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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1960

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £151,144 (1.4.61).

Estimated sum represented by a penny rate for year 1960-1961: £587.

Number of inhabited houses: 7,402 (1.4.61).

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 20,060.

Census Population 1951: 20,220.

1961: 20,887.

Birth Rate	..	..	16.9
(Corrected)	..	..	18.4
Death Rate	..	..	11.5
(Corrected)	..	..	10.5
Infant Mortality Rate			5.9

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor R. S. T. Bowden, Dip.Bact., M.R.C.V.S.

COUNCILLORS

J. H. Budden.

A. F. Gathercole.

Revd. J. B. Goodchild.

Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart.

Col. D. R. B. Kaye, D.S.O.

F. Murfet, (to September, 1960).

J. T. Nunn.

H. Palmer, J.P.

J. G. A. Paul.

C. F. Sargeant.

Mrs. J. O. Smith.

A. H. Trinder, O.B.E

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: James Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: D. Howells, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector: F. H. Mason, A.R.S.H.

Clerk: Miss S. Furze.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1960 prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 3/1961 dated the 10th April, 1961.

Vital Statistics.

Once again there has been a very slight increase in the estimated population which has risen from 19,880 to 20,060, due entirely to natural increase and, to a certain extent, offset by emigration from the area. From the preliminary report of the 1961 census just now available, it is disturbing to find that during the ten intercensal years the population of the area increased by only 3.3% compared with 13.8% for the county as a whole and 5.3% nationally. With the reduction of the agricultural labour force, hastened to a great extent by the increased mechanisation of farm work, a rural community such as ours is in much need of some light industry to absorb the children leaving school. A study of the daily population movements quickly demonstrates that for many people the villages are dormitory areas and that they must seek their living in the towns. Although this is becoming an increasingly common pattern in modern life and will continue as more and more villages become sewered, a very much more stable community develops when people live and work in the same area. Nevertheless, we must be grateful to the townspeople who want to live in the country for without them our population would be sadly depleted.

The birth rate rose to 18.4 per thousand—a satisfying rise from the 15.7 of the previous year and one hopes that this rise will be maintained in future years. It is very gratifying to note that the infant mortality rate fell from 17.5 per thousand in 1959 to 5.9 in 1960. This is considerably below the national rate of 22.0 and while it is extremely unlikely to remain at this low figure for both medical and statistical reasons it is a happy exception to report. The death rate rose slightly to 10.5 but this is still below the national average of 11.5.

Infectious Diseases.

There was a marked decrease in the notification of infectious disease during the year, occasioned by the fact that there was no repetition of the measles epidemic of 1959. What does merit comment, however, is the increased number of new cases of tuberculosis notified. To have 13 new cases of pulmonary and non pulmonary tuberculosis notified in a rural area where there were 8 new cases in 1959 and 6 in 1958 is, to say the least, disturbing. Investigation shows that 8 of these new cases occur in 3 families and that two of the families, accounting for 6 cases, are friends and neighbours.

In spite of the fall in the tuberculosis death rate it cannot be emphasised too strongly that this disease remains a disabling infectious disease and merits still all the respect that its reputation engendered in previous years.

The co-operation of the Mass Miniature Radiography unit of the Regional Hospital Board has been readily obtained and it is intended to carry out community surveys on the three major villages where cases have occurred. Every attempt will be made to persuade every eligible person to come forward for an X-ray in an effort to prevent the occurrence of fresh cases.

Sanitary Circumstances.

In the report of the chief public health inspector considerable reduction in the number of visits will be noted. This is, in the main, due to a reduction in the visits made in connection with sewerage and drainage. It will be seen that the results of this survey work is now bearing fruit in a most satisfactory way as the work of sewerage Burwell and Fordham got well under way during the year. When these two schemes are completed well over half the people in the district will be able to have main drainage and one can only hope that financial restrictions will not delay the implementation of schemes now proposed to bring this amenity to the majority of the rest of the population in the area.

