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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

**1963**

**P. K. SYLVESTER,**  
**M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.(Obst.)R.C.O.G.**

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**Newmarket Rural District Council,**  
**Shire Hall,**  
**Cambridge.**

**Tel No : Cambridge 58811**





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## GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £484,600 (1.4.64).

Sum represented by a penny rate for the year 1963-1964: £1,932.

Number of inhabited houses: 7,660.

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 21,150.

Census Population 1961: 20,879.

Birth Rate .. ..	17.6
(Corrected) .. ..	18.0
Death Rate .. ..	11.2
(Corrected) .. ..	10.4
Infant Mortality Rate ..	32.3

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

### CHAIRMAN

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

### COUNCILLORS

E. Cooper Bland.

J. H. Budden, J.P.

F. S. Fuller.

A. F. Gathercole.

Revd. J. B. Goodchild.

Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart.

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

J. T. Nunn.

H. Palmer, J.P.

J. G. A. Paul.

E. J. Pollard.

Mrs. J. O. Smith.

R. B. Taylor.

L. G. Warren.

Mrs. M. West.

### STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Peter Sylvester, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.,  
D.(Obst.)R.C.O.G.

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:

Mrs. S. E. Morley.



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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1963, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/1964, dated 13th January, 1964, which is my first as your Medical Officer of Health.

#### **Vital Statistics.**

The estimated population increased by only 50 during the year. The birth and death rates remained virtually stationary. The infant death rate rose to the highest figure (32.3) recorded within the last nine years. Of the eight deaths under four weeks of age, four were associated with prematurity. Three of the four deaths over four weeks and under one year were due to respiratory infections. This increase in infant deaths may well be a chance happening, but it will be necessary to study the trend in future years, especially in regard to prematurity. An infant is regarded as being premature if the birth weight is below 5 lbs. 8 ozs. In fact, all the four premature infants died within 24 hours of birth; all weighed less than 3 lbs. 4 ozs., below which weight the mortality rate for premature births is even higher than that for babies whose birth weights are between 3 lbs. 4 ozs. and 5 lbs. 8 ozs.

#### **Infectious Disease.**

The district was relatively free of notifiable infectious diseases during the year. There were only 63 cases of Measles during the year when epidemic proportions were reached over most of the country as a whole. Only one case each of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough were notified and one isolated case of Food Poisoning.

No confirmed cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, though one young boy from one of the villages near Newmarket was reported to have a "polio-like" illness in December. Happily, however, he made a rapid and complete recovery and the diagnosis was not confirmed subsequently. After consultation with the Ministry of Health the family contacts, neighbours, and school contacts were all offered oral vaccine as soon as possible after the case was reported, in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 10/63. I am indebted to Mr. Howells and also the school staff concerned for all the help I received in this connection.

Two more cases of respiratory Tuberculosis were notified for the first time than in the previous year, and two cases were transferred to the register from other districts. There was also one case of non-respiratory Tuberculosis. The increase during the year in the number of cases resident in the district at the time of their notification, though only a slight one, shows that we must not relax our efforts in the search for and eventual cure of infected cases.

#### **Sanitary Circumstances.**

33 dwellings were built during the year by the Council, 17 of them being provided at the Old Persons' Unit at Burwell which was opened on December 13th, 1963. This is the second Old Persons' Warden Controlled Unit to be built by this Council and it is an achievement of which they have every right to be proud. It consists of 13 single flatlets, 3 double flatlets, a warden's house, two guest rooms, communal lounge with small kitchen attached, a separate quiet room and a laundry. "Off peak" space and water heating systems are employed as well as "on peak" systems. I am sure that this unit at Burwell and the one at Soham are much appreciated by the old people themselves.

The Council's current house building programme is directed in the main towards the construction of old persons' dwellings. As well as helping to meet the increasing need for suitable housing for the aged, this programme is also intended to make Council property that is at present underoccupied by elderly people available for larger and younger families on the Council house waiting list. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that the house waiting list has increased during the year and at April 1964 there were 413 applicants as opposed to 316 in November 1962.



I am pleased to see that since last year a further 179 older type Council houses have now been provided with modern bathrooms and hot water systems, 135 houses remaining to be modernised. Your public health inspectors also made 135 visits to private properties in connection with applications for standard and discretionary grants under the housing improvement scheme. I think it is worth noting here that since 1945 28% of pre-war houses within the district have been dealt with to date either by demolition, closure, improvement with the aid of grants, or modernisation. In addition many other pre-1939 houses have been modernised by private owners without the aid of grants or already had modern conveniences.

The Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 came into operation on October 1st. Though this has meant an increase in the number of attendances by the public health inspectors at the slaughterhouses, they have managed to carry out 100% meat inspection in accordance with the new Regulations. Mention is made in the body of the Report about the difficulties arising from the absence of control of slaughtering hours and the impossibility of being present at the time of slaughter at all five premises concerned. Regular visits were paid to all food premises during the year and the general standard was reported to be good. The recent outbreak of typhoid in Aberdeen serves as a sharp reminder that it is very necessary that both this department, shopkeepers, and the public should not relax their vigilance in maintaining a good standard of hygiene in food shops and establishments. Another matter of some interest is the Chief Public Health Inspector's comments concerning frozen food cabinets. Shopkeepers were advised on the necessity for keeping the temperature of these cabinets at 0° F, and in any case, not above 5° F.

