	712	790	792	785	
Infant Deaths :					
Legitimate	14	6	8	5	
Illegitimate	1	1	1	1	
Infant Death Rates :					
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	21.2	9.0	11.5	7.7	
Deaths of Legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	21.1	8.2	10.8	6.9	
Deaths of Illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	22.7	21.7	23.8	17.5	
Neo-Natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Live Births)	12.7	3.9	5.1	5.1	
Early Neo-Natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births)	9.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	
Perinatal Death Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	18.3	17.7	18.9	12.7	
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0	
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Deaths (all causes)	485	470	411	469	
Death Rate per 1,000 population:					
Actual	10.3	10.1	8.8	10.2	
Corrected	10.6	10.2	8.9	9.5	

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	TOTAL	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year
B6(1) Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	-	-
B6(2) Other Tuberculosis	1	-	-
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	-
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	-
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	11	-	-
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	16	-	-
B19(5) Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	2	-	-
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	30	-	-
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	9	-	-
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	2	-	-
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	-	-
B19(10) Leukaemia	4	-	-
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	21	-	-
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	2	-	-
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	-	-
B23 Anaemias	5	-	-
B46(3) Mental Disorders	6	-	-
B46(4) Multiple Sclerosis	5	-	-
B46(5) Other Diseases of Nervous System	6	-	-
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	-	-
B27 Hypertensive Disease	3	-	-
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	100	-	-
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	26	-	-
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	71	-	-
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	17	-	-
B32 Pneumonia	59	1	2
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	19	-	-
B33(2) Asthma	1	-	-
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	-
B34 Peptic Ulcer	1	-	-
B35 Appendicitis	1	-	-
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	-
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	2	-	-
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	5	-	-
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	-	-
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	5	-	-
B46(11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	5	-	-
B42 Congenital Anomalies	4	1	2
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	5	5	-
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	2	-
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	13	-	-
BE48 All Other Accidents	7	-	2
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	-	-
BE50 All Other External Causes	2	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	485	9	6

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

DEATH

AGE GROUPS								
1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	4	11	10	5
-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
-	1	-	-	1	4	7	4	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-
-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
-	-	-	-	2	8	12	29	49
-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	21
-	-	-	-	1	1	8	15	46
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	11
-	-	-	-	-	1	4	8	43
-	-	-	-	-	3	2	9	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	5	1	-	-	-	5	1
-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	5	7	3	9	32	65	116	233

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Acute Meningitis . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Infective Jaundice . .	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	9
Measles	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	4	3	5	10	8	35
Paratyphoid Fever . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Scarlet Fever . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis :													
(a) Respiratory . .	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	6
(b) Non-Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	3
Typhoid Fever . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	5	8	2	3	2	1	3	6	3	5	14	11	63

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

(A. D. M. Jones, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.I.S.A.A.)
For the Year 1972.

As anticipated local government reorganisation took another major step forward during the year under review with the publication of the report of the Study Group on Local Authority Management Structures (the Bains Report) with its basic premise that there should be a corporate approach to management. The report also recognises, however, that professionalism, in its widest sense, is one of the major strengths of local government.

In my view, one of the fundamental aims of reorganisation should be to secure an efficient fusion of professional expertise and management skill and I would repeat the note of caution which I expressed last year. The tendency, seen in all large enterprises, for management and its sophisticated techniques to grow more in importance than the services with which they are connected and the professional staff which operate them should be resisted as they are alien to many aspects of local government, more especially at district level.

In the field of environmental health, 1972 has been noteworthy for the increase in public concern with environmental pollution which has now come to be regarded as the great cardinal sin of modern society. The wide publicity given to the indiscriminate dumping of toxic wastes and, more recently, to the hazard of lead dust in the vicinity of certain factories has served to increase public apprehension about hitherto unsuspected pollution in the environment.

Pollution has of course always been with us. A thousand years before Christ the human flotsam of the Roman Empire shovelled Rome's refuse through manholes into the river from whence it floated on tides and currents to the sea. In 1239 Henry III granted the first Charter to Newcastle to dig coal for the "comfort and warmth of its citizens" and by the time of Elizabeth I "seacoal" was already blackening London's buildings. By the 19th century a "pea-souper" had already become a characteristic of Dickens' London and in 1952 4,000 people died in one London smog. To-day oil slicks lap the beaches, the countryside is disfigured by the litter of millions and the dumping of town garbage and industrial waste, whilst the air is often hideous with the noise of large jet planes and vitiated with belching exhausts.

One of the remarkable developments since the War has been the increasing quantity of chemical substances which we use in a variety of ways or which are being discharged into our en-

vironment. These include persistent pesticides and herbicides, whilst an enormous number of chemicals are added directly to our foods to "improve" them. Many of these are of course subject to strict control but it is being suggested that there may be significant and insidious effects on people at much lower than the permitted concentrations. This is particularly so in the case of the toxic metals.

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 drew attention to the many hazards in the environment which are a danger to human health. The World Health Organisation has now published a wide ranging survey of these hazards for the benefit of health authorities and others concerned with environmental problems.

The detailed report which follows this introduction illustrates the comprehensive nature of the statutory controls already exercised by district councils in relation to their environment, many of which have a direct influence on the quality of life which the individual experiences, whether at home, at work or at leisure.

