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R.D.C.**

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1972

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

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G. K. THORLEY, M.R.S.H. M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Meat Inspector.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

B. LIGHTFOOT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Meat Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

C. J. BADDELEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1972.

The 1971 mid-year population figure was given as 23,190. The 1972 figure is 22,080, a reduction of 1,100, bringing the estimated population more into line with what could have been expected from previous years. As can readily be seen, apart from population movement into the district from adjoining areas, the population is now a nil-growth one.

Births decreased by 21 but on the amended population figures the birth rate moved but marginally. Illegitimacy also remained virtually static. Stillbirths fell from 5 to 2. This low figure, added to the 5 infant deaths, only one of which offered any chance of successful treatment, reflects the high standard of care given to the mother and child.

Deaths increased by 26 to 234, in the ratio of 133 male to 101 female deaths. Of these deaths, 134 were due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, 64, more than a quarter of all deaths, being due to coronary disease. These 64 deaths were divided in the proportion of 2:1 in favour of females, a division that can be regarded as customary and which is part of the slowly rising tide of cardio-vascular disease with its personal tragedies and family disasters.

Malignancy caused many fewer deaths than in the previous year; at 39 deaths it could be compared with the 1970 figure. Once again the largely preventable lung cancer accounted for the largest single group of cancer deaths. Of the other cancers, some, such as breast cancer and cancer of the cervix, are susceptible of early diagnosis with every hope of successful treatment. The necessary simple investigation is freely offered at cytology clinics but unfortunately the response to continuing health education remains disappointing.

Deaths from diseases of the respiratory system rose during the year from the low figures of the past two years, but could not be regarded as abnormally raised. In this group also, however, it may be seen that deaths have continued to be caused by a largely avoidable disease, namely chronic bronchitis. This disease is largely one of males and, like lung cancer, is both avoidable and often brought about by the individual's own actions.

Measles provided almost the entire total of notified cases of infectious disease. The continued existence of this disease, and certainly its major position among diseases, threatening child health in the community, depends on the continuing failure of mothers to accept the simple and effective vaccination procedure of a single injection. When one considers the ready acceptance of other vaccination measures this failure is all the more surprising.

No action was required during the year in terms of Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948.

Private building activity increased during 1972, 204 private dwellings being completed and 241 under construction at the end of the year. Only two council dwellings were completed and there were 24 under construction at the end of the year. Insofar as unfit properties were concerned, 7 dwellings were demolished and 3 closed.

Finally, and for the last time, I would record my great appreciation of the great help given at all times during the year by Mr. G. K. Thorley, your Chief Public Health Inspector, of the work done by your Public Health Inspectors, your administrative staff, and by all the people concerned in safeguarding the health of the district, the effectiveness of whose efforts may be seen in the statistics commented on above. I would particularly like to express my appreciation of the assistance given to me by Mr. Wildon in the compilation of this report and my previous reports to the Council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) J. TOLLAND

Medical Officer of Health

December, 1973

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area at 31st December, 1972—39,171 acres.

Rateable Value 1/4/73—£2,090,064

Sum represented by the penny rate : (estimated for the year 1973/4):
£19,795.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population as at June 30th,
1972 : 22,080.

Number of inhabited houses in the area as at 31st December, 1972:
7,039.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these houses by parishes :

TABLE 1.

<i>Parish</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	679	Madeley	.. ..	1,520
Audley	..	3,000	Maer	.. ..	200
Balterley	..	84	Mucklestone	.. ..	157
Betley	..	313	Tyrley	.. ..	264
Chorlton	..	154	Whitmore	.. ..	310
Keele	..	358			

Of the total of 7,039 houses, 1,277 (18.1%) are Council Houses, 6 having been sold.

In addition, there were a number of occupied caravans and other forms of dwellings as follows :—

TABLE 2.

<i>Parish</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	3	Keele	.. ..	1
Audley	..	8	Madeley	.. ..	9
Betley	..	3	Mucklestone	.. ..	2
Chorlton	..	23	Whitmore	.. ..	1

TABLE 3.

Vital Statistics.

				Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.	England and Wales
				Rates per 1,000 estimated Population	
<i>Live Births :</i>					
		M.	F.		
Total ..	244	119	125	11.1	14.8
Legitimate ..	231	113	118	10.4	—*
Illegitimate ..	13	6	7	0.5	—*
Illegitimacy Rate per 1,000 total live births				50	90
Comparability factor 0.83					
Therefore the adjusted birth rate is 9.2					
				<i>Rates per 1,000 Total Live and Stillbirths</i>	
<i>Stillbirths :</i>					
		M.	F.		
Total ..	2	2	—	8	12
Legitimate ..	2	2	—	—	—*
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—	—	—*
				<i>Rates per 1,000 estimated Population</i>	
<i>Deaths :</i>					
		M.	F.		
Total ..	234	133	101	10.6 (Crude)	12.1
				12.1 (Adjusted)	
Comparability factor 1.14					
<i>Infant Mortality Deaths under One Year of Age</i>				<i>Rates per 1,000 related Live Births</i>	
		M.	F.		
Total ..	6	3	3	25	17
Legitimate ..	6	3	3	26	17
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—	—	21
<i>Neonatal Mortality Deaths under Four Weeks of Age :</i>				<i>Rate per 1,000 related Live Births</i>	
		M.	F.		
Total ..	5	3	2	20	12
Legitimate ..	5	3	2		
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—		
<i>Perinatal Mortality Deaths under One Week of Age plus stillbirths</i>				<i>Rates per 1,000 related Live and Stillbirths</i>	
		M.	F.		
Total ..	6	5	1	24	22
Legitimate ..	6	5	1		
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—		

* Rates not available

TABLE 4.

Summary of Deaths of Children under One Year of Age.

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Age</i>
M.	Extreme Prematurity	2 days
F.	Respiratory Infection. Jaundice.	5 days
F.	Meningomyelocele. Hydrocephalus.	11 days
F.	Bronchopneumonia. Hydrocephalus. Spina Bifida	11 months
M.	Cerebral Haemorrhage. Childbirth.	2 days
M.	Enteritis	

Table 5 shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for the last ten years in Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District and England and Wales, and the average rates during the period.

TABLE 5.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Newcastle-under-Lyme R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
1963	40	21
1964	33	20
1965	18	19
1966	14	19
1967	28	18
1968	4	18
1969	11	18
1970	22	18
1971	26	18
1972	25	17
Averages	22.1	18.6

TABLE 6.

*CAUSES OF DEATH**In Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District in 1972*

<i>Cause</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	—

TABLE 6 — continued

	M	F
Leukaemia	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	5
Diabetes Mellitus	1	4
Meningitis	—	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	—
Hypertensive Disease	2	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	43	21
Other Forms of Heart Disease	4	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	16	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	8	10
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	10	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Congenital Anomalies	1	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	2	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	—
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	—	1
All Other Accidents	3	—
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	1	1
	<hr/> 133	<hr/> 101

TABLE 7.

Age Distribution at Death

	M	F
0 — 1 year	3	3
1 — 4 years	1	—
5 — 14 years	—	—
15 — 24 years	2	—
25 — 34 years	—	1
35 — 44 years	5	2
45 — 54 years	8	3
55 — 64 years	33	16
65 — 74 years	34	19
75 and over	47	57
	<hr/> 133	<hr/> 101

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Examination of Samples.

Examination of samples of water etc., is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Chemical Laboratory, Stafford.

2. Services provided by the Staffordshire County Council.

(a) The Ambulance Service, Health Visiting, District Home Nursing and Midwifery Services are operated by the Staffordshire County Council.

The Ambulance Depot for the Area is situated at Newcastle Road, Knutton, Newcastle, Staffordshire and the telephone number is Newcastle 619201.

Details of District Nurses, etc., are as follows :—

<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Area Covered</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Nurse B. Jones, 14, Beresford Dale, Madeley	Midwife	Madeley, Keele, Leycett, Scot Hay	S-o-T 750423
	District Nurse	do.	
Nurse E. Rhodes, Rose Cottage, Newcastle Road, Betley	District Nurse/ Midwife	Betley, Balterley, Alsagers Bank, Halmerend	Betley 383
	District Nurse/ Midwife/Health Visitor/School Nurse	Ashley (part) Mucklestone, Tyrley	
Mrs. G. E. Berrisford, 29, Esselie Av., Ashley	District Nurse/ Midwife/School Nurse/Health Visitor	Ashley (part) Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer	Ashley 2311
Mrs. N. Davies, 16, Leaswood Place, Clayton	District Nurse/ Midwife/Health Visitor/School Nurse	Whitmore	S-o-T 58354