At the beginning of the year this Council decided to ask the County Council to make arrangements for the adjustment of the level of fluoride in the public water supply, which is naturally deficient in fluorine, the level being less than 0.2 p.p.m. The County Council gave their approval in principle and asked the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board to supply an estimate of the cost. The Clerk to the Water Board replied to the effect that the Board had decided to defer any action until the views of all the local health authorities concerned were known, and as the West Suffolk County Council had at that time deferred making a decision on the matter until the formation of the new West Suffolk Water Board was effected, no further progress could be made with regard to the adjustment of the fluoride level of water supplied to this district. At the time of writing the West Suffolk County Council have decided to make arrangements for the addition of fluoride to the public water supplies in that County which are also naturally deficient in fluorine. Mention should be made here of the Special Meeting of the Council which was held on December 18th when Dr. A. J. Dalzell-Ward, Medical Director of the Central Council for Health Education, kindly gave an address on the Fluoridation of Water Supplies. I think it was generally agreed by all who heard this address that much useful and interesting information was given.

Good progress continues to be made in the programme for sewerage the villages, the scheme for Dullingham being completed during the year and work on the one for Swaffham Bulbeck started. At the time of writing, work had also started on the Cheveley Park Scheme. Schemes for Swaffham Prior, Reach, Chippenham, Isleham and the Soham fringe area are in various stages of preparation. In addition, the Council has resolved to sewer the parishes of Ashley, Wicken and Kirtling as soon as possible. The extended aeration plant referred to in my predecessor's report of last year is still functioning satisfactorily. Over 80% of the existing population will be provided with a sewerage scheme when the schemes which are at present in the course of preparation have been completed.

With regard to Public Cleansing, I am pleased to say that a weekly refuse collection continues to be maintained in all but the remote parts of the district despite the increase both in the number of houses built and in the bulk of the refuse. I feel that this achievement is something on which this Council can congratulate themselves. There is no shortage of tipping space in the district for refuse disposal, but during the year some consideration was given to other methods of disposal which might well have to be employed in the future. Attention is also drawn to the Chief Public Health Inspector's remarks about the accumulation of rubbish at road lay-bys.



Two schools in the district provided "Purley Pools" within their grounds with the valuable help of the parents. I am sure that the provision of such pools will go a long way to helping children to learn to swim and to increase their confidence in water. It is, of course, important to ensure that filtration, chlorination and the general working of these plants is satisfactory and our department co-operated in advising head teachers on these matters and in supervising the pools subsequently. At the time of writing three further pools have been provided by other schools.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and indeed all Members of the Council, for their friendly courtesy, interest, and help during my first year as your Medical Officer of Health. My thanks are also due to Mr. Howells and Mr. Mason for their loyal support and assistance throughout.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

PETER SYLVESTER.

## OMISSION

### Care of the Aged

I am pleased to report that during the year the Meals on Wheels Service was extended to the old people at Burwell. This Service is run on very similar lines to the one which was started in Soham in 1958. We are indebted to those ladies in Burwell who are organising the scheme and conveying the meals voluntarily, to the school meals service for making the meals available during the school terms and to Tillotsons factory for doing so during the school holiday period. The County Council Welfare Committee have provided the containers for carrying the food, and this local authority, using their powers under Section 31, as amended, of the National Assistance Act, 1948, have contributed the cost of the subsidy for the meals. We are also indebted to the Chief Education Officer for allowing the meals to be provided by the local school kitchen and to the County Welfare Officer and the W.V.S. for their help and advice when the Burwell scheme was initially planned. Up to 5 meals per week can be supplied to each person on the recommendation of their general medical practitioner, the charge being 1/- per meal.



## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

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

<b>Live Births.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	185	179	364
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	8
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	191	181	372
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.02)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.0
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.2
<b>Still Births.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.9
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.3
<b>Deaths.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	128	108	236
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.2
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.93)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.4
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.2
<b>Infant Mortality.</b>								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths of infants under one year of age.										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3(2)	8(5)	11(7)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1(1)	—	1(1)
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4(3)	8(5)	12(8)
								<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

Infant Mortality rate (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	32.3
Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales)	..	..	20.9
Neonatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	21.5
Early Neonatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	..	..	16.1
Perinatal Mortality rate (Still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	..	..	31.7
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	30.2
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	125.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	2.2%
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil



### CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
*Birth Rate .. ..	16.6	15.6	14.6	14.5	15.1	15.6	14.4	16.9	15.8	17.8	17.6
*Death Rate .. ..	9.9	11.5	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.9	11.5	11.7	11.5	11.2
Infant Mortality Rate	14.9	44.6	27.2	17.1	19.6	16.2	17.5	5.9	15.1	18.6	32.3
	(5)	(4)	(8)	(5)	(6)	(5)	(5)	(2)	(5)	(7)	(12)

\*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 4 weeks .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5	8
4 weeks and under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
1 and under 5 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 and under 15 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
15 and under 25 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
25 and under 35 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
35 and under 45 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
45 and under 55 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	2	10
55 and under 65 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	6	27
65 and under 75 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	27	54
75 and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	60	126
Totals .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	128	108	236

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS 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.

## **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 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.

## **RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, 1960**

The 'appointed day' for this Act was December 1st, 1963. The Act is concerned with the control of the accumulation and disposal of radioactive wastes. Persons who keep or use radioactive material must, unless exempted, register with the Minister of Housing and Local Government and obtain authorisation from him for the accumulation or disposal of radioactive waste.