Work was started this year on the building of Hereward House in Soham. This is a unit of special accommodation for old people, the first of its kind in the district, and has among its features a resident warden who is expected to keep a watching brief over the residents and, without interfering in their daily lives, be ready to offer help when it is needed. There is also a comfortably furnished communal lounge and guest bedrooms for visitors.

Hand in hand with this work goes the provision of houses under the slum clearance programme. 37 houses were closed or demolished during the year but the greatest drawback in this work is, of course, the high cost of building land even in the smaller villages and areas distant from Cambridge. Much work has been done on the modernisation of council houses mainly in the villages where main drainage has become available and there have been a considerable number of applications for improvement grants both discretionary and the new standard grant. 45 discretionary and 25 standard grants were paid during the year to a total cost of £12,685. Since the schemes were introduced the Council has paid, in all, over £86,500 in improvement grants.

The introduction of the Caravan Act, 1960, greatly increased the powers of the Council in obtaining a reasonable standard for caravan sites. Although there are not a great number of caravans in the area every effort will be made to ensure that the sites conform to a high standard. As a result of consultation with other rural districts, a uniform standard has been adopted throughout the county areas so that all site operators will know what is expected of them and they will gain no benefit from moving from area to area.

During the year we in the Public Health Department have been aware as always of the help and encouragement which we receive from all members of the Council. In addition I wish to offer my sincere thanks for the untiring support of my colleagues in the Public Health Department and the ready co-operation of all officers in other departments of the Council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DRUMMOND.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations).

Live Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	176	155	331
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	9
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	179	161	340
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.9
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.09)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.4
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.1
Still Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5	8
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.9
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.7
Deaths..								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126	106	232
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.5
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.91)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.5
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.5
Infant Mortality.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths of infants under one year of age.										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(Deaths of infants under four weeks and under one week of age are shown in brackets).

Infant Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	5.9
Infant Mortality rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	22.0
Neonatal Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	5.9	
Early Neonatal Mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	..	5.9	
Perinatal Mortality rate. (Still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	..	..	28.7
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	5.9
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	2.6%
Maternal deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	Nil

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

					1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
*BIRTH RATE	..	..	..	..	14.6	14.5	15.1	15.6	14.4	16.9
*DEATH RATE	..	..	..	..	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.9	11.5
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	..	..			27.2	17.1	19.6	16.2	17.5	5.9
					(8)	(5)	(6)	(5)	(5)	(2)

*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
25 and undre 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-	2
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	5	17
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	10	32
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	18	49
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	67	121
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126	106	232

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health.

"The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951" provides for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements the officer is also appointed Deputy County and School Medical Officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors.

Mr. Howells continues as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason.

Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals.

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital or to the Exning Isolation Hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been a startling reduction in the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year as there was no repetition of the measles outbreak of 1959. It would appear from the trend in notifications that this disease is continuing in its traditional cycle of biennial epidemics.

No change in the incidence of scarlet fever, or whooping cough took place and there were only six scattered cases of dysentery notified. It is satisfying to note that no food poisoning was notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

The one disturbing feature amongst the infectious diseases in the area is the rise in the evidence of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis. During the year there were 10 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and three new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis. This compares unfavourably with the total of 8 new notifications in 1959. Six of these cases occurred amongst two families, amongst whom there was a degree of social mixing. In one other instance there were two cases in one family.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his Authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.
Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1950-1960.

Disease	Years											
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Total	1960
MEASLES												
Cases ..	11	176	94	48	94	446	24	100	140	437	1,570	79
Deaths ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHOOPING COUGH												
Cases ..	51	101	64	16	86	52	4	61	3	44	482	43
Deaths ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ten cases of respiratory and three cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. Seven cases were transferred to the district previously notified in another area. On balance at the end of the year there were one less respiratory and four less non-respiratory cases on the register.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

Section 50.