<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Area Covered</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Nurse N. Moulton, "Penlyn" London Road, Woore	District Nurse	Ashley, Hales, Whitmore	Pipe Gate 489
Nurse M. E. Graham, The Studio, Church Street, Audley	District Nurse	Audley, Wood Lane, Bignall End	S-o-T 720287
Nurse M. Llewellyn, Wilbrahams Walk, Audley	Midwife	Audley, Wood Lane, Bignall End	S-o-T 720597
Mrs. D. Robinson, 5, Venice Court, Westlands, Newcastle	Health Visitor	Apedale, Keele, Alsagers Bank, Halmerend, Scot Hay, Miles Green, Leycett, Madeley Heath (part)	Keele Park 332
Miss E. H. Podmore, Highway Lane, Keele	Health Visitor	Audley, Bignall End, Wood Lane	S-o-T 720343
Mrs. E. E. Barker, 12, Old Butt Lane, Talke	Health Visitor	Balterley, Betley, Madeley	Keele Park 332

(b) In addition, the County Council operates the under-mentioned Child Health Centres:—

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor in Attendance</i>
The Clinic, School Lane, Ashley	Fortnightly Tuesdays, 2 – 4 p.m.	Doctor J. Tolland

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor in Attendance</i>
Council Offices, Audley	Tuesdays, 2 – 4 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Prendiville
Central Methodist School, Halmerend	Fortnightly Wednesdays 2 – 5 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Prendiville
Old Church School, Church Bank, Keele	Tuesdays, 2 – 4 p.m.	Doctor C. Wilcox
Village Hall, Furnace Lane, Madeley	Thursdays, 2 – 5 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Prendiville

3. Hospitals.

The District is served by hospitals in Newcastle and Stoke-on-Trent administered by the North Staffordshire Hospital Management Committee.

Section C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification of Infectious Diseases

Under the provisions of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, and relevant Regulations, amendments were made to the list of diseases to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

The Infectious diseases now to be notified are:—

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Tetanus
Infective Jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping Cough
Measles	Yellow Fever

Notification of the diseases listed below is no longer required:—

Acute influenzal pneumonia	Erysipelas
Acute primary pneumonia	Membranous croup
Acute rheumatism	puerperal pyrexia

Responsibility for notifying a case or suspected case of food poisoning or infectious disease rests exclusively on the medical practitioner attending the patient unless he believes that another practitioner has already notified the case.

The following table shows the number of cases notified during the last five years.

TABLE 8

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Scarlet Fever	2	1	2	3	1
Whooping Cough	—	1	24	15	—
Measles	19	52	162	67	109
Paratyphoid Fevers ..	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	30	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—
Food-poisoning	11	2	20	2	1
Tuberculosis					
Pulmonary	2	—	1	3	1
Non-Pulmonary ..	1	—	1	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ..	2	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 9

Incidence and numbers of Deaths during the last Ten Years.

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
1963 ..	3	1	1	—
1964 ..	3	—	2	—
1965 ..	4	—	2	—
1966 ..	5	—	—	—
1967 ..	3	—	1	—
1968 ..	2	1	—	—
1969 ..	—	—	1	—
1970 ..	1	1	—	—
1971 ..	3	—	—	—
1972 ..	1	—	1	—

TABLE 10.

Number of Tuberculosis Cases on Register

31st December, 1972

Total Cases	Pulmonary		Total	Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.		M.	F.	
9	7	2	9	—	—	—

With modern methods of treatment, Tuberculosis is less of a medical problem but remains a grave social problem, with particular regard to the questions of suitable housing of active and infective cases.

The scheme for vaccination and immunisation of children against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Measles and Rubella is carried out by the County Council.

The following details give the number of children immunised during 1972.

TABLE 11.

**Vaccination and Immunisation carried out
in Newcastle Rural District during 1972
in respect of children up to age 16 years.**

Smallpox Vaccination	..	..	..	20	
Smallpox Re-vaccination	..	..	..	15	
Triple (Diphtheria, Pertussis & Tetanus combined)	299				Primary Courses
Triple (Diphtheria, Pertussis & Tetanus combined)	21				Booster Injections
Diphtheria & Tetanus combined	..	21			Primary Courses
Diphtheria & Tetanus combined	..	148			Booster Injections
Tetanus only	..	..	..	42	Primary Courses
Tetanus only	..	..	..	101	Booster Injections
Poliomyelitis (oral vaccine)	..	..	305		Primary Courses
Poliomyelitis (oral vaccine)	..	..	185		Booster Doses
Measles Vaccination	..	..	..	84	
German Measles Vaccination (Rubella)				56	

Section D

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES.