Local Authorities must be consulted before authorisations for the disposal of radioactive waste are granted in respect of major nuclear establishments or where disposal is likely to involve the need for special precautions by an Authority. In suitable cases the Government contemplates the disposal of radioactive wastes by conventional methods such as discharge to sewers or disposal on Local Authority refuse tips. The Act places a duty on a Local Authority to accept and deal with radioactive wastes sent to their refuse tips in accordance with an authorisation and Local Authorities are asked to co-operate where this is the best method of disposal. Local Authorities are also sent copies of registration and authorisation certificates.

To date this Council has not received notice of any persons or firms within this district who are keeping or using radioactive material.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

### **Section 47.**

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

### **Section 50.**

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.



# NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1963.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Dysentery	Measles	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
1 — ..	-	1	-	-	-	12	13
2 — ..	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
3 — ..	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
4 — ..	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
5 — 9 ..	-	-	-	-	-	20	20
10 — 14 ..	1	-	-	-	-	8	9
15 — 24 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	1	1	-	-	-	63	65
1962 TOTALS	1	2	-	-	-	88	91

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 — 14 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 — 44 ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
45 — 64 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
1962 TOTALS	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

### TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year ..	24	22	4	2	28	24
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations—	3	2	—	1	3	3
3. Cases restored to Register .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts .. .. .	2	—	—	—	2	—
(b) From Death Returns .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register .. .. .	1	1	—	—	1	1
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year ..	28	23	4	3	32	26

### AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION. RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.63.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0 — 15 ..	3	1	1	1	4	2	6
15 — 25 ..	1	—	10	—	11	—	11
25 — 35 ..	2	1	6	1	8	2	10
35 — 45 ..	10	1	6	—	16	1	17
45 — 55 ..	7	1	—	—	7	1	8
55 — 65 ..	2	—	—	1	2	1	3
65 and over ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
TOTALS ..	28	4	23	3	51	7	58

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Five cases of respiratory and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. Two cases were transferred to the district previously notified in another area. At the end of the year there were six more respiratory cases and one more non-respiratory case on the register.





**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

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**D. HOWELLS, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.,**  
**Chief Public Health Inspector, Newmarket Rural District Council,**  
**Council Offices,**  
**Park Lane,**  
**Newmarket.**

Tel. No : Newmarket 2362.



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1963:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,118
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	367
Poultry Dressing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	219
Canteens and Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Miscellaneous Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	199
Shops (Under Shops Act, 1950)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	169
Infectious Disease Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Premises Disinfected or Disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Drainage and Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	462
Sewage Disposal Plants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Caravan Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Re Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135
Nuisances (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Dog Boarding Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Drain Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	167
TOTAL								3,445

Number of samples taken:—

Drinking Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	119
Other Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Specimens Collected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Statutory Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

# PARISH STATISTICS.

Parish	Acreage	Population (1961 Census)	Rateable Value at 1.4.64.	No. of Council Dwellings		Id. Rate Product 1963/64
				Pre-War	Post-War	
ASHLEY .. ..	2,225	465	6,442	36	42	25
BOTTISHAM ..	2,854	975	28,655	28	105	128
BRINKLEY ..	1,303	204	3,817	—	14	15
BURROUGH GREEN	2,272	289	3,950	18	10	14
BURWELL .. ..	7,010	2,734	98,632	83	208	394
CHEVELEY .. ..	2,559	1,624	36,563	17	54	146
CHIPPENHAM ..	4,301	366	10,048	—	20	34
DULLINGHAM ..	3,387	520	8,873	9	46	34
FORDHAM L.A. }	4,331	1,709	38,115	85	88	153
FORDHAM N.L.A. }			336			1
ISLEHAM .. ..	5,230	1,392	19,593	50	78	77
KENNETT .. ..	1,431	340	12,604	4	40	50
KIRTLING .. ..	3,126	357	5,218	6	17	20
LODE .. ..	3,133	607	9,628	27	34	39
REACH .. ..	1,134	269	3,214	4	18	12
SNAILWELL ..	2,034	216	5,123	1	15	20
SOHAM .. ..	12,999	5,077	114,263	191	297	460
STETCHWORTH ..	2,891	514	14,819	8	40	60
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4,110	633	10,909	39	45	42
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4,889	634	9,934	42	36	37
WESTLEY .. ..	1,149	165	2,046	—	6	8
WICKEN .. ..	3,965	655	8,285	19	26	32
WOODDITTON L.A. }						52
WOODDITTON N.L.A. }	4,768	1,134	25,314	26	32	48
GAS .. ..			310			—
ELECTRICITY						—
DISTRIBUTION			4,829			31
ELECTRICITY						—
GENERATING			3,080			—
TOTAL ..	81,101	20,879	484,600	693	1,271	1932



## 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 .. .. .	24
(2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	7
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	—
(4) Houses on which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	11