No action was required under this Section during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1960.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Dysentery	Measles	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	-	5	6
1 — ..	-	1	-	-	-	8	9
2 — ..	1	8	-	-	-	11	20
3 — ..	2	3	-	-	-	9	14
4 — ..	3	4	-	-	-	11	18
5 — 9 ..	11	19	-	-	1	34	65
10 — 14 ..	-	4	-	-	3	1	8
15 — 24 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	3	-	-	2	-	5
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	17	43	-	-	6	79	145
1959 TOTALS	20	44	-	-	8	437	509

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
5 — 14 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 — 44 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 — 64 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
1959 TOTALS	-	-	2	-	-	-	2

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year ..	30	18	5	1	35	19
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations—	6	4	1	2	7	6
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	2	3	2	—	4	3
(b) From Death Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	10	6	—	1	10	7
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year .	28	19	8	2	36	21

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION. RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.60.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	No-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0 — 15 ..	6	3	2	1	8	4	12
15 — 25 ..	4	—	12	—	16	—	16
25 — 35 ..	4	2	2	—	6	2	8
35 — 45 ..	5	2	2	1	7	3	10
45 — 55 ..	4	1	1	—	5	1	6
55 — 65 ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
65 and over ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
TOTALS ..	28	8	19	2	47	10	57

REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1960:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	1,253
Bakehouses	37
Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	266
Poultry Dressing Premises	54
Miscellaneous food premises	174
Canteens	6
Licensed Premises	25
Shops (Under Shops Act, 1950)	12
Knacker's Yard	2
Factories	57
Public Cleansing	174
Infectious Disease Enquiries	22
Premises disinfected or disinfested	7
Drainage and Sewerage	259
Sewage Disposal Works	3
Caravan Sites	95
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	212
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	20
Re Improvement Grants	161
Nuisances (including re-visits)	44
Schools	1
New Drains tested	1
Sanitary Accommodation	6
Miscellaneous	137
Verminous Premises	4
TOTAL ..	3,032

Number of samples taken:—

Water	82
Milk	15
Ice Cream	7
Informal Notices served	65
Statutory Notices served	3
Specimens collected	58

PARISH STATISTICS.

Parish	Acreage	Population (1951 Census)	Rateable Value at 1.4.61.	No. of Council Dwellings		1d. Rate Product 1960/61
				Pre-War	Post-War	
ASHLEY	2,225	462	2,179	36	42	8
BOTTISHAM ..	2,854	1363	8,235	31	107	32
BRINKLEY ..	1,303	169	1,285	-	14	5
BURROUGH GREEN	2,272	283	1,319	18	10	5
BURWELL	7,016	2,304(est.)	27,318	89	163	107
CHEVELEY ..	2,559	1,348	11,006	17	54	43
CHIPPENHAM ..	4,301	437	4,190	-	20	16
DULLINGHAM ..	3,387	523	2,671	9	34	10
FORDHAM L.A. }	4,331	1,705	11,345	85	88	44
FORDHAM N.L.A. }			180			1
ISLEHAM	5,230	1,342	6,226	51	76	24
KENNETT	1,431	203	3,721	5	32	15
KIRTLING	3,126	393	1,632	6	14	6
LODE	3,133	595	3,117	27	32	11
REACH	1,126	312(est.)	1,000	4	18	4
SNAILWELL ..	2,034	325	1,479	1	10	6
SOHAM	12,999	4,865	36,744	191	268	145
STETCHWORTH ..	2,891	475	5,377	8	41	21
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4,110	611	3,418	39	45	13
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4,891	668(est.)	3,454	42	36	13
WESTLEY	1,149	193	700	-	6	2
WICKEN	3,965	665	2,521	19	26	9
WOODDITTON L.A. }	4,768	979	4,248	26	30	17
WOODDITTON N.L.A. }			3,994			14
GAS			178			-
ELECTRICITY						
DISTRIBUTION			2,304			16
ELECTRICITY						
GENERATING			1,303			-
TOTAL ..	81,101	20,220	151,144	704	1,166	587

HOUSING

Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	33
(2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957	4
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957..	Nil

REPAIRS.

HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

(4) After informal action by Local Authority	27
(5) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners	8
(b) by Local Authority	Nil
(6) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1957	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by Local Authority	Nil

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

Parish	Demolished		Houses Closed		Parts of Buildings Closed	Demolition Orders Made	D.O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	Orders	Undertakings			
ASHLEY ..	13	-	-	2	-	11	-
BOTTISHAM ..	16	12	6	2	1	37	-
BRINKLEY ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
BURROUGH GREEN ..	4	-	4	2	-	4	-
BURWELL ..	21	-	8	4	-	17	1
CHEVELEY ..	10	-	2	2	-	3	-
CHIPPENHAM	1	-	2	2	-	1	-
DULLINGHAM	10	-	2	7	-	7	-
FORDHAM ..	14	-	5	1	-	16	-
ISLEHAM ..	23	-	5	3	-	25	2
KENNETT ..	2	-	1	-	1	1	-
KIRTLING ..	3	-	-	-	-	3	-
LODE ..	3	-	-	1	-	10	1
REACH ..	3	-	-	-	-	8	-
SNAILWELL ..	1	37	1	-	-	2	-
SOHAM ..	48	-	10	4	5	47	2
STETCHWORTH	8	-	2	1	-	1	-
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	5	-	5	5	-	7	1
SWAFFHAM PRIOR ..	11	-	3	-	-	12	-
WESTLEY WATERLESS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WICKEN ..	6	-	1	3	-	9	-
WOODDITTON	8	-	3	1	-	5	-
TOTAL ..	210	49	60	41	7	226	7

67 houses were built by private enterprise during the year and the Council built the following dwellings:—

Bungalows	29
Houses	8
	—
	37
	==

The old peoples unit at Soham was nearing completion at the end of the year and will provide 16 self contained flatlets consisting of a bed sitting room with separate kitchen to each. Central heating and lighting will be included in the tenancies, along with a well furnished common lounge. Visitors' rooms are also included in the scheme, and there is separate accommodation for a Warden.

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1951	112	5	117
1952	72	20	92
1953	137	52	189
1954	110	58	168
1955	140	35	175
1956	124	49	173
1957	36	59	95
1958	52	85	137
1959	36	34	70
1960	37	67	104
Total	856	464	1,320

Council Houses.

The Council now owns 1,870 dwellings which are under the management of the Council's Surveyor. Out of 702 pre-war Council houses, 296 have now been provided with modern amenities, leaving 406 still to be dealt with. Priority is given to parishes which have been sewered but until sewers are provided throughout the rural area this important work cannot be expedited and scores of tenants will continue to empty pail closets and sullage water on to limited gardens. This state of affairs gives rise to complaints, particularly as rents have risen considerably during the post-war years. The differential rent scheme continues to operate, modified in the light of experience.

Forty-five dwellinghouses have been sold to sitting tenants or other suitable applicants since the Council adopted this policy.

Housing Improvements—House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

The housing improvement scheme which gives financial assistance to property owners, was described in last year's report and continues to operate satisfactorily. The steady stream of enquiries increased towards the end of year when the Burwell and Fordham sewerage schemes gained momentum and 161 visits to dwellinghouses were made to give owners technical advice on their proposals before detailed plans were prepared. The standard grant scheme has been well received by owners of the older type of properties where funds have not been available for a major improvement scheme.

The following figures are of interest:—

- (a) Number of Houses on which Improvement Grants were paid during 1960.
- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Discretionary Grants | 45 |
| Standard Grants | 25 |

(b) Amount paid in Grants.

Discretionary Grants	..	..	..	..	£9,438
Standard Grants	..	..	..	..	£3,247

(c) Number of Properties improved since the Act came into force.

Discretionary	..	..	..	..	392
Standard	..	..	..	..	25

(d) Amount paid on (c).

Discretionary Grants	..	..	..	..	£83,342
Standard Grants	..	..	..	..	£3,247

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

This Act which came into force on the 29th August, 1960, is a determined effort to institute better control over caravan sites by the adoption of prescribed standards of hygiene and sanitation. It is now the duty of all site operators to obtain planning permission before the Council can issue a site licence. Each site licence has a schedule of conditions attached, covering essential points like water supply, sanitary accommodation, roads and footpaths, drainage, fire fighting, laundry and bathing facilities, density, abatement of nuisances and sundry other matters essential to the wellbeing of the inhabitants.