I would suggest that the time is approaching when these controls should be supplemented by a system of monitoring and surveillance of the environment directed towards determining and identifying areas of environmental pollution and hazard without waiting for their ill effects to show themselves. The type of surveillance and monitoring which I have in mind would imply an extension of the purely statutory responsibility for the environmental health function in a way which would provide the local authority with information indicating precisely what potentially dangerous pollutants were being discharged into the atmosphere, into the waterways and dumped onto the land.

At a time when the whole balance of life is becoming more precarious, the prospect of major disaster more acute, the number at risk infinitely greater, the extension of district responsibility on the lines indicated above may indeed become one of the worth-while challenges to reorganised local government.

The Report which follows maintains the now established format and bare statistics have again been supplemented by relevant narrative. Subject matter has been grouped under the following main heads :

SECTION A	General Administration
SECTION B	Where We Live
SECTION C	What We Drink
SECTION D	What We Eat
SECTION E	Where We Work
SECTION F	Animal and Insect Pests
SECTION G	Miscellaneous.

Section A

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Animals, Keeping of	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	61
Building Operations	...	...	...	...	...	137
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	5
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	255
Clean Air	...	...	...	...	...	47
Cinema	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	5
Consumer Protection	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	55
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	205
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	40
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	...	244
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	211
Farms	...	...	...	...	...	10
Food Premises :						
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	21
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	65
Canteens and Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	20
Confectioners (Sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cooked Meats and Delicatessen	...	...	...	...	...	19
Department Stores	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	11
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	15
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	81
Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	26
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	35
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	28
Supermarkets	...	...	...	...	...	73
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	564
Houses in Multiple Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	31
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	417
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	145
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	157
Milk Delivery Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	12
Meat Transport Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	4
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	15
Meat Staining and Sterilising	...	...	...	...	...	3

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

Noise	93
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	604
Outworkers	15
Pig Sties and Poultry Runs	22
Pet Shops	10
Public Conveniences	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act (by Public Health Inspectors)	12
Qualification Certificates	77
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials	Nil
Refuse Tips	22
Rent Act	Nil
Riding Establishments	Nil
Scrap Metal Dealers	Nil
Stalls and other Vehicles	45
Swimming Pools	67
Shops Act (incl. Closing Hours and Sunday Trading)	264
Sewage Works	18
Schools	2
Streams and Ponds	7
Underground Rooms	4
Water Supplies	6
Other Visits and Re-Visits	557

NOTICES.

Number of informal notices served during the year	25
Number of informal notices outstanding from 1971	Nil
Number of informal notices complied with during the year	25
Number of informal notices outstanding at end of the year	Nil
Number of formal notices served during the year	Nil
Number of formal notices outstanding from 1971	1
Number of formal notices complied with during the year	1
Number of formal notices outstanding at end of the year	Nil

Section B.

WHERE WE LIVE

UNFIT HOUSING PROGRAMME.

The Council's ten year programme for dealing with unfit houses in the Borough has again been influenced by the economic viability of complete rehabilitation of unfit houses by private owners, more often than not with the help of improvement grants.

The Borough Council are in the relatively happy position of having dealt with the major problem of unfit housing by means of a progressive and consistent policy as a result of which the worst of the houses in the Borough have already been included in clearance areas or have been the subject of individual demolition or closing orders.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

The current programme ends next year (1973) and basic policy is already being orientated towards securing the improvement, by the provision of modern facilities and amenities, of that part of the remaining housing stock which, though structurally sound, is deficient by modern standards.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

The relative stability of the immigrant population which was referred to last year has been confirmed.

A number of cases of alleged over-crowding have been referred to the Department and investigated, but in only two instances was serious over-crowding confirmed.

Most of the indigenous adult population in this particular area have grown accustomed over the years to a gradual reduction both in the number of households and in the numbers of a particular household who occupy houses in the Borough and it is more difficult under these circumstances for them to accept that the relatively large number of occupants of certain houses does not necessarily constitute an over-crowding problem.

The advice of the Fire Officer continues to be sought where conditions are discovered which might constitute a fire risk.

The number of buildings over two storeys which are in multi-occupation is very small.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A total of 72 applications for Improvement Grants were approved during the year, 17 for Standard Grants and 55 for Discretionary Grants.

The accompanying table sets out the facilities provided with the aid of grant. There were five cases where grants of more than the basic £30 were approved under Standard Grant procedure towards the provision of a bath in a bathroom and there was no application for improvement of a house to the "reduced standard".

Amenities provided during the year with Grant Aid :—

Wash Hand Basins	Baths in Bathrooms	Hot Water Supplies	Indoor Water Closets	Sinks
37	38	45	28	10

Council policy in encouraging more applicants to take advantage of the grant schemes and to opt for comprehensive improvement whenever justified has again shown encouraging results.

During the five year period to December 1970 the percentage of improvement grants to standard grants averaged 5%. In 1971 the percentage had reached 28% whilst during the year under review (1972) it was no less than 76%.

According to the 1971 census, of the 14,765 separate households in the Borough only 3.8% lacked a hot water supply, 4.1% were without a fixed bath or shower, whilst 4.8% had only an outside flush toilet available.