Private Building.

204 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 1,940 since the end of the war, and 241 houses were under course of construction at the end of the year.

Council Building.

I give below the requisite statements (Tables 12 and 13).

From Table 13 it may be seen that a total of 1,071 dwellings had been erected since the end of the war.

Two dwellings at Victoria Avenue, were completed during the year.

Twenty-four dwellings were under construction at the end of the year (18 at Wood Lane and 6 at Audley).

Table 12 shows the total number of houses built or acquired by the Council under all the Housing Acts :—

TABLE 12

Pre-war ..	..	..	..	208
War time	..	..	..	6
Post-war	..	..	..	1,071
				<hr/>
				1,285
				<hr/>

There were 335 applicants on the housing list at 31st December, 1972.

TABLE 13—STATEMENT
Of the total number of POST-WAR HOUSES erected as at 31st December, 1972

Parish and Site	No. of Houses completed		Types		No. of Bedrooms			Parish	Totals
	1/4/46	1/1/72	Aluminium	Swedish Timber	Traditional	1	2	3	4
AUDLEY :									
Halmerend ..	48	—	—	—	48	8	14	26	—
Wereton ..	335	—	—	—	285	39	70	223	3
Wood Lane ..	120	—	—	—	120	—	54	66	—
Alsagers Bank ..	30	—	—	—	30	11	11	8	—
Bignall End ..	12	—	—	—	12	—	4	8	—
Miles Green ..	29	2	—	—	31	16	4	9	2
ASHLEY :									
Charnes Road ..	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Sovereign Lane ..	40	—	—	—	16	—	8	32	—
BETLEY :									
Church Lane ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
East Lawns ..	63	—	—	—	63	—	43	20	—
CHORLTON :									
Chapel Chorlton ..	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	4	2
KEELE :									
Quarry Bank ..	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	—
MADELEY :									
Onneley ..	4	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	—
Furnace Lane ..	15	—	—	—	15	14	1	—	—
Bevan Place ..	26	—	26	—	—	—	26	—	—
The Moss ..	228	—	—	—	206	6	98	116	8
Madeley Heath ..	30	—	—	—	30	8	10	12	—
MAER :									
Aston ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
Blackbrook ..	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	10	—
MUCKLESTONE :									
Knighton ..	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	8	—
TYRLEY :									
Almington ..	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	—
Loggerheads ..	41	—	—	—	41	—	24	17	—
WHITMORE :									
Acton ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
TOTALS	1,069	2	26	12	927	102	367	587	15
							TOTAL		1,071

Section E

TABLE 14

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of
the Year 1972 for the Rural District of Newcastle-under-Lyme
in the County of Stafford.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act,
1961.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	21	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	33	21	—	—

2. *Cases in which defects were found.*

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied for</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspec-</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspec- tor</i>
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—

PART 8 OF THE ACT.

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Section 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failing to supply list</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>
Wearing Apparel making, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows :—

“The number of factories in the Rural District still remains small and generally speaking there was no cause for complaint in connection with the standard of the accommodation and the working conditions.

There is one modern brick and tile factory in the district, four sand and gravel workings and a factory concerned with the manufacture of bakery equipment and fibreglass materials.”

Section F

Employment conditions during 1972.

The Manager of the Employment Exchange, Newcastle reports as follows:—

The quiet conditions prevailing in 1971 continued in 1972 for the greater part of the year, although an improvement set in from September onwards.

The dispute in coalmining and its resultant effects led to temporary stoppages which gave a peak unemployment figure of 13% in February 1972, although the next month showed a welcome return to a more normal figure of 4.1% and by the end of the year there was only 2.7% of the insured population unemployed as against 4.2% in January. These figures were below those for the West Midlands and Great Britain.

Towards the end of 1972 there was an all round improvement in the availability of work for both men and women, and signs that there would soon be far more opportunities for women workers than there would be women to fill them.

Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows :

Section G

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water

The greater part of the District is supplied by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board and a small area is supplied by the Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board from the pumping station at Bearstone by a bulk supply to the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. In addition, there are three other supplies, *viz.* estate mains supply at Maer and Whitmore, and the supply from East Shropshire Water Board in Tyrley Parish.