#### REPAIRS.

##### HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

(5) After informal action by Local Authority .. .. .	13
(6) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners .. .. .	Nil
(b) by Local Authority .. .. .	Nil
(7) 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		Outstanding Orders on Existing Houses			Parts of Buildings Closed	Purchased by N.R.D.C.	D.O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	D.O's	C.O's	U/T.			
ASHLEY ..	13	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
BOTTISHAM ..	27	12	13	4	—	1	5	15
BRINKLEY ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	9	—
BURROUGH GREEN ..	11	—	—	—	1	—	13	—
BURWELL ..	29	—	16	5	8	—	—	1
CHEVELEY ..	11	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
CHIPPENHAM	2	—	2	1	2	—	—	—
DULLINGHAM	21	—	5	1	1	—	8	—
FORDHAM ..	18	—	8	1	1	—	—	—
ISLEHAM ..	30	—	5	6	3	—	—	4
KENNETT ..	4	—	2	1	1	1	—	—
KIRTLING ..	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
LODE ..	8	—	5	1	2	—	—	1
REACH ..	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
SNAILWELL ..	4	37	—	5	—	—	—	—
SOHAM ..	64	—	6	5	6	6	—	3
STETCHWORTH	9	—	—	1	—	—	4	—
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	8	—	4	4	2	—	—	4
SWAFFHAM PRIOR ..	14	—	—	—	4	—	—	1
WESTLEY WATERLESS	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
WICKEN ..	8	—	4	1	4	—	—	—
WOODDITTON	8	—	5	4	—	—	4	1
TOTAL ..	301	49	78	42	38	8	43	32

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

(a) Old Persons' Unit, "Ness Court", Burwell consisting of						
Single Flatlets	..	..	..	..	..	13
Double	..	..	..	..	..	3
Warden's House	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b) Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	16
TOTAL						33

### Housing of Old People.

The Council's house building programme<sup>e</sup> of houses to rent is in the main directed towards the construction of old persons' dwellings. At the time of writing this report the position is briefly as follows:—

(a) Old Persons' Bungalows provided						
Two Bedroom	..	..	..	..	..	255
One Bedroom	..	..	..	..	..	44
						299
Plus Flatlets	..	..	..	..	..	4
Units at Hereward House, Soham	..	..	..	..	..	16
Units at Ness Court, Burwell	..	..	..	..	..	16
TOTAL OCCUPIED						335
(b) Under Construction						
Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	46

### (c) Future Programme

It is intended that the following old persons' dwellings will be provided:—

1. Fordham						
Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	12
Units	..	..	..	..	..	17
2. Soham						
Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	10
3. Ashley						
Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	4
4. Isleham						
Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	6

### NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
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
1961	68	84	152
1962	36	100	136
1963	33	145	178
Total	672	716	1,388



## Council Houses.

The Council now owns 1,965 dwellings which are under the management of the Council's Surveyor.

571 older type Council houses have now been provided with modern bathrooms and hot water systems. 135 further houses remain to be modernised and the work is proceeding as quickly as the present staff and outside labour force will allow, although the lack of a sewer in some parishes will retard progress.

59 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 continues to operate satisfactorily and in this connection 135 visits were made to dwellinghouses. All preliminary enquiries are dealt with by the Chief Public Health Inspector who inspects the properties, meets owners, architects and builders and outlines the standard required to qualify for a standard or discretionary grant. Sketches are often made on the site, plumbing, drainage and damp-proofing problems are discussed and the owner is given every assistance before detailed plans are prepared. When final proposals are received, they are carefully examined and comments are passed to the Council's Surveyor who is responsible for the checking of estimated costs, in the case of discretionary grants, and inspection of the work as it proceeds. Standard grant applicants receive written approval immediately after the meeting of the Housing Grants Committee.

In this way all schemes receive prompt attention and any unfortunate delays cannot be attributed to the Council.

The following statistics are encouraging:—

(a) Number of Houses on which Improvement Grants were paid:

	1963	1962	1961
Discretionary Grants .. ..	44	49	44
Standard Grants .. ..	48	58	38

(b) Amount paid in Grants:

Discretionary Grants .. ..	£12,355	£13,798	£12,204
Standard Grants .. ..	£5,929	£7,574	£4,947

(c) Number of properties improved since the Act came into force:

Discretionary Grants .. ..	..	..	..	529
Standard Grants .. ..	..	..	..	169

(d) Amount paid on (c):

Discretionary Grants .. ..	..	..	..	£121,699
Standard Grants .. ..	..	..	..	£21,797

The maximum Discretionary Grant is £400 and the maximum Standard Grant is £155 subject in both cases to the grant not exceeding half the cost of improvements.

Average Discretionary Grant during 1963 ..	£281 per house
Average Standard Grant during 1963 ..	£123 per house

## Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

As reported in previous years, there is no serious caravan problem in this area although itinerant traders are occasionally the cause for complaints. These caravanners, many of whom are gypsies, deal in scrap metal along with their miscellaneous labouring jobs and it has been necessary to warn several landowners about their obligations under the Act.

The new Caravan site at Soham was licensed during the year for the stationing of twelve residential vans. This is the largest site in the area and each caravan is provided with a water closet, brick outbuilding, main water, sink gully and proper footpaths and roads. The owner maintains a good standard of operation and taken all round the scheme has been very successful.



Six new licences and eleven renewals were granted during the year and a total of 98 caravans occupied licensed sites throughout the district. This does not include caravans which are incidental to dwellinghouses and exempted from the Act. Apart from two sites for twelve and five vans, which are connected to the public sewer, most of the sites are occupied by one van only and an applicable set of conditions is attached to each licence.

Three applications were refused planning permission in connection with the proposed stationing of twenty caravans and two single caravans.

#### Rent Act, 1957.

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Act.