Almost all these amenity deficiencies could be made good with the aid of improvement grants and it is hoped that the scheme involving the rehabilitation and improvement of two council owned properties as grant improved show houses, which is now proceeding satisfactorily, will help to encourage grant applications.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

There is a considerable amount of work involved in dealing effectively with Improvement Grant and Qualification Certificate procedures but departmental resources are able to deal effectively with this important aspect of environmental health.

It is intended that these procedures should continue as an environmental health responsibility of the new district after re-organisation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are 80 caravans on Council owned sites in the Borough and 2 on private sites.

RENT ACT, 1957.

It is now 8 years since the last application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair. Varied and valid reasons could be put forward to explain this factor in the local housing situation but space will not permit and indeed the reasons are becoming less relevant each year.

Section C

WHAT WE DRINK

GENERAL.

The supply of water provided by the Mid-Southern Water Company has continued to be satisfactory and adequate. The actual supply to the area is extremely hard, a quality which has recently been given prominence as a physiologically beneficial characteristic.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security has drawn attention to a paper by Professor Morris and colleagues which shows that the changes in mortality

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

from cardio-vascular disease, but not from other causes, in five areas where the water supply has been hardened and in six areas where the water supply has had the hardness reduced, are generally consistent with the hypothesis that there is a real relationship. This is, of course, a long way from firm proof but fully justifies the further investigations which are currently proceeding.

There is no present intention on the part of the Mid Southern Water Company to adjust the natural hardness of water supplied to this area but the above comment may be of significance should the question be considered in the future.

The only independent water supply in the Borough is that serving a large research establishment and associated dwelling house. The system, including pumping and chlorination, is automatically controlled and the water is regularly and frequently checked and has given no cause for concern.

No fluoride is at present added to any water supply within the Borough. It is worth recording, however, that there is a naturally occurring fluoride content in the supply varying between 0.1 and 0.2 parts per million.

WATER SAMPLES.

Nine samples of untreated water and 21 samples of treated water were taken at the pumping station and submitted for bacteriological examination independently of those taken by the Water Company. Three samples from the mains supply were also submitted for bacteriological examination together with 7 samples for chemical analysis.

Samples for bacteriological examination are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory at Reading and those for chemical analysis by the Public Analyst.

Section D.

WHAT WE EAT

FOOD HYGIENE

This environmental health activity continues to receive priority consideration.

The extension of the facilities provided in many licensed premises to include modest catering as distinct from snack provision continues to pose problems as the available resources tend to become overloaded before the full impact of the demand can be appreciated.

The co-operation of the Brewers is usually readily forthcoming but alterations to and adaptation of premises usually involves

major works and with the current shortage of labour and contract facilities, progress is often somewhat slower than one would hope for.

Staff shortages in the Department prevented full implementation of a programme of detailed inspection of the 200 or so premises in the Borough offering catering facilities but the situation had improved by the end of the year.

The Government announced during the year that they had accepted that there should be open date stamping of food to take effect in 1975. For this purpose Foods will be divided into two broad divisions—"short life" foods which constitute the biggest problem in relation to staleness and mould; and "long-life" foods. It will be interesting to see how the proposed regulations are drafted, which foods are in the different categories and which are exempted altogether. There are already moves in some sections of the trade to introduce pilot systems in the merchandising of certain foods.

The basic decision is a timely reminder, however, that public pressure, sustained advocacy and publicity by interested sections of society—magistrates, local authorities, health workers, consumer groups—can secure legislative changes which, in this case, run counter to trade opinions and the recommendation, originally made by the Food Standards Committee that such a proposal was not practical and the existing law was an adequate protection.

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

Nature and number of registered food premises :—

(a) Manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream	Nil
(b) For storage of ice cream intended for sale	1
(c) For storage and sale of ice cream	106
(d) For preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	18

FOOD PREMISES

The following table details the nature and type of business comprising the 349 food premises in the Borough which are subject to the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970.

Bakers and Confectioners	10
Butchers	21
Canteens and Catering Establishments	34
Clubs	17
Confectioners (Sweet Shops)	31
Fishmongers	2

Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	7
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	18
Grocers, Provision Merchants and General Stores (including delicatessen and small self-service stores)	...	...	...	...	...	59
Hostels and Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hotels and Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Hospitals and Nurses' Homes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	6
Milk Depots	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	46
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	23
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	31
School Cooking Centre	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supermarkets and Large Self-Service Stores	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wine Shops	...	...	...	...	...	8

MILK AND DAIRIES

There has so far been no attempt on the part of dairymen to introduce a scheme of distribution using disposable plastic containers. Any such intention could give rise to a delicate situation and it is hoped that the fullest opportunity will be given for investigation and assessment of all the various considerations involved before any such scheme is introduced locally.

Number of Distributors of Milk	...	...	...	...	54
Number of Dealers (Prepacked Milk) Licences	...	...	...	...	56

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES :

Three samples of ice cream were taken during the year with the following results :—

Provisional Grade 1	...	...	...	...	2
Provisional Grade 2	...	...	...	...	Nil
Provisional Grade 3	...	...	...	...	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES :

Pasteurised Milk :

Total samples submitted	56
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Methylene Blue Test :

Passed	52
Failed	2
Void	2

Phosphatase Test :

Passed	56
Failed	Nil

Sterilised Milk :

Total samples submitted	Nil
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One sample of Ultra Heat Treated milk taken during the year was satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The established pattern of co-operation between County and Borough authorities will, it is hoped, be permitted to continue after reorganisation.