Thirty-six site licence applications were received during the year, as follows:—

Number of Caravans					Applications
One	..	..	..	..	25
Two	..	..	..	..	6
Three	..	..	..	..	3
Twelve	..	..	..	..	1
Twenty-eight	..	..	..	..	1

In accordance with the Act, these were forwarded to the County Planning Department and in due course five site licences were issued before the year closed. Planning permission was refused in one case.

It is the Council's policy to accept a lower standard on small sites containing up to three caravans but where fifteen or more caravans are sited the Minister's Model Standards will be fully implemented.

This legislation is long overdue and should do much towards the abolition of slum caravan sites which, fortunately, do not present a problem within this rural area. While the residential caravan is fulfilling a temporary need, our experience shows that most growing families would prefer to live in a modern house.

Rent Act, 1957.

Very few enquiries are received in connection with this Act and only one Certificate of Disrepair was issued during the year.

Clearance of Unfit Dwellings.

Thirty-seven houses were closed or demolished during the year. With the rising cost of building land, it is apparent in many instances that the sites occupied by some old cottages are far more valuable than the cottages themselves. When the tenants are rehoused, the Council has a duty, by Act of Parliament, to require the owner either to make the dwellings fit in all respects for human habitation, providing this can be done at a reasonable expense, or to submit his proposals pending the making of a Demolition Order or Closing Order. The Housing Act, 1957 gives Local Authorities some guidance on "unfitness" but in most cases the public health inspector's powers of discretion are stretched to the utmost and his experience in dealing with rural dwellings and their peculiarities is called upon to solve the many problems.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses.

The 1st January, 1961 was the "appointed day" under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958. The five licensed slaughterhouses are in regular use and the owners now appreciate the value of the improvements which were carried out under the guidance of this department. Stunning pens are used at four of the premises the fifth being used for the slaughter of pigs and sheep only. Excellent hot water systems have been installed and the high standard of artificial lighting has gone a long way towards placing the slaughterman on the same level as other factory workers. At the time of writing this report, Tuberculosis in cattle is almost extinct and our colleagues in the veterinary world must be congratulated on the remarkable progress made during the last few years. The liver fluke was responsible for the condemnation of over 20% of beasts' livers which would indicate the urgent need for research on the problem. Cysticercosis did not present a problem but it must be emphasised that the usual method of inspection is far from infallible and cannot be improved upon if the carcass is not to be mutilated.

One thousand two hundred and fifty-three visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops and the following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the organs condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part during the Year 1960.

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	676	1	11	2153	68	1187	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	152	—	—	96	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	22.48	—	—	4.59	—	.25	—
Tuberculosis only:—							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	43	3	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.03	—	—	1.99	4.41	—	—
Cysticercosis:—							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat and Offal Condemned.

	Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Whole Carcases	-	3	-
Livers	108	69	1
Half Livers	38	5	-
Lungs	5	18	2
Heads	11	44	-
Kidneys	-	-	-
Hearts	2	24	-
Mesentery	-	18	-
Skirt	1	-	-
Spleen	-	13	-
Hindquarters (Bruising)	100lbs.	95lbs.	-
Forequarters	2	-	-
Sirloin	6lbs.	-	-

140 tins of various foodstuffs and 100lbs. of bacon were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Six hundred and seventy-three visits were made to food premises (excluding slaughterhouses) during the year and the structural standard and amenities were found to be generally good.

Registered Food Premises.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Sausage and cooked meat premises | 15 |
| (b) Fried Fish shops | 5 |
| (c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream.. .. . | 62 |
| (d) Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream | 1 |

Two hundred and sixty-six visits were made to the above premises during the year.

Ice Cream.

Seven samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and all were reported as Grade 1. Fifty-four visits were made to ice cream premises during the year.