#### Clearance of Unfit Dwellings.

Thirty one unfit dwellings were closed or demolished during the year and fourteen families were rehoused by the Council. Thirty one houses, on which Orders had been made, were still occupied at the end of the year. Out of thirty eight unfit houses purchased by the Council during the last few years, fifteen were still occupied but rebuilding on the sites was proceeding at a good pace.

The following progress report is interesting:—

Number of Prewar Houses:					
Private and Council	..	..	..	..	6,061
<i>Since 1945</i>					
Demolished, closed or purchased and vacated	..	..	..	..	429
Improved with the aid of a grant	..	..	..	..	698
Council houses modernised	..	..	..	..	571
Positive action taken on					1,698*
=28% of prewar houses					

\* This figure does not include the many houses which were modernised by private owners without the aid of a grant and does not reflect the number of pre 1939 houses which already had modern conveniences.

#### House Letting.

The Housing Advisory Officer reports the following progress for the year ended 31st March, 1964.

Applicants rehoused from waiting list	..	..	..	..	91
Tenants transferred into more appropriate accommodation	..	..	..	..	28
Direct exchanges between tenants	..	..	..	..	6
Number of applicants on waiting list:					
November, 1962	..	..	..	..	316
November, 1963	..	..	..	..	421
April, 1964	..	..	..	..	413

#### Public Health Act, 1961—Section 27—Ruinous and Dilapidated Buildings.

Two statutory notices were served under the provisions of the above Act requiring the demolition of several dilapidated buildings. Both notices were complied with by the owners.

## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

#### Slaughterhouses.

There has been no change in the number of licensed slaughterhouses, five premises still being regularly used. Two of the slaughterhouses are comparatively new and the remainder were completely modernised when The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 came into operation. Four of the slaughterhouses are provided with stunning pens for the slaughter of adult bovines but one small slaughterhouse is used for the killing and dressing of pigs and sheep only. The premises are generally well kept and it has not been necessary to take any action under the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. Once again it can be reported that tuberculosis was not detected in any of the animals.



The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 came into operation on 1st October, 1963 and the main provisions are:—

- (a) Meat at slaughterhouses must be inspected by an authorised inspector. If the Local Authority finds it impossible to inspect all animals, they must inform the Ministry of Agriculture and if necessary secure the services of local veterinary surgeons. The Ministry's Veterinary Officers may be available although this is rather unlikely. Special arrangements must be made during holiday periods, sickness, etc.
- (b) Meat must not be removed from a slaughterhouse until it has been inspected. To overcome initial difficulties traders are permitted to remove animals six hours after slaughter but not before 7 a.m.
- (c) Meat inspected and passed as fit for human consumption must be marked.
- (d) Local Authorities may charge for the inspection in which case the charges must be published in a local newspaper.
- (e) The minimum period of notice of slaughter is extended from three hours to twenty four hours. This does not prevent a trader giving a notice of regular slaughter on fixed days providing the Authority finds this acceptable.
- (f) Methods of Inspection: Statutory standard procedures are laid down for inspection.
- (g) Every slaughterman shall ensure that the carcasses are dressed and treated in such a manner as not to prevent or hinder inspection and offal shall remain readily identifiable with the carcass.
- (h) The trader must inform the Local Authority if a carcass is found to be diseased or unsound.
- (i) Inspections, so far as is practicable, shall be made while the carcasses are being dressed.
- (j) Where an infected carcass is transported to the area of another Local Authority for cold storage, that Authority must be notified.
- (k) Contravention of the Regulations makes a trader liable to a fine not exceeding £100 or to imprisonment up to three months, or to both, plus a daily fine of £5 if the offence continues.

Although every effort is made to keep strictly to the form of inspection laid down in schedule I of the Regulations it is quite impossible for the Public Health Inspector to be present at the time of slaughter at all five premises. This results in the storage of stomachs and intestines during warm weather which cannot be regarded as satisfactory. There is no control over slaughtering hours and, although throughput is comparatively small much of the additional inspector's time is allocated to meat inspection. All carcasses are stamped with an identification mark after the detailed inspection of the carcass, offal and other organs and no charge is made for this service. The new Regulations place great emphasis on the detection of tuberculosis in bovines although this disease is now hardly ever found in the slaughterhouse.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960 are complied with, most of the condemned organs being destroyed at the slaughterhouse premises. Larger quantities are removed, after staining, to outlets satisfactory to the Public Health Inspector. Fortunately, the animals slaughtered within this Rural area are of top quality, casualties are few and condemnation figures are low. It will be noted that 6.8% of all livers inspected were unsound, chiefly owing to flukes, cirrhosis, abscesses or angiomatosis. Only one animal was found to contain a C. Bovis Cyst and all lambs were sound throughout. Almost every carcass is for consumption within the rural area.

One thousand one hundred and eighteen 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.



**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part  
during the Year 1963.**

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	654	5	25	1503	47	803	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	91	—	—	85	1	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	13.9	—	—	5.7	2.1	—	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:—</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Cysticercosis:—</b>							
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
Complete Carcasses .. .. .	—	2	—
Livers .. .. .	52	50	—
Half Livers .. .. .	33	6	—
Lungs .. .. .	1	7	—
Heads .. .. .	1	5	—
Hearts .. .. .	2	18	—
Spleen .. .. .	1	1	—
Forequarters, Ribs and other Beef ..	276lbs.	—	—
Skirt .. .. .	1	—	—
Leg and Ribs of Calf .. .. .	60lbs.	—	—

Other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

60 various tinned and bottled foods

27lbs. Pork Sausages

12lbs. Veal

52lbs. Unsmoked Bacon

28lbs. Frozen Ox Livers

347 Poultry

83 packets of various frozen foods from one cabinet were condemned following an electrical breakdown.