The Food and Drugs Act function comprised in the scheme of delegation which governs present arrangements will revert to the County Council under the provisions of the new Local Government Act. A substantial and reasonable case will, however, be put on behalf of the new District Authority with a view to securing agency arrangements in respect of this particular function and it is hoped that this will lead to an acceptable arrangement.

Apart from the saving which such an arrangement would afford to the County Council, it would be more convenient to the general public. Additionally, having regard to the wide range of duties in connection with food, food premises, licensing, etc., for which the new District Authority will be responsible, to have the one authority dealing with the whole of this area of work must inevitably lead to more efficient use of staff and greater effectiveness.

Eighty-nine samples of food and drugs were procured and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst and the following table sets out the detail in relation thereto.

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Article	Formal		Informal	
	Number of Samples	Number Adulterated or Unsatisfactory	Number of Samples	Number Adulterated or Unsatisfactory
Apple and Plum Jam	-	-	1	-
Beef, Minced	1	-	-	-
Banana flavour delight	-	-	1	-
Black pudding	-	-	1	-
Buttermilk, raspberry	1	-	-	-
Cottage cheese	1	-	1	-
Coffee a la creme	-	-	1	-
Crab, dressed	-	-	1	-
Chicken, various	-	-	3	-
Cereal, mixed with fruit and almonds	-	-	1	-
Cooking oil	1	-	-	-
Chestnut puree	-	-	1	-
Cream, Danish	-	-	1	-
Fruit, mixed	-	-	1	-
Gin	1	-	-	-
Gingerbread Mix	-	-	1	-
Gravy powder	-	-	1	-
Irish Stew	-	-	1	-
Ice lolly syrup	-	-	1	-
Ice cream, various	3	-	1	-
Juices, various	-	-	2	-
Lambs tongue in jelly	-	-	1	-
Milks	19	-	-	-
Milk products, various	-	-	4	-
Mashed potato mix	-	-	1	-
Mushrooms	-	-	1	-
Nut Mix	-	-	1	-
Pate, Liver	-	-	1	-
Peaches, white	-	-	1	-
Pumpernickel	-	-	1	-
Paste, meat	-	-	1	-
Ratatouille	-	-	1	-
Rennet, essence of	-	-	1	-
Strawberries in syrup	-	-	1	-
Sugar crystals	-	-	1	-
Steakettes	-	-	1	-

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

Article	Formal		Informal	
	Number of Samples	Number Adulterated or Unsatisfactory	Number of Samples	Number Adulterated or Unsatisfactory
Sponge Mix	-	-	1	-
Spreads, various	-	-	4	-
Sauces, various	-	-	4	-
Sausage meat	1	-	-	-
Sausages	6	-	-	-
Steak products, various	-	-	4	-
Soups	-	-	1	-
Tortellini with tomato sauce	-	-	1	-
Topping and filling	-	-	2	-
Whisky	1	-	-	-
	35	-	54	-

FOOD INSPECTION AND UNSOUND FOOD.

The following food stuffs were certified unfit for human consumption and destroyed:—

Beef	...	144 lbs.	Pork	...	47 lbs.
Fruit	...	14 lbs.	Rabbit	...	30 lbs.
Bacon	...	15 lbs.	Vegetables	...	9 lbs.
Fish	...	70 lbs.	Various Foods		656 tins
Lamb	...	16 lbs.	Various Foods		6959 Packets

COMPLAINTS RELATING TO FOOD.

The number of formal complaints received was 37, a decrease of 4 compared with last year.

Of these, 13 related to mouldy food, 11 were in connection with foreign bodies, 5 concerned insects in food and only one arose from a dirty milk bottle. The remaining 7 complaints were of a miscellaneous nature.

Every complaint is the subject of exhaustive investigation and all available evidence, including the invited observations of manufacturers where relevant is assessed before deciding on the course of action which the complaint appears to justify.

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During the year under review, 31 complaints were dealt with informally.

The remaining six complaints were the subject of legal proceedings as follows:—

Metal in steaklets	—	Fined £20 plus costs of £18.50.
Glass in piccalilli	—	Fined £30 " " " £13.50.
Mouldy cake	—	Fined £25 " " " £ 8.00.
Mouldy pasty	—	Fined £20 " " " £15.00.
Mouldy black pudding	—	Fined £20 " " " £10.00.
Unsound ham	—	Fined £15 " " " £10.00.

Section E

WHERE WE WORK

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The encouraging progress recorded last year with general inspections has continued and, so far as can be ascertained, all premises in the Borough which are subject to the provisions of the Act had received an initial inspection by the end of the year.

In addition to the 376 general inspections a further 218 visits were made to registered premises for purposes connected with the Act and relevant Regulations.

There are now 478 premises registered under the Act and a total of 4,217 persons employed therein whose working environment depends on the efficient administration of the Act and all the numerous regulations made thereunder.

The total of 4,217 employees is made up of 1,750 males and 2,467 females and the following table indicates the total number employed in various types of work place.