The premises at Soham where ice cream is manufactured on a small scale continue to be well kept. The ice cream is sold loose, chiefly from mobile kiosks, and these are provided with suitable washing facilities. All samples from these premises were reported as Grade 1.

Most of the ice cream sold in the area is manufactured and prepacked by well known firms.

Milk.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 came into operation on the 1st October, 1960, and from that date all dealers were licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority. The licence no longer restricts sales to the area of the licensing authority and supplementary licences are not required. This is a welcome reduction in the department's paper work.

There are no registered dairies in the area, other than those attached to dairy farms. Eleven distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954. Milk production is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and we are informed that 38 dairy farms are registered in this area; 27 of these are Tuberculin Tested herds.

Sampling.

Fifteen samples of pasteurised milk were collected from schools, on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for statutory examination. These were all reported as satisfactory.

Poultry.

Premises at Soham were improved and provided with suitable amenities for the plucking and dressing of poultry, chiefly broilers, on a small scale. Regular visits are made and 214 birds were condemned as unfit for human consumption. The establishment at Burwell closed down during the year.

Licensed Premises.

Twenty-five inspections of public houses were made during the year and the standard was found to be generally good. Hot and cold water is piped to glass washing sinks and pail closets are gradually being abolished.

Bakehouses.

Thirty-seven visits were made to bakehouses during the year and the premises were found to be generally satisfactory. One bakehouse closed down at the end of the year.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1958.

Twenty-five slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year. The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 are strictly enforced and no action was necessary during the year.

Knacker's Yard.

Only two horse carcasses were brought into this establishment and very little business is carried on. All knacker meat is sterilized on the premises.

WATER SUPPLY

Sources.

(a) CHIPPENHAM WELL.

This is a shallow well in the chalk, 8 feet in diameter, and, in addition to a pilot bore to a depth of 200 feet, is provided with a 75 feet long adit into which discharges a 6" diameter bore through fissured water bearing chalk. The water is pumped through a 10" diameter rising main to a 500,000 gallon reinforced concrete storage reservoir at Warren Hill, Newmarket. The high level area is supplied from this source, the 6" rising main passing through a booster station at Duchess Drive, Newmarket. An 8" diameter main also passes through Snailwell and connects up with the older Fordham main.

(b) SWAFFHAM PRIOR.

The source here is a 2 feet diameter bore into the greensand, 270 feet in depth, and the water is pumped to a 200,000 gallon reinforced concrete water tower. Water is supplied to the parishes of Burwell, Wicken, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham and Lode and the trunk main is connected to the Fordham mains to provide a supplementary supply from the Chippenham Well. The Chesterton Rural District Council is supplied with water at Stow-cum-Quy.

All water is chlorinated at the source.

The Council's Engineer, Mr. M. E. Moore, reports as follows:—

"There were no major water main extensions during the year. Minor extensions of water mains were laid to serve new housing estates.

No difficulties were experienced to maintain the supply, although water levels were lower than in previous years, and the dry spell in May did give cause for concern. It was feared that one dry summer following another, particularly with a dry winter between, would not replenish the wells sufficiently.

During the year 209·6 million gallons of water were pumped from both Chippenham and Swaffham Prior wells, an increase of 12·1 millions over the previous year.

To meet the needs of the higher parts of Ashley and Cheveley, a scheme was prepared which provides for a new main to be laid from the Saxon Street Waterworks to Little Green, Cheveley. By reducing frictional losses, this new main will increase the pressure at the high points.

Complaints were received during the year from residents in the Barway area, and a scheme to connect the Soham supply with the Isleham supply in the Isleham Fen was prepared. It was hoped that waste detection investigations at Soham would improve the supply to Barway, but they have revealed that the water losses are due to many small leaks. Waste detection and the discovery of these leaks is proceeding at a pace determined by the labour available."

Sampling.

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis at the Public Health and Public Analyst's laboratories.

Water Sampling during 1960.

Sample	Main Supplies		Private Supplies		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Chemical ..	4	—	—	—	82
Bacteriological	57	1	8	12	

All samples taken for chemical analysis were untreated and collected directly from the source, along with eight samples for bacteriological examination.

Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies.

Test						Chippenham	Swaffham Prior
Physical Characters						Good	Good
Reaction						pH 7·1	pH 8·0
Parts per 100,000.							
Chloride						2·2	25·6
Ammonia (Free and Saline)						absent	0·0626
Ammonia (albuminoid)						absent	0·0024
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C.						0·0300	0·0344
Nitrates						0·65	absent
Nitrites						absent	absent
Poisonous Metals						absent	absent
Total Hardness						23·6	5·2
Bacteriological Examination.							
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.						nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C.						nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C.						nil	nil

Three property owners at Fordham, where unfit wells were being used, connected to the Council's main on request. Another unfit well at Chippenham will also be abandoned when a piped supply is made available in the near future.

Piped Supplies.

All parishes have been provided with a piped water supply for many years, the Council being the Statutory Undertakers in all areas except Kennett, which is supplied by the Mildenhall Rural District Council, and a small area adjoining Newmarket town which is supplied by the Newmarket Water Company.

To provide information relating to the piping of water indoors, a detailed house to house survey would be necessary. These details have been obtained in parishes contemplating sewerage schemes and other information indicates that very few householders draw water from street standpipes. Many householders, however, still rely on outside taps but it is sincerely hoped that this state of affairs will be remedied as more sewerage schemes are completed and modern amenities are installed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The built up areas in the following parishes are now provided with a public sewer:—

Soham.
Bottisham.
Lode.
Stetchworth (part of).
Cheveley (part of).

The Burwell and Fordham schemes are nearing completion and an excellent response from householders is anticipated. All parishes should be provided with a public sewer but for the present the Council is giving priority to the parishes of Dullingham, where the scheme now has Ministry approval, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Reach, Isleham and the Cheveley Park area adjoining the Newmarket Urban District. Several areas on the fringe of Soham, where ditches are heavily polluted, urgently require sewerage systems and this matter is receiving the Council's attention. It is a fact that all old cesspools leak into the subsoil; watertight cesspools, as required by the Building Byelaws are never constructed because the usual capacity is grossly inadequate for a modern dwellinghouse and the annual cost of a possible weekly clearance is exorbitant. The obvious compromise, where a sewer is not available, is the provision of a properly designed septic tank with effluent disposal into the subsoil, where no suitable outfall is in the vicinity. Unfortunately, this is bound to produce a grossly polluted substratum and in fissured chalk there is a very real danger to underground water supplies. A sewerage scheme throughout the whole rural area is the only real safeguard.

All sewers and sewage disposal plants are under the supervision of the Council's Engineer. The cesspool emptier is used for the regular desludging of the smaller plants.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly refuse collection service under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector continues to operate successfully and the cost, as detailed elsewhere, is considered to be very reasonable. It is noteworthy that since the weekly collection was inaugurated throughout the whole area, the quantity of rubbish has increased by 27%. It is only possible to provide a kerbside collection, the provision of labour being extremely difficult and the cost of a back door service being prohibitive.

Three vehicles are engaged on the collection of household refuse and two of these are modern "Fore and Aft" tippers, propelled by diesel engines. The old petrol driven side-loader is about to be replaced. Two loaders and a driver are engaged on each vehicle and one additional labourer assists the foreman with tip control, paper baling and general duties. Annual holidays are staggered which results in the absence of one man for half the year.

The disposal of refuse is by tipping, as reported last year. The Fordham pit is almost full and sealing over operations have started. All dumps are regularly inspected and dressed with a suitable insecticide to avoid infestations and the Council's Rodent Officer takes all precautions to prevent rat breeding. It is found that burning and bulldozing, as carried out at the Burwell and Reach dumps, is very effective in the control of pests.

Salvaged Materials.