## **The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.**

All premises where food is handled receive regular visits and the general standard is good. Few complaints are ever received and shopkeepers do not hesitate in calling upon the department for advice and assistance. All premises are provided with washing facilities but legislation covering wearing of suitable overalls is long overdue.

In response to a request from a private householder, a small jar of cockles was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All cultures were reported as sterile.

Nine hundred and thirty six visits were made to food premises, excluding slaughterhouses, during the year.

### **Registered Food Premises.**

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

(a) Sausage and cooked meat premises	.. .. .	16
(b) Fried Fish shops	.. .. .	4
(c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	.. .. .	72
(d) Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream	.. .. .	1

Three new registration certificates were issued during the year and three hundred and sixty seven visits were made to the above premises.

### **Ice Cream.**

Sixteen samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. Fourteen samples were reported as grade 1, one sample as grade 2 and one as grade 3. Further samples were taken from the refrigerator containing the grade 3 sample and these were reported as grade 1. It has been stressed, when retailers are visited, that ice cream must be stored at a temperature not exceeding 28°F and if this requirement cannot be complied with, owing to a mechanical breakdown, the ice cream must be returned to the manufacturer for retreatment.

Ice cream is still manufactured on a small scale at the Soham premises and retailed from the proprietor's own vans. These vans are provided with handwashing facilities which include insulated hot water tanks.

### **Milk.**

We are informed by the Ministry of Agriculture that 26 dairy farms are registered in the area and 23 of the premises are licensed as "tuberculin tested" farms. All cows are now subjected to the tuberculin test and only designated milk is allowed to be retailed in the area.

### **Poultry.**

Three hundred and forty seven birds were condemned as unfit for human consumption at the plucking and dressing premises at Soham. Two hundred and nineteen visits were made to these premises but it was anticipated that the business would shortly be abandoned.

### **Licensed Premises.**

Fifty six inspections of licensed premises were made during the year, particular attention being paid to the sanitary accommodation and glass washing arrangements. There has been a good response from Brewers when a public sewer has been made available.

### **Bakehouses.**

Forty six visits were made to the ten bakehouses in the area under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The standard is generally good.

### **Frozen Foods.**

Twenty eight food cabinets were checked and the owners advised on the general recommendations published by The National Association of Frozen Food Producers. It was noted that most shopkeepers were not familiar with the handling code produced by this Association and copies were handed to them for reference along with a table illustrating the effects on frozen foods stored under rising temperature conditions.



The following information was obtained:—

Temperature of Frozen Food Cabinets							
Number of Cabinets							Temperature
9	..	..	..	..	..	..	up to 0° F.
7	..	..	..	..	..	..	up to 5° F.
7	..	..	..	..	..	..	up to 10° F.
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	up to 15° F.
TOTAL							28

It is recommended that the temperature should remain at 0° F. and not rise above 5° F. When this fact was brought to the notice of shopkeepers some improvement was noted although thermometers are not fitted and are not available at most of the premises.

#### **Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1958.**

Twenty five slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year and two licences were issued to "learners" permitting slaughter under the supervision of an experienced slaughterman. No action was necessary under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

#### **Knacker's Yard.**

This old establishment is put to very little use and no horses were slaughtered during the year. No horse carcasses were brought to the premises and records were kept in accordance with current Regulations.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

All piped water supplies are under the control of the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board. The Engineer to the Board, Mr. F. W. Sanders, reports as follows:—

"The supply to the district was reasonably good during 1963 though it was necessary to restrict the use of hoses on June 14th; this restriction remained in force until July 19th but it might have been withdrawn earlier if it were not for the cumbersome procedure involved."

"The yield of the Chippenham and Swaffham Prior sources gives no immediate cause for concern and any supply shortages were due to inadequate pumping plant, mains or storage capacity."

"The district is growing rapidly and the Board has proposals to develop a new source in the parish of Woodditton and deliver to a new tower at Ditton Green to replace the rather small towers at Burrough Green, Stetchworth and Saxon Street and the booster pumps at Duchess Drive and Saxon Street all of which are too small. When this source comes into production the water from the Chippenham source hitherto used for the south of the district will be supplied to Newmarket Town instead."

#### **Water Consumption.**

There has been no change in the sources of supply during the year and consumption ranged between the following figures:—

	Chippenham Pumping Station	Swaffham Prior Pumping Station
Maximum Average Daily Consumption ..	Gallons 566,533 (June)	Gallons 169,066 (June)
Minimum Average Daily Consumption ..	440,466 (September)	135,548 (March)
Average Daily Consumption over the year ..	498,819	146,904



## Sampling.

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

### Water Sampling during 1963.

Sample	Main Supplies		Private Supplies		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Chemical ..	3	—	—	—	119
Bacteriological	98	—	13	5	

Two further samples were taken direct from Swaffham Prior and Chippenham Wells and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination for fluoride.

The samples collected for chemical analysis were taken from the mains after treatment. A further two samples were taken direct from the source at the Chippenham and Swaffham Prior pumping stations by the Water Board; these were reported as satisfactory.

