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Contributors

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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1967

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

Medical Officer of Health,

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: £588,309 (4.4.68)

Sum represented by a penny rate for the year 1967-68: £2,333.

Estimated number of inhabited houses: 8,416. Estimated mid-year Home Population: 22,310.

Census Population 1961: 20,879.

Birth Rate ... 16.3

(Corrected) 16.6

Death Rate ... 10.9 . . .

> (Corrected) 10.1

Infant mortality Rate 24.8 . .

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor A. F. Gathercole.

COUNCILLORS

E. Cooper Bland.

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

J. H. Budden.

F. S. Fuller.

W. J. Gidney.

Rev'd. J. B. Goodchild.

Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart.

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

K. P. Leonard.

H. Palmer, J.P.

J. G. A. Paul.

R. B. Taylor.

L. G. Warren.

Mrs. M. West.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Chief Public Health Inspector:

D. Howells, F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

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

J. Townsend, 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 1967, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/1968, dated January, 1968.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population increase within the district for 1967 was 260, giving an estimated mid-year population of 22,310. This increase was rather lower than for the previous two years (1966—320; 1965—360) but higher than for 1964 (210). The birth rate, at 16.3 per thousand estimated population, was the lowest for the district since 1961; it is to be noted also that the national birth rate of 17.2 per thousand population is a little lower than the 1966 national rate (17.7). The death rate at 10.9 per thousand estimated population was higher than for last year (9.8) and more in keeping with the average trend for the previous ten years.

Deaths from cancer showed a slight increase on last year, but were lower than for 1965. Deaths occurring from cancer of the bronchus (12) in 1967 were twice the figure for 1966 and in both years all of them occurred in members of the male sex (mostly over 55 years of age). However, 18 deaths (15 male, 3 female) occurred from this cause in 1965. The total number of deaths from coronary artery disease also showed an increase on that for 1966; most of this increase was accounted for by the fact that more deaths were attributed to this cause in females over 75 years than in the previous year. The bulk of the male deaths due to coronary disease were fairly evenly distributed between the '65 to 75' and '75 and over' age groups, as was also the case in 1966; the total number of male deaths due to this cause showed only a small increase (3) on the 1966 figure.

The exceptionally low trend in the infant death rate for this district over the previous three years was not maintained in 1967 and we saw a swing to a rate nearer to that of 1963. As I have indicated in previous reports such a swing is probably a chance happening, and with the relatively small infant population involved, even a moderate increase in the number of infant deaths in one particular year can bring about marked changes in the infant death rate. Of the nine infant deaths recorded for the year, seven were in babies under four weeks of age, six being under one week of age. Three of the seven deaths under four weeks of age were associated with prematurity (birth weight under 5 lbs. 8 ounces). With six stillbirths during 1967, in contrast to only two in 1966, the perinatal mortality rate showed a result over twice that for 1966 and of the same order as that for 1963. However, the perinatal rate for the County as a whole, and the aggregate rate for the Rural Areas, was lower in 1967 than in 1966. Naturally, this "local" rise in the perinatal mortality rate has been duly noted and a careful watch will be kept on future trends both within this district and throughout the County but the number of infant deaths occurring in this district during 1967 are too small to be taken in isolation and any conclusions drawn therefrom.

Infectious Diseases

As was to be expected the number of measles notifications within the district was much higher than for 1966, but it was very much lower than that for 1965. The number of whooping cough notifications in 1967 was only three, in direct contrast to last year's figure of 25, and the number of scarlet fever notifications remained low at 3.

Only two cases of Salmonella-type infection were notified during the year, both in one family living on a farm, and their infection appeared to be associated with a similar infection among some calves on the same farm. The department co-operated with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and with the farm owner's own veterinary surgeon, in investigating the outbreak and preventing further spread of infection.

Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified within the district during the year, but at the end of the year the total number of cases remaining on the register was the same as at the end of 1966.