Offices.	Retail Shops.	Wholesale Shops & Warehouses.	Catering Establishments open to Public.	Canteens
2193	1506	157	323	38

All material contraventions discovered during the course of the 604 visits (including general inspections) carried out during the year were confirmed in writing and in almost every case compliance with requirements was secured without difficulty.

Eight informations were laid with regard to contraventions, all of which resulted in conviction.

A detailed statistical report has already been submitted to the Department of Employment as required under the Act.

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ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prose- cuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	231	40	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out- workers' premises) ...	28	137	—	—
Total	265	180	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'tr. (4)	By H.M. Insp'tr. (5)	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tem- perature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—

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PART VIII of the ACT.
OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Sect. 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council (3)	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists (4)	No. of Instances of work in Un-wholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel	17	—	—	—	—	—
Curtain making	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Button carding	32	—	—	—	—	—
Total	49	—	—	—	—	—

Section F

ANIMAL AND INSECT PESTS

RODENT CONTROL

A major part of the work of the departmental officers directly responsible for pest control relates to the destruction of rats and mice. The control staff includes a General Assistant who is a highly experienced full-time Pest Control Officer together with a Technical Assistant, approximately one-third of whose time is devoted to this work.

The rodent control service is organised to give a free service to domestic premises, a chargeable service on a time and material basis to commercial premises and a service by annual agreement at a pre-determined charge to commercial undertakings on request.

The annual servicing agreements provide for routine testing and treatment at intervals of six weeks and incidental treatments on request during the intervening periods. In practice it is found to be a most effective way of ensuring regular surveillance where perhaps it is most needed as well as providing a pre-estimated and useful source of revenue.

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During the year under review the following visits and treatments have been carried out :

Premises visited on complaint	...	...	...	1363
Premises visited on survey	...	...	...	3210
Premises with rat infestation	...	...	...	206
Premises with mouse infestation	...	...	...	388

Annual agreements in respect of 78 premises were in force during the year.

The Sewage Works and Refuse Tip continue to be subject to regular inspection and remain virtually free of infestation.

Warfarin resistant mice continue to pose increasing problems. Trapping provides an effective alternative but is time consuming and therefore more uneconomic. It has become the rule over the years for more and more people to contract out of any responsibility in relation to their own domestic infestation by means of resorting to the freely available local authority service.

The sheer economics of this situation, not least of all in terms of available manpower may pose the question to the new authority as to whether or not it would be expedient, in cases where infestation by resistant mice is established, to expect the householder to be involved in the responsibility for dealing with this particular infestation, by trapping. The Pests Officer would of course advise on procedure and possibly arrange for the loan of traps.

INSECT PESTS.

Complaints relating to insect pests were received and treatment carried out as follows:—

Wasps	Fleas	Bugs	Other Insects
84	8	5	24

PIGEONS.

Positive action has been continued to control and reduce the Town pigeon population. The established trapping site in the Town Centre continues to operate successfully and the operation is carried out humanely and unobtrusively.

OTHER PESTS.

Local authorities have no statutory responsibility to control pests such as squirrels, rabbits, foxes, moles, bats, etc., in respect of which complaints arise, unless a public health risk exists. Occasionally such a risk can be established but in all cases advice and assistance is given within the competence of the Department.

The Ministry of Agriculture likewise has no statutory authority for controlling urban pests, but a close liaison exists between the

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two authorities, notably through the periodic meetings of the South Bucks and East Berks Pest Control Committee.

The grey squirrel continues to be a problem giving rise to complaint. Likewise infestations by bats, where a public health nuisance is established, have called for special action.

I would, however, repeat the note of caution which I introduced last year regarding the tendency to class as "pests" many living things with which we come face to face after we have "urbanised" their natural environment and habitat.

The greatest care should always be exercised in preserving the delicate natural balance which exists at and beyond the fringe of urban development.

Section G**MISCELLANEOUS****SWIMMING POOLS.**

Pollution of water in swimming pools, including bacteriological pollution, can be considerable even in waters which appear attractive and can lead to intestinal and respiratory conditions or infections of the nose, ear and throat. In addition, certain skin infections can be spread by costumes, towels, etc.

Strict control of the methods employed to secure and maintain the purity and safety of swimming pool water is therefore essential.

The Corporation swimming pool operates at all times under conditions of absolute safety.

In addition there are in the Borough 13 pools which are used for recreational and instructional purposes and 10 of these are at County Educational Establishments. These latter operate in accordance with a detailed maintenance procedure laid down by the Education Department. By mutual agreement with the Borough Council, Head Teachers are instructed to contact the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector immediately should any problem arise. Apart from the occasional difficulty which is quickly resolved the water in these pools is maintained to a high standard of purity.

The general public rightly expect that they and their children should be able to bathe in water free from hazard or risk and accept this as being the position. It would nevertheless be reasonable for them to ask for and obtain the assurance of the pool operator that adequate and effective procedures are indeed in operation to secure the purity of the water and ensure its safety.

One hundred and forty-five samples from school swimming pools and 14 samples from the Council's pool were examined bacteriologically during the course of the year.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

Two burials were undertaken during the year under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

There are two persons in the Borough operating plant and equipment for the boiling of waste foods under licence. Routine inspections are made at irregular intervals.

The duties carried out by the Borough Council under the Order are undertaken by virtue of a Scheme of Delegation made on the 24th February 1958 as amended on the 1st July, 1966.