TABLE 15
Summary of Results of Analysis of Water Samples taken in
the Area in 1972.

	<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>	
	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
1. <i>Private Supplies</i>				
(i) Ashley Parish	1	2	1	1
(ii) Maer Parish	2	1	2	—
	3	3	3	1
2. <i>Private Mains</i>				
Whitmore Parish	8	5	5	1
	8	5	5	1
3. <i>Public Supplies</i>				
Keele Parish	2	—	2	—
Totals	13	8	10	2

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, those at 1(i) were from wells not in use for drinking purposes and in the case of 1(ii) the owner was instructed to clean out the well and storage tank; those at 2, were as a result of melting snow causing flooding of the primary reservoir and subsequent deposits of sediment in the mains. Samples were immediately taken and upon instructions from this department, the estate owner cleansed and sterilised the mains, later samples giving satisfactory results.

The Engineer and Manager of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board has supplied the following information with regard to water supplies from the Board:—

The water is derived from deep wells and boreholes sunk in the New Red Sandstone Rock. During 1972, 284 bacteriological examinations were made, of which 13 were untreated and 271 of chlorinated water at source and in supply (including consumers' taps). All bacteriological samples taken were of high bacterial purity, no E.Col.I. being found, with the exception of one sample from Red Heath Reservoir. The Reservoir was immediately cleansed and chlorinated before being returned to service.

12 samples were chemically analysed and all samples were shown to be of the highest quality.

The water supplied to the whole area is moderately hard and the natural fluoride content of the water is not more than 0.25mg/l.

The water is not plumbo-solvent and the organic quality is of the highest standard. Softening of the water is not undertaken.

The consumption of water for domestic purposes, unmetered trade and waste in the whole of the Board's area of supply for the year 1972 averaged 40½ gallons per head per day.

The percentage of the number of houses in the district at the end of the year receiving water from piped mains was, 99.3%.

The number of houses supplied from stand-pipes was 7—Tyrley Parish, and there are 41 supplied from private wells.

With regard to the Department of Health's requirements that the number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public mains (a) direct to house, and (b) by means of stand-pipes, should be given, it may be seen from the above that the proportion supplied from stand-pipes is negligible.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The six main sewage disposal works in the district continued to function satisfactorily although three of these works are somewhat overloaded and are receiving flows in excess of their design capacities. The Council agreed to have prepared schemes for improvements of sewerage and sewage disposal in the Parish of Madeley and the areas of Baldwins Gate, Maer, Loggerheads and Almington and commencement was made on the Audley relief sewerage scheme which includes sludge treatment and pressing plant. This scheme should prevent further surcharging of the Audley sewers and ease the problem of sludge disposal.

Nightsoil Collection and Disposal.

This service is carried out by direct labour and operates throughout all parishes of the Rural District.

The cleansing of septic tanks and cesspools on the Council's smaller housing estates continued to be carried out satisfactorily and also the emptying of private septic tanks.

The Council provide one free service every three years in the case of private houses where a main sewer is not readily available, and otherwise a charge of £1.50 per load is made.

For tanks at business premises and farms there is a minimum service charge of £4.50.

The number of houses without water-closets is decreasing, but rather slowly, and it is hoped that improvements may be effected by way of the increase in the number of conversions carried out, to reduce still further the need for nightsoil collection.

During the year 13 privies were converted to the water-carriage system (3 being connected to sewers and 10 to new septic tanks) and 3 premises which were discharging to private septic tanks, were connected to public sewers.

There are now 236 houses with privy closets.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of household refuse in all parishes continued satisfactorily and the disused mineral railway line at Leycett is being used for the disposal of the bulk of the refuse from the district. The more extensive use of plastic sacks was introduced and this has proved to be beneficial, particularly regarding the speed of collection.

Rodent Control.

Details of the work carried out in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, are given below (Table 16).

Disinfestation throughout the year by the Council's rodent operative at tip-sites, schools, canteens and other premises continued to show highly satisfactory results. Regular sewer treatments were also carried out.

A free service to domestic premises is now provided by the Council but in the case of business properties and schools, the cost of the work was reclaimed from the owners.

TABLE 16

<i>Properties other than Sewers</i>				<i>Type of Property</i>	
				<i>Non- Agri- cultural</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>
1.	Number of properties in district	..	..	7,578	484
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	..	..	124	1
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	..	..	91	1
	(ii) Mice	..	..	30	—
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	..	..	71	70
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	..	..	35	44
	(ii) Mice	..	..	1	2

Section H

HOUSING ACTS.