Environmental Circumstances

Reference was made in last year's report to the grouped bungalows for Senior Citizens at Wither's Place, Fordham, which was opened after that report had gone to press. It consists of 14 flatlets with warden's accommodation and attendant communal facilities and extends still further the Council's provision in this direction. During 1967, 45 dwellings were built by the Council, 35 of them being bungalows for elderly persons. Private enterprise built a further 200 dwellings. Encouragement continues to be given to private house owners to bring about improvements to the amenities of their properties, and the Council is also installing partial central heating in some of its own houses. Only 66 pre-war council houses remain to be modernised, and on completion of the Isleham Sewerage scheme further progress can be made in this direction.

I would refer you to the Chief Public Health Inspector's comments on the question of caravan site provision for gypsies and other travellers within the district. It can be seen that considerable thought has been given to this difficult problem.

100% meat inspection continues to be carried out by the two additional Public Health Inspectors, the annual throughput in the district fortunately being small. With the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 at the beginning of the year, quite a lot of time was devoted to inspecting food vehicles and acquainting the owners with the scope of the regulations.

Close liaison continues to be made with the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board and the department continues to check on the public and private water supplies throughout the district by routine bacteriological sampling. Following circular letters from the Ministries of Health and Housing and Local Government concerning the levels of lead in public water supplies, we subsequently received a copy of the Water Board Engineer's report to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in which it was noted that the information contained therein concerning this district's water supplies was satisfactory. At the same time your public health department checked on private drinking water supplies within the district but did not find any supplies, currently in use, with lead conducting pipes.

Further progress was made in sewering the villages, the Swaffham Prior and Reach Scheme being almost completed by the end of the year and connections started early in 1968, while good progress continues to be made on the construction of the Isleham scheme. A tender has been accepted for the Kirtling Scheme, while the Ashley, Wicken and Upware Schemes are in the course of preparation. However, as the Council is well aware, some of the smaller unsewered villages also have problems which require mitigation and some mention is made of this in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

The new "Pakamatic" refuse collecting vehicle has proved its value. The latter part of the year saw a successful pilot scheme of refuse collection being operated in Burwell using expendable refuse sacks. After due consideration the Council have decided to introduce this system of refuse collection along with a backdoor collection as from April 1969. The problem of refuse disposal has caused increasing headaches, but the Council are getting to grips with it and I hope that a satisfactory answer will be found in the not too distant future.

The department continued to supervise the chlorination of water at the ever increasing number of school swimming pools. I know that this work is much appreciated by the County Education Department.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Mr. Howells, to the two additional public health inspectors—Messrs. Mason and Townsend, and to all the other members of the public health department for the excellent, cheerful, and willing way in which they have carried out their manifold duties during my time as your Medical Officer of Health. It has always been a great pleasure to work with them.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee I would also like to extend my thanks for their continuing interest and support, and for the kindness and consideration that they have always shown towards me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Obedient Servant, PETER SYLVESTER.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

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

Legitimate							MALE 189	Female 162	TOTAL 351
Illegitimate				-			 8	4	12
Totals							 197	166	363
Birth rate per thousar Birth rate corrected b Birth rate per thousar	y comp	arabil	ity fact	or (1.02			 		16.3 16.6 17.2
Still Births.							MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate Illegitimate							 4	2 -	6
Totals	4.1						 4	2	6
Rate per thousand liv Rate per thousand liv							 **		16.3
Deaths	and esti by com	mated parabi	lity fac	tion tor (0.	93)		 MALE 136	FEMALE 106	TOTAL 242 10.9 10.1 11.2
Infant Mortality. De	eaths of	infan	ts unde	r one v	ear of	age.	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
							 6 (4)	3 (3)	9 (7)
Legitimate Illegitimate	1.1	1.7						_	_
							 6 (4)	3 (3)	9 (7)
Illegitimate Totals							 6 (4) wn in bra	-	9 (7)

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

		1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
*Birth Rate		15.1	15.6	14.4	16.9	15.8	17.8	17.6	18.4	17.3	17.4	16.3
*Death Rate		10.4	10.6	10.9	11.5	11.7	11.5	11.2	10.6	11.4	9.8	10.9
Infant Mortality	Rate	19.6	16.2	17.5	5.9	15.1	18.6	32.3	5.1	8.0	5.2	24.8
		(6)	(5)	(5)	(2)	(5)	(7)	(12)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(9)

^{*}These rates are uncorrected. (The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year).