Notification has now been received from the County Council of their intention to terminate the Scheme on 31st March next year. Whilst expressing appreciation for the work carried out by the District Councils in this connection, the County Authority refer to the recent establishment of a County Diseases of Animals Inspectorate and it appears logical that the new Inspectorate should also deal with the administration of the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order.

RAG FLOCK.

There are two premises registered under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1961. Both have been satisfactorily maintained and no contravention has been observed on inspection.

NOISE.

In my report for 1971 I commented that aircraft noise did not appear to be a major source of nuisance in the Borough. In discussing the impact of aircraft noise on the environment generally I also stated "it is **no** solution to re-route aircraft from one highly populated flight path to another".

On the 21st July 1972 this is precisely what happened with the introduction of the new V.O.R. beacon at Burnham. Whatever theoretical arguments and presumptions may subsequently have been put forward, the plain fact to emerge was that a large number of people who had hitherto been unaffected in any material way by aircraft noise had the peace and calm of their environment shattered by the noise of jet aircraft which had been re-routed.

Much of the frustration, dismay, argument, representation and effort which has followed and which continues could have been avoided had someone had the good sense or indeed the courtesy to involve the Borough Council in prior discussions.

Council policy simply stated in this particular context is directed towards ensuring that all possible action is taken to preserve the local environment from the effects of excessive or

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

unnecessary aircraft noise. They nevertheless recognise that such a policy must have regard to the complex technical and administrative problems which are outside the Council's discretion, authority or control. They also give general support to the aims and objectives of the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council.

More specifically they have asked the Noise Advisory Council to examine the feasibility of moving the Burnham navigational beacon some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of its present position or to recommend the introduction of flight procedures which would have the same effect; to take a close look at noise abatement procedures at take-off and landing with particular regard to the possible introduction of what can be described as the "up and away technique"; also to re-examine the possibility of limited dispersal with a view to securing a more equitable sharing of nuisance. These short term measures should be coupled with medium term measures for securing the introduction of quieter aircraft and the modification of existing aircraft by fitting "hush kits", whilst the long term objective should be simply "MAPLIN".

In considering the impact of noise on the environment one should not lose sight of the fact that the local authority has no statutory control over aircraft noise. It has, on the other hand, a direct administrative responsibility with regard to numerous other "neighbourhood" noises and it should be borne in mind that to many people the impact of traffic noise, industrial noise, pneumatic drills and even ice cream chimes is far more disturbing than aircraft. Complaints of this nature continue to be received and investigated and dealt with in a positive manner. Technical equipment for noise measurement is available in the Department.

Of the 93 individual complaints of noise made to the Public Health Department during the year, less than one half were in respect of aircraft noise.

STAFF.

Extreme difficulty was experienced during the second half of the year in filling a Public Health Inspector vacancy, but the situation was satisfactorily resolved by the year's end.

Apart from this, the professional, technical and clerical staff have remained up to establishment.

All members of staff have continued to give their loyal and conscientious support to the work of the Department during the year and I would like to place on record my appreciation of the manner in which they have discharged their various duties.

A. D. M. JONES,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT.**HOUSING.**

The additional eight elderly persons' flats being erected at Maudsley House are expected to be completed by the end of March. The Council have approved a further twenty-nine units at Brills Farm. This scheme has received approval from the Department of the Environment and a start is expected to be made during March 1974 with a construction period of about one year. Thirty-one similar units are envisaged as part of the Holmanleaze development. A start is envisaged during the late summer of 1973, again with a contract period of about one year.

Fourteen 3-bedroom Council houses are under construction as an extension to the Larchfield Estate and these should be available for occupation towards the end of 1973.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL WORKS.

As expected the dry weather flow continues to exceed the design flow set for the Works when they were originally constructed and it is a continuing problem to achieve an acceptable effluent standard. Considerable progress has been made on the design of the new Works which, it is anticipated, should commence within a year. The first stage construction will deal with a dry weather flow of 3.3 m.g.d. and should achieve a much higher standard of effluent than the present Works. The principle of the scheme will be that of double filtration embodying micro-strainers and a form of mechanical sludge de-watering. Stand-by electrical generators will also be installed to ensure complete safeguard against loss of power at the new Works.

MAIN DRAINAGE.

All the emergency problems on the town's main drainage system have been overcome, some by extensive cleaning of sewers. Progress is being made on the two major schemes which will ultimately provide relief to the town's sewerage system and fairly good progress continues to be made on the connection of properties to main drainage, particularly in conjunction with Private Street Works Schemes.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

The fleet of refuse collection vehicles has been extensively modernised and further new vehicles are expected to be delivered during April. Some difficulty has been experienced in the recruitment of drivers holding heavy goods vehicle licences, but this situation has recently improved.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

The paper sack system of refuse storage and collection is gradually being extended throughout the town. All new properties are subjected to a Planning condition requiring this system to be implemented.

SWIMMING POOL.

The number of persons attending the open air swimming pool was less than that recorded for the previous year due to rather inclement weather. Weekly samples taken at the Pool proved satisfactory in every instance.