TABLE 17
HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES
ELSEWHERE

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED.

In or Adjoining Clearance Areas declared under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957.

Unfit for human habitation	Number of Houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—
Included by means of bad arrangement	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—
On land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—

Not in or Adjoining Clearance Areas.

As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	Number of houses	5
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	5
Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Number of houses	2
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	2
Houses unfit for human habitation where action had been taken under local Acts	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—
Houses included in unfitness orders made under paragraph 2 of the Second Schedule to the Land Compensation Act, 1961	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—
Number of houses included above which were previously reported as closed	In or adjoining Clearance Areas	—
	Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas	—

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED in pursuance of closing orders or undertakings.

Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	Number of houses	3
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	3
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Acts, 1957	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—
PARTS OF BUILDINGS CLOSED under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	Number of dwellings	—

C. Number of PERSONS DISPLACED.

From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas	8
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas	4
From houses to be closed	7
From parts of buildings to be closed	—

D. Number of FAMILIES DISPLACED.

From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas	1
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas	3
From houses to be closed	2
From parts of buildings to be closed	—

E. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT.

After informal action by local authority	by owner	47
After formal notice under Section 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	(a) by owner	—
	(b) by local authority	—
After formal notice under Public Health Acts		—
After modification or revocation of a clearance order under Section 21, Housing Act, 1961		—
After determination of a demolition order under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957		—
After determination of a closing order under Section 27, Housing Act, 1961		—

F. HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.
(Other than unfit houses made fit.)

After formal notice under Public Health Acts	—
---	---

G. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)
Retained for temporary accommodation.

Under Section 48	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—
Under Section 17 (2)	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained there in	—
Under Section 46	Number of houses	—
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	—
Licensed for temporary accommodation under Section 34 or 53—No. of houses		—

H. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT.

Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	Number of houses	—
	Number of occupants	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

HOUSING ACTS, 1959—1969.

The improvement grant system continued to be operated satisfactorily and I give below details of discretionary and standard grant applications dealt with during the year :—

Standard Grants.

TABLE 18

					<i>Owner/ Occupiers</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
1.	Number of applications received	..			30	4
	" " " Approved	..			30	4
	" " " Refused	..			—	—
2.	Number of dwellings improved	..			26	6
3.	Amount paid in grants	..	..	..		£8,681.00
4.	Average grant per house	..	..	..		£271.28
5.	Number of amenities provided					
	(a) fixed bath	..	..	..	..	29
	(b) shower	..	..	..	..	—
	(c) wash hand basin	..	..	..	..	29
	(d) hot water supply (to any fittings)			..	..	29
	(e) water closet (1) within dwelling			..	..	30
	(2) accessible from dwelling				..	—
6.	Total amount paid in grants since commencement of Act	..	..	..	..	£68,021.33

Discretionary Grants.

TABLE 19

	<i>Owner/ Occupiers</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
1. Number of applications Received	60	6
2. " " " Approved	58	6
3. " " " Refused ..	2	—
4. Number of dwellings improved ..	19	10
5. Amount paid in grants.. .. .		£15,012.50
6. Average grant per house		£517.67
7. Total amount paid in grants since commencement of Act		£138,641.46

Considerable change was brought into the scheme for improvement grants by the coming into force on 25th August of the Housing Act, 1969.

Provision was made for increased amounts of grant both standard and discretionary, for grants towards repair works associated with improvement; grants to provide dwellings by conversion and special grants for basic improvements to shared houses.

Section H

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat.

There is one licensed slaughter house operating in the District. Slaughtering was carried out regularly at these premises each week : the number of cattle, sheep and pigs killed up to the end of the year and details of condemned carcasses and offal are shown on Table 20.

Foodstuffs Condemned.

It was found necessary to seize the following foodstuffs during the year :

(i) Carcase meat at slaughter house	Nil
(ii) Offal at slaughter house	19lbs.
(iii) Cooked meat and meat products	Nil
(iv) Canned Meats	88lbs.
(v) Other canned foods	422lbs.
(vi) Other foods	1456lbs.

TABLE 20.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	104	—	—	357	187	—
Number inspected	104	—	—	357	187	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis cysticerci	2.9	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.5	—
<i>Cystercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Premises Generally.