The five unsatisfactory samples from four private supplies were dealt with as follows:—

Connected to public mains .. .. .	1
Alternative supply provided .. .. .	1
Re-sampled and found to be satisfactory .. .. .	1
Occupier warned and requested to connect to main supply ..	1

### Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies.

Test	Chippenham	Swaffham Prior
Physical Characters .. .. .	Good	Good
Reaction .. .. .	pH 7.2	pH 7.9
<b>Parts per 100,000.</b>		
Chloride .. .. .	2.3	25.2
Ammonia (Free and Saline) .. .. .	absent	absent
Ammonia (albuminoid) .. .. .	0.0018	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C. .. .. .	0.0293	0.0396
Nitrates .. .. .	0.70	absent
Nitrites .. .. .	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals .. .. .	absent	absent
Total Hardness .. .. .	24.6	5.2
Fluoride .. .. .	0.015	0.010
<b>Bacteriological Examination.</b>		
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
Microscopical Examination of Deposit	None	None

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

### **Burwell Sewerage Scheme.**

This scheme which was completed in 1961 is now serving almost the entire village. The works are producing a reasonably satisfactory effluent, but a sludge disposal problem was noticeable during the year. The Council has resolved to solve this difficulty by the provision of cold digestion tanks.

### **Fordham Sewerage Scheme.**

The installation of modern amenities to houses in Fordham is proceeding and properties are being connected to the new sewerage scheme at a rate consistent with the availability of building labour.

### **Cheveley Park Sewerage Scheme.**

During the year agreement was reached with the residents of Cheveley Park on the best method of providing the area with sewers and in general the residents have agreed to accept the routing of the main sewers through their back gardens. This arrangement, whilst more difficult to carry out due to the disturbance of garden land, is likely to be more satisfactory in the long run as it will ensure that owners of property will connect by reason of the reduced cost of laying the connection drains. If the sewers had been sited in the highway, the total cost of individual house connections would have been very high and, furthermore, work in the narrow sections of streets would have created a considerable traffic nuisance. All sewage will discharge to the Urban District sewers and terms have been agreed by the two Councils.

### **Dullingham Sewerage Scheme.**

The year saw the completion of this scheme comprising gravity sewers and a sewage disposal works. Connections to the sewer are now being carried out.

### **Swaffham Bulbeck Sewerage Scheme.**

This scheme which provides for the sewerage of Swaffham Bulbeck and Commercial End was commenced and at the time of this report was proceeding satisfactorily. The sewage will be pumped to the disposal works at Bottisham for treatment, and these works are to be modernised in order to deal with the additional flow.

### **Swaffham Prior, Reach, Chippenham.**

These schemes are in an advanced stage of preparation, but in the meantime serious sewage disposal problems are far too frequent on housing sites in these parishes.

### **Isleham and Soham Fringe Area.**

The Council's Consulting Engineers are working on these proposals. The polluted ditches on the outskirts of Soham still give rise to complaints which can only be overcome by the provision of a public sewer.

### **Ashley, Wicken and Kirtling.**

The Council has resolved to sewer these parishes as soon as possible.

### **Remaining Parishes.**

Having regard to the considerable housing development which is taking place in several parishes, sewerage schemes throughout the whole rural area are now considered to be essential. The larger parishes have been sewered for a number of years thus encouraging some large scale development.

During the year a contact stabilisation plant provided by an estate developer was commissioned and the test results to date show that the plant is capable of producing a very high quality effluent.

The extended aeration plant referred to in the last report is still functioning satisfactorily and tests have been conducted by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory.

Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 nine closet conversions were completed and contributions amounting to £217 were paid to owners.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Collection of Household Refuse.

Since October 1959, a weekly refuse collection service has been provided in all but the remote parts of the district and three modern vehicles have coped with this work. During the past four years, 570 new dwellings have been built and refuse has increased considerably in bulk although costs compare very favourably with rural districts providing a similar service. It has not been possible to improve on the kerbside collection owing to the high cost of a backdoor service and the serious shortage of labour for this type of work. Although public cleansing was postponed during part of the men's annual holiday very few complaints were received.

### Refuse Disposal.

About two-thirds of the rubbish is dumped at Reach where it is burned and bulldozed. The remainder is disposed of at the Woodditton dump where controlled tipping was carried out until the tip caught fire and was finally bulldozed. The Council's Rodent Officer pays particular attention to the tips and other pests are controlled by spraying or dusting with a suitable insecticide. There is no shortage of tipping space but disposal methods will no doubt have to be reviewed within the next few years.

### Scrap Metal.

The special collection of scrap metal, mentioned in last year's report, has proved to be very popular and, although the service is infrequent, these metals were sold for the sum of £46.

### Litter Act, 1958.

No prosecutions have taken place under the above Act, chiefly because the offenders are not caught, but miscellaneous rubbish does accumulate at road laybys in spite of the fact that refuse containers are provided by the highway authority. Refuse is occasionally dumped into roadside ditches by thoughtless persons and some drivers still throw cartons through the open window of their vehicle but the area is free from the abandoned car nuisance. The anti-litter campaign has been supported by providing parishes with suitable posters.