A start has been made on the construction of the indoor recreational centre and swimming pool at Holmanleaze incorporating a multi-purpose sports hall, an indoor heated swimming pool, four squash courts, several free activity sports areas and a bar and restaurant. The completion is scheduled for the middle of 1974.

H. MILLS,

Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

COOKHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

COMMENT ON STATISTICS.

The estimated mid-1972 population of 19,290 showed an increase of 160 over the previous year. There were 105 more births than deaths in the Rural District. Of the 5 infant deaths, 3 of them were under 1 week of age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Three of the 4 notified cases of Dysentery occurred amongst the members of one family. In June I was notified of 3 cases of Food Poisoning in a family of 4. The family had all been together the previous day and had taken one meal away from home. No single item of food could be found common to all affected members and avoided by the one who remained well, apart from Stilton cheese. Unfortunately none of this could be obtained for examination. Although no food poisoning organisms were isolated from this family, the history of the illnesses did point strongly to a food-borne infection.

The numbers of persons on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December 1972 are shown below with the corresponding figures in brackets for 1971 :

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3 (1)	7 (9)	10 (10)
None-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2 (2)	0 (0)	2 (2)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The schemes which went ahead during the year for the sewer-ing of several villages are described in detail by the Engineer and Surveyor. I welcome them unreservedly. We still have too many properties on a well-water supply however. These are always liable to surface contamination and require constant surveillance by the Health Department.

HOUSING.

The Housing Manager has kindly given me the following information. No Council houses were completed in 1972 so that only 9 applicants could be re-housed from the Elderly Persons list and 9 applicants from the general waiting list. There were 255 applicants on the general waiting list and 90 on the list for elderly persons accommodation at the end of 1972, as against 206 and 75 respectively at the end of 1971. This increase reflects the demand for Council housing and there are constant requests for priority on a variety of grounds.

Cookham Rural District.

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	24,920			
Number of dwelling houses including flats according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1973	7,142			
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1973	£2,834,084			
Product of a Penny Rate	£27,000			
Population (estimated mid-year)	19,290			
Live Births :	1972	1971	1970	1969
Legitimate	242	272	237	292
Illegitimate	15	18	19	16
Live Birth Rate per 1,000				
Population :				
Actual	13.3	15.2	13.5	16.4
Corrected	13.0	14.1	12.6	15.3
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	5.8	6.2	7.4	5.2
Still Births	3	3	1	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	11.5	10.2	3.9	6.5
Total Live and Still Births	260	293	257	310
Infant Deaths :				
Legitimate	3	0	3	5
Illegitimate	2	0	0	1
Infant Death Rates :				
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	19.5	0.0	11.7	19.5
Deaths of Legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	12.4	0.0	12.7	17.1
Deaths of Illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	133.3	0.0	0.0	62.5
Neo-Natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Live Births)	15.6	0.0	3.9	19.5
Early Neo-Natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births)	11.7	0.0	3.9	19.5
Perinatal Death Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	23.1	10.2	7.8	25.8
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deaths (all causes)	152	162	145	174
Death Rate per 1,000 population:				
Actual	7.9	8.5	7.6	9.3
Corrected	9.3	9.8	8.7	10.7

Cookham Rural District.

CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH	TOTAL	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	-
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	-	-
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	-	-
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	-	-
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	2	-	-
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	-	-
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	-
B19(10) Leukaemia	4	-	-
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	-	-
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	3	-	-
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	-	-
B23 Anaemias	2	-	-
B46(4) Multiple Sclerosis	1	-	-
B46(5) Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	-	-
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	-
B27 Hypertensive Disease	2	-	-
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	37	-	-
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	8	-	-
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	18	-	-
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	10	-	-
B31 Influenza	1	-	-
B32 Pneumonia	10	-	-
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	-	-
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	-	1
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	2	-	-
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	-
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	-
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	-
B46(11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-	-
B42 Congenital Anomalies	2	2	-
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	1	-
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	-
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	-	-
BE48 All Other Accidents	3	-	-
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	4	-	-
BE50 All Other External Causes	1	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	152	4	1

Cookham Rural District.

DEATH

AGE GROUPS								
1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	1	5	9	6	16
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	9
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
-	3	1	4	2	11	28	33	65

Cookham Rural District.

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Dysentery . . .	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Food Poisoning . .	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Infective Jaundice .	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles . . .	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	-	12
Scarlet Fever . . .	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Tuberculosis:													
(a) Respiratory .	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
(b) Non-Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	4	1	10	-	1	3	3	4	-	26

Cookham Rural District.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending 31st December, 1972.

WATER SAMPLING.

The following list shows the seven Parishes in the Rural District with properties in each which are on either a mains or a well water supply :

Parish	Total Houses	On Main Supply	On Well Supply
Bisham	428	419	9
Bray	1,913	1,910	3
Cookham	2,245	2,201	44
Hurley	709	674	35
Shottesbrooke	46	46	—
Waltham St. Lawrence	560	559	1
White Waltham	739	739	—

202 samples of well water were obtained during the year and the report on these samples are as follows :—

Satisfactory ...	178
Unsatisfactory ...	24

The unsatisfactory samples were mainly from a large well serving some 9 properties on a private Estate. The well was pumped out and chlorinated and subsequent samples have been satisfactory. The well is situated in a large wooded area and is of the shallow type. The samples from this well over the last three years have shown a great variation in results and the Council are very well aware of this. Further unsatisfactory samples will necessitate either the provision of a mains water supply here, or, the installation of a chlorinating plant.