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

1					MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 4 weeks		 		 	4	3	7
4 weeks and under	1 year	 		 	2	-	2
1 and under 5		 	4.4	 	1		1
5 and under 15		 		 	1	-	1
15 and under 25		 		 	2	-	2
25 and under 35		 		 	2	1	3
35 and under 45		 		 	4	2	6
.45 and under 55		 		 	4	5	-9
55 and under 65		 		 	26	9	35
65 and under 75		 		 	36	18	54
75 and over		 		 	54	68	122
Totals	***	 		 	136	106	242
					Account from the	-	District of the last of the la

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. As from April 1st, 1965 this officer was also appointed Deputy County Medical Officer to the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council.

Public Health Inspectors.

During the year Mr. Howells continued as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason, and Mr. Townsend.

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.

No action has been necessary relating to "Carriers" of food poisoning infections.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, 1960.

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 31 (as amended).

Meals on Wheels

The meals-on-wheels service provided at Soham and Burwell has continued, and the same is also true for the service provided at Bottisham through the W.R.V.S. Our thanks are once again due to all those persons who have given up some of their time to make this possible.

Section 47.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year though it was contemplated in one case. After due consideration and consultation with the general medical practitioner concerned and the geriatrician for the area, it was decided that action could be taken more appropriately under the Mental Health Act.

Section 50.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1967.

	Scarlet	Whooping	Acute P	oliomyelitis			T
Age in Years	Fever	Cough	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Dysentery	Measles	Totals
Under 1 year	-	1	-	- 1		7	8
1 —	1	-	-	-	-	17	18
2 —	-	-	-	-		35	35
3 —	1	I strendt nes		of the design of the last		37	38
4 —	non-		Maio pettak	total habitada mana	It jump not p	38	38
5 — 9	1	1	-	-		124	126
10 — 14	-	-	and Samuela	The same and said		6	6
15 — 24	-	-		_		5	5
25 and over	-	1	-			2	3
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-		-
TOTALS	3	3	-	-		271	277
1966 Totals	4	25	-	-	2	41	72

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	_	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 — 14	-	-	1		-		1
15 — 44	-	-	-				-
45 — 64	-	-			-		-
65 and over	-	- 1	-				-
TOTALS	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
1966 Totals	-		3		-	-	3

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

				ratory Female	No Respir Male F	atory		tal ⁷ emale
1.	Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year		30	24	5	5	35	29
2.	Number of Cases notified for first time during year un Regulations—	nder	2	1	-	-	2	1
3.	Cases restored to Register		-		-	_	-	-
4.	Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification un Regulations— (a) Transferred from other Districts	nder		-		-		
	(b) From Death Returns		-	-		-	-	-
5.	Number of Cases removed from Register		1	2	-	-	1	2
6.	Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year		31	23	5	5	36	28

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION. RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.67.

Age Group		Iale Non-Resp.		Female Non-Resp.		Total Non-Resp.	Grand Total
0 — 15	4	1	2	1	6	2	8
16 — 25	1	-	7	1	8	1	9
26 — 35	3	-	4	1	7	1	8
36 — 45	6	3	7	-	13	3	16
46 — 55	8	1	3	1	11	2	13
56 — 64	8	-	-	1	8	1	9
65 and over	1	-	-	Autot - ma	1	central-	1
Totals	31	5	23	5	54	10	64

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. At the end of the year the number of respiratory and non-respiratory cases on the register remained the same as in 1966.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. HOWELLS, F.A.P.H.I., 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 1967:-

Slaughterhouses and	But	chers'	Shops	, ,							843
Bakehouses											21
Food Premises regis	tered	under	Section	16, Fo	od and	Drugs	Act, 1	955			296
Canteens and Cafes										4.7	44
Licensed Premises											91
Food Vehicles											131
Miscellaneous Food	Prem	ises									303
Offices and Shops A	ct Vis	sits									188
Factories											25
Public Cleansing											417
Infectious Disease E	nqui	ries									12
Drainage and Sewer											463
Sewage Disposal Pla	-									21.1	7
Caravan Sites											252
Dwellinghouses (incl	uding	g re-vis	sits)								636
Re Improvement Gr											184
Water Supply (exclu	ding										19
											120
Nuisances (including	re-v	isits)									199
Noise Abatement											11
Schools											16
Dog Boarding Estab	lishn	nent									1
Clean Air Act											3
Pests Act											10
Miscellaneous											239
								То	otal		4,531
Number of Samples	taker	n:—									
Drinking Water			I MENTS			234					112
Other Water			4334	Oilor							2
Ice Cream							5.5		* * *		13
Specimens Colle	cted										5
Informal Notice											78
Statutory Notic											7
The state of the s	A		-					4 4			,

PARISH STATISTICS.