### Salvaged Materials.

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

Material	Year ended 31st March, 1964			Year ended 31st March, 1963		
	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.
Waste Paper .. .. .	110 17 1	493	15 7	103 6 1	509	9 7
Ferrous Metals .. .. .				1 18 2	11	11 0
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .				5 3	20	16 5
Rags and Sacking .. .. .	2 4 3	64	3 0	1 19 2	27	14 9
Sundries .. .. .		1	14 1		4	7 6
Light Iron .. .. .		46	1 5		10	10 0
TOTALS .. .. .	113 2 0	605	14 1	107 10 0	584	9 3

A bonus amounting to £236 was shared by the men during the financial year ended 31st March, 1964. This is based on the sales of waste paper, all men sharing 75% of the proceeds over and above the target of 40 tons of paper per year.

### Cesspool Emptying.

The 1,100 gallon cesspool emptier has carried out more work than ever before. Having regard to the fact that large parts of the district are now sewered one must conclude that the existing septic tanks are rapidly becoming totally inadequate. The annual free service, which is carried out on request, also resulted in an increase in the number of loads cleared but the charge on the general rate was only £400.

555 septic tanks and cesspools were cleared free of charge and return visits were charged at the flat rate of £1 0s. 0d. per load. The free service is not applicable in areas which are sewered. The tanker is used for the desludging of small sewage plants and also the regular desludging of the Bot-tisham Plant where sludge drying is extremely difficult.

#### Clearances during the year ended 31st March, 1964.

Private		Council		
Cesspools cleared	Loads	Cesspools cleared	Sewage plants	Loads
743	929	408	126	1,454

The following statistics are of interest:—

#### Statistics for the year ended 31st March, 1964 compared with previous year.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

	March 1964	March 1963
Total Mileage .. .. .	31,005	30,788
Refuse Collected—loads .. .. .	1,206	1,193
Nett cost of service .. .. .	£10,332	£9,643
Cost per load—collection and disposal .. .. .	£8 11 4	£8 1 8
Annual cost per 1,000 population .. .. .	£492 0 0	£461 7 9
Vehicle Costs—including repayment of loans, etc. .. .. .	£2,441	£2,413
Cost per Mile .. .. .	1s. 7d.	1s. 7d.
Vehicles—actual running costs— .. .. .	£1,324	£1,249
Vehicles—actual running costs—cost per mile .. .. .	10d.	10d.
Fuel consumed:— gallons .. .. .	2,511	2,525
Average mileage per gallon:— .. .. .		
Derv .. .. .	12.34	12.1
Income from salvage sales NET .. .. .	£370*	£350*

\*After deducting men's bonus

### Cesspool Emptying.

Total Mileage .. .. .	12,968	10,645
Cost of Service .. .. .	£2,002x	£1,887
Number of loads cleared .. .. .	2,383	1,774
Cost per load—collection and disposal .. .. .	16s. 10d.	£1 1s. 4d.
Fuel consumed—gallons .. .. .	1,130	1,041
Fuel consumption per load—gallons .. .. .	0.47	0.59

xChargeable work amounted to £1,602.

Deficit to General Rate £400.



## GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### **Shops Act, 1950.**

Section 38 of this Act, relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and heating of shops, will be repealed by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. Visits have been incorporated with inspections of food premises and a number of spot checks were made during the extremely cold spell in the first quarter of the year. As expected, some heating appliances could not satisfactorily cope with such arctic conditions. Modern electric storage heaters will do much to overcome this problem.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

Two schools, with valuable assistance from parents, provided a "Purley Pool" in the playground and the results were very encouraging in that a considerable number of under elevens learned to swim and many more ended the season with plenty of confidence. This department co-operated and advised head teachers on filtration, chlorination and general working of the plant and six samples taken during the season were reported by the Public Health Laboratory as entirely satisfactory. These plants are provided with four filter bags, each of which is washed every few days, and a liquid chlorine injector which is operated by the small centrifugal pump used for circulating the water. Operators are advised to aim at "breakpoint chlorination" and each pool is provided with a comparator.

There are no public swimming pools other than the one provided in the adjoining Urban District.

The proposed pool at Soham is not yet under way although tenders have been invited.

### **Offensive Trades.**

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

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

One Rodent Officer is still employed and there is nothing to add to previous reports except to state that the severe winter of 1962/63 created a sharp rise in the rat population on the refuse dumps and these were effectively treated with zinc phosphide. "Warfarin" is regularly used and no other poisons, apart from "Cymag", are stocked.

### **Disinfestation and Disinfection.**

Wasps' nests are dealt with free of charge at Council premises but other occupiers are charged 5/- for the service.

Fleas, bugs, cockroaches and other pests usually associated with poor housing conditions are almost extinct in this area. Where old persons or others need assistance, the Rodent Officer is available and insecticides are kept in store but most householders make use of the nearest chemist when troubled by ants, silverfish, earwigs, etc.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

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

### **Clean Air Act, 1956.**

No applications for prior approval relating to new furnaces were received. It was not necessary to take any action during the year.

### **Noise Abatement Act, 1960.**

No Statutory action was necessary under the provisions of this Act. One private householder complained about barking dogs from a greyhound breeding establishment. On this occasion the Act could not be enforced but the complainant was successful when his case went to court privately. The premises have now been abandoned for this use.

### **Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1957.**

There are no premises registered in the area.

### **Dog Boarding Establishment Act, 1963.**

Two persons applied for licences under the provisions of this Act which came into force on the 1st January, 1964. Both licences were issued with appropriate conditions attached.



# **APPENDIX** **FACTORIES ACT, 1961.**

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1963 for the  
Rural District of Newmarket in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

## 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) .. .. .	4	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power) .. .. .	70	73	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	74	73	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 .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	4	4	—	—	—