The remaining unsatisfactory samples were all due to dirty storage tanks and when they were cleansed subsequent samples were satisfactory.

2 samples of mains water were obtained and both these were satisfactory.

4 samples of school swimming bath water were obtained; one of these was unsatisfactory due to a breakdown in the treatment plant.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS.

Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	62
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	524
Caravans and Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	...	112
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	77
Cesspool emptying	...	...	...	...	...	7
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	62
General Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	134
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	177
Restaurants, Canteens, Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	179
Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	...	...	26
Civic Amenities Act	...	...	...	...	...	357

MILK SAMPLING.

2 samples of raw milk were obtained and submitted to the Brucella Ring Test; both samples were reported on as negative.

UNSOUND FOOD

The following list shows the foodstuffs which were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption :—

- 3 lbs. Chicken breasts in jelly;
- 12 ozs. Lambs' kidneys;
- 4 lbs. Pork sausages;
- 2 lbs. Pork chops.

The contents of 4 refrigerators, due to mechanical breakdown, included quantities of :—

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Packets of | Trifle |
| | Mousse |
| | Peas |
| | Onions |
| | Beans |
| | Sprouts |
| | Chips |
| | Beefburgers |
| | Rissoles |
| | Roast Beef |
| | Corn on the Cob |
| | Fish fingers |
| | Fish cakes |
| | Haddock |
| | Cod |
| | Fillets of kippers |
| | Sausage rolls |
| | Chicken pies |
| | Steak and Kidney pies |
| | Curries |
| | Various pastries. |

WET AND DRY SCAVENGING

In March of the year the Council withdrew the operation of these two Services—after some 23 years—from the Public Health Department, so I am unable to give an account of their operation.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This work is now operated by another Department but no serious nuisance has occurred during the year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The Council are still using lagoon beds for the disposal of cess-pool contents and a number of complaints of smell and flies were received by the Department.

The operation of these beds again is not a direct responsibility of my Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

For yet another year I am pleased to report that no serious outbreak of infectious disease has occurred. The majority of inspections were for notifications of suspected Sonnei Dysentery, most of which turned out to be negative.

FOOD PREMISES.

A total of 490 visits and inspections were made during the year to the Food Shops, Public Houses, Canteens, Cafes and Hotels and as a result a number of Public Houses and Hotels are improving their sanitary facilities and a large number of general improvements have either been carried out or are under way. More time has been available during the year and a great deal of it has been devoted to the inspection of Food Premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

A total of 88 visits were made during the year.

CARAVAN SITES.

There are a total of about 896 caravans in the area, the majority on well run holiday sites.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 54 licensed premises in the area where petrol is stored and 72 inspections were made of these premises.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A total of 59 Discretionary Grant applications and 1 Standard Grant application was received during the year.

Checking of these applications and the work of previous applications necessitated some 468 visits being made. The Council place great emphasis on this work and every encouragement is given to applicants.

Finally I would like to thank Members of my Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

E. G. POLLARD,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	66	66	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	70	70	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Insp'tr. (4)	Referred By H.M. Insp'tr. (5)	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII of the ACT.

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133				Section 134	
	No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Sect. 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council (3)	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists (4)	No. of Instances of work in Un-wholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel	8	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	—	—	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.**COUNCIL HOUSING.****MAJOR WORKS TO EXISTING PROPERTIES.**

38 houses on post-war estates were re-wired, bringing the electrical systems up to Parker Morris standards for points.

4 houses at Dean View Cottages, Cookham Rise, were modernised. Solid fuel convector heaters with backboilers were installed serving the hot water system and 4 radiators. Alterations were made to bathrooms and kitchens, including cupboard and sink units, with wall plastering and complete electrical re-wiring to Parker Morris standards for points.

70 properties at Shepherds Close, Hurley, had solid fuel convector heaters with backboilers installed, serving the hot water system and 4 radiators. The works replaced existing defective water and space heating installations.

PRIVATE HOUSING.

33 private dwellings were completed in 1972.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**Bisham**

The scheme for the sewerage of the village of Bisham, together with the rising main to the Hurley Sewage Disposal Works, is now almost complete. The drainage of Temple will follow on once the proposals for the hotel and flat development is finalised.

Oakley Green

The scheme for the sewerage of Oakley Green, together with the rising main to Slough Sewage Disposal Works, has been completed.

White Waltham Main Drainage Scheme.

The work of reconstruction and enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works at White Waltham has now commenced and is due for completion by April 1974.

Phase I of the main drainage scheme, which includes the sewerage of part of Woodlands Park and the villages of White Waltham, Waltham St. Lawrence and Shurlock Row, is under way and completion should be by April, 1974.

Cookham Rural District.**Bray Main Drainage**

The scheme to improve this existing drainage area by the construction of a new 10in. rising main from No. 1 Pumping Station, Bray, to Maidenhead Borough's sewage disposal works, together with new pumping equipment, has been designed and the Contract let. Work is due to commence in April, 1973.

Cookham.

A scheme for the enlargement of the existing Sewage Disposal Works is at present being designed by my department.

P. A. MAJOR,
Engineer and Surveyor.