Routine inspections of food premises were continued throughout the year, special attention being paid to the maintenance of hygienic conditions in connection with the storage and preparation of foods.

As required by Ministry of Health Circular 1/66 details of the number of food premises in the area, in categories of trade and the position regarding compliance with Regulations 16 & 19, Food Hygiene Regulations 1970 are as follows :—

TABLE 21			<i>Provided with Hot and Cold Water under Reg. 16 & 19 Wash Basin Sink</i>	
<i>Trade</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Basin</i>	<i>Sink</i>
Bakeries	2	2	2	2
Butchers Shops ..	8	58	8	8
Fish and Chip Shops	3	3	3	3
General Grocers	15	15	10	15
Mixed Business ..	84	89	62	84
Cafes	1	2	1	1
M 6 service area ..	1	23	4	*
Totals	114	192	90	113

* Dishwashers provided in both North and Southbound service areas.

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

- (a) Storage and sale of ice-cream—93 (one of whom manufactures and the remainder sell pre-packed ice-cream).
- (b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale—13.

During certain of the inspections referred to above, the notice of shopkeepers and cafe proprietors was drawn to the requirements of the Food Hygiene General Regulations, 1970 and action requested where necessary.

There are 32 public houses in the district and a considerable number of these licensed premises have been inspected under the Food Hygiene General Regulations, 1970 and where applicable the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

I am pleased to report that in the majority of cases, the premises were generally clean and well run and only minor contraventions of the Acts were noted.

In accordance with the Council's decision, and in common with many other local authorities, where licensees and brewing combines are engaged in preparation of meals, they are being asked to provide a separate catering Kitchen.

The service area astride the M.6 continued to operate satisfactorily.

Diseases of Animal Acts.

During the year there were 26 cases of suspected Anthrax reported but none were confirmed. All carcasses were dealt with under the procedure laid down in the Anthrax Order of 1938.

Action was taken and advice given, where necessary, with regard to treatment and disposal of milk at the affected premises.

Section I

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Table 22 below gives details of action taken under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 :—

TABLE 22

A. REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Number of Premises Registered during the year</i>	<i>Number of registered Premises at end of year</i>	<i>Number of Premises receiving a general inspection during the year</i>
Offices	—	31	27
Retail Shops	—	25	25
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	—	—	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	10	10
Fuel storage depots ..	—	2	2
Totals	—	63	64

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO
REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT 111

In this Schedule—

“ general inspection ” means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises : and
 “ registered premises ” means any premises in respect of which a notice under section 49 of the Act has been received by a local authority or by the London County Council and the expression
 “ premises registered ” shall be construed accordingly.

B. ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS.

Section		Number of Contraventions found					
4	Cleanliness	..	..	..	..	..	3
5	Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	—
6	Temperature	..	..	..	..	..	1
7	Ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	—
8	Lighting	..	..	..	..	..	—
9	Sanitary conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	—
10	Washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	—
11	Supply of drinking water	..	..	..	..	..	1
12	Clothing accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	—
13	Sitting facilities	..	..	..	..	..	—
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	..	..	..	..	..	—
15	Eating facilities	..	..	..	..	..	—
16	Floors, passage & stairs	..	..	..	..	..	3
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	..	..	..	..	..	—
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	..	..	..	..	..	—
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	..	..	..	..	..	—
23	Prohibition of heavy work	..	..	..	..	..	—
24	First aid	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Other matters	..	..	..	..	..	2
TOTAL		..	..	..	..	..	12

Letters were sent to the owners of the premises instructing them to remedy the defects.

'There was one accident reported during the year, viz :

An employee suffered bruises to his right foot at a Public House when he was rolling a barrel in the cellar. The lights failed during a power cut, causing the man to trap his foot between the barrel and the floor.

Theatres Acts, 1843.

Applications for licences were made in respect of four premises during the year and visits and inspections carried out to ensure compliance with the Acts, with regard to lighting, means of escape in case of fire, seating accommodation and sanitary facilities.

Petroleum Acts.

46 visits were made with regard to the installation of new petrol tanks and in connection with applications for renewal of existing petrol storage licences.

Animal Boarding Establishment Act.

Four inspections were carried out at premises registered under The Animals Boarding Establishment Act.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken under Section 50, National Assistance Act, 1948.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Twenty-four inspections were made in connection with licences issued under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

There was no complaint made under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.





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