Parish	Acreage	Population (1961 Census)	Rateable Value at 1.4.68.	No. of Council Dwellings	1d. Rate Product 1967/68
			£		
ASHLEY	2,225	465	7,958	82	31
Bottisham	2,854	975	46,958	145	190
BRINKLEY	1,303	204	6,565	28	25
BURROUGH GREEN	2,272	289	4,716	40	18
Burwell	7,010	2,734	127,328	304	521
CHEVELEY	2,559	1,624	43,431	71	169
CHIPPENHAM	4,301	366	7,534	21	28
Dullingham	3,387	520	10,610	51	41
FORDHAM L.A.	4,331	1,709	46,821	204	183
FORDHAM N.L.A.			422		2
ISLEHAM	5,230	1,392	23,799	149	92
KENNETT	1,431	340	14,761	43	60
KIRTLING	3,126	357	5,838	23	23
Lode	3,133	607	11,764	69	46
REACH	1,134	269	3,529	22	14
Snailwell	2,034	216	4,941	16	19
SOHAM	12,999	5,077	131,704	544	522
STETCHWORTH	2,891	514	14,929	54	60
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4,110	633	13,665	94	54
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4,889	634	11,347	78	43
Westley	1,149	165	2,160	6	8
WICKEN	3,965	655	10,198	45	36
WOODDITTON	4,768	1,134	27,758	61	109
GAS)		-)
ELECTRICITY					
DISTRIBUTION			9,573 >		39 >
ELECTRICITY				44	
GENERATING					- j
TOTAL	81,101	20,879	£588,309	2,150	2,333

HOUSING

Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

(1)	Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	
(0)	under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	2
(2)	Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957	
(3)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.	
(4)	Houses on which Demolition Orders were made	1
REP	AIRS. HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.	
(5)	After informal action by Local Authority	2
(5)	After informal action by Local Authority	2
(5) (6)	After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(5) (6)	After formal notice under Public Health Acts (a) by owners	N
(6)	After formal notice under Public Health Acts (a) by owners	N
(6)	After formal notice under Public Health Acts (a) by owners	Ni Ni Ni

Parish	Dem	olished	Outsta on Ex	inding (Orders Iouses	Parts of Buildings	Purchased by N.R.D.C.	D.O's
ransn	Houses	Hutments	D.O's	C.O's.	U/T.	Closed	N.K.D.C.	Cancelled
ASHLEY	15	-	1	_	_	_	_	1
BOTTISHAM	46	12	-	1	1		5	15
Brinkley Burrough	19	-	-	-	2		9	-
GREEN	17	-	-	-	1		13	-
BURWELL	52	-	5	2	6	-	-	10
CHEVELEY	14	-	-	2	1	_	-	2
CHIPPENHAM	4	-	3	-	-		2	1
DULLINGHAM	30	-	2	- 1	2	-	8	_
FORDHAM	29	-	7	-	-	-	-	2
ISLEHAM	41	-	10	4	5	-		4
KENNETT	8 5	-	-	-	1	1		-
KIRTLING	5	-	-	-	3	-	4	-
LODE	13	-	-	1	1			3
Reach	8	-	2	1	-	-		1
SNAILWELL	4	37	-	3	-	-		2
SOHAM	93	-	17	2	7	6		4
Stetchworth Swaffham	9	-	-	1	-	-	4	-
Bulbeck Swaffham	14	-	4	2	2	-		4
Prior Westley	15	-	8	-	3	-		1
WATERLESS	4					_		
WICKEN	16	-	4	1	2		-	_
WOODDITTON	21	-	2	2	-	-	4	3

New Dwellings

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

Total