The following materials were baled and salvaged at the Burwell Depot:—

Material	Year ended 31st March, 1961			Year ended 31st March, 1960		
	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.
Waste Paper	91 9 1	567	19 5	38 2 1	194	8 9
Ferrous Metals	2 16 0	35	11 0	4 14 2	20	10 8
Non-Ferrous Metals	6 3	23	7 8	1 15 1	30	19 9
Rags and Sacking	1 6 2	27	5 4	1 3 2	27	19 4
Sundries		5	0		12	9 0
TOTALS	95 18 2	654	8 5	45 15 2	286	7 6

In an effort to increase the quantity of salvaged waste paper, a bonus scheme was introduced in March. This fixed a target of 40 tons per annum and the men engaged on public cleansing share 75% of the proceeds over and above the target. The sum of £232 was shared during the financial year ended 31st March, 1961. There has been no increase in the selling price of waste paper.

Cesspool Emptying.

One cesspool emptier and two men are fully employed on the clearing of cesspool contents and the regular desludging of small sewage disposal plants on housing estates and elsewhere. The following clearances were carried out during the year:—

Private		Council		
Cesspools cleared	Loads	Cesspools cleared	Sewage plants	Loads
567	691	500	135	1,443

Private householders are still charged the rate of 30/- for the first load and 15/- for subsequent loads but after the third clearance in the financial year the charge is reduced to 15/- for all loads.

The disposal of cesspool contents still presents a problem and hundreds of loads are dumped into the Council's refuse pits and covered with household rubbish as soon as possible. Disposal into small sewage plants is not regarded as satisfactory.

The Council does not undertake the collection of nightsoil.

The following statistics are of interest:—

Statistics for the Year ended the 31st March, 1960.
compared with previous year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

	March 1961	March 1960x
Total Mileage	26,806	20,685
Refuse Collected—loads	1128	979
Nett cost of service	£7,712†	£6,919
Cost per load—collection and disposal	£6 16 9	£7 1 4
Annual cost per 1,000 population	£381 15 8	£342 10 6
Vehicle Costs—including repayment of loans, etc.	£1,813†	£1,736
Cost per Mile	1s. 4d.	1s. 8d.
Vehicles—actual running costs—	£1,079	£866
Vehicles—actual running costs—cost per mile.. .. .	9½d.	10d.
Fuel consumed:—		
Petrol gallons 1,243		
Derv gallons 1,512	2,755	2,276
Average mileage per gallon:—		
Petrol	6·8	5·6
Derv	12·1	12·5
Income from salvage sales	£654	£287
†This figure includes £734 contribution to Renewals Fund.		
xWeekly service in operation for half of year only,		
Cesspool Emptying.		
Total Mileage	8834	9170
Cost of Service	£1,868*	£1,704
Number of loads cleared	2,134	1,861
Cost per load—collection and disposal	17s. 6d.	18s. 4d.
Petrol consumed—gallons	1,782	1,843
Petrol consumption per load—gallons	0·8	1·0

*Chargeable work amounted to £2,418 giving a surplus of £550.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Shops Act, 1950.

Routine inspections have been made under the provisions of Section 38 relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and heating of shops where persons are employed. Most of the premises are covered in the routine visits to food shops.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district, but the River Lark and Burwell Lode are regularly used during the summer. Four samples were taken from the River Lark for bacteriological examination and the public were reminded by notice that the river was unfit for bathing.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises registered for offensive trades in the district.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A rodent officer is employed by the Council on survey and treatment duties under the provisions of the above Act. A free service is provided to householders but the occupiers of business premises are charged at the rate of 7/6d. per hour.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

No licence to keep a pet shop was issued during the year.

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

Advice is given to occupiers on request and where necessary rooms are sprayed with a modern insecticide or treated with a suitable powder. The following infestations or nuisances were dealt with during the year:—

Bugs	..	..	..	2
Flies	..	..	..	4
Ants	..	..	..	1
Wasps' Nests	..	..	..	138

After cases of infectious disease, rooms are disinfected on request.

Agriculture (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

No nuisances were found in relation to this Act.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

No smoke nuisances were detected during the year.

APPENDIX
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1960 for the
Rural District of Newmarket in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. factories not having mechanical power)	6	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power)	67	57	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	73	57	4	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	7	—	3	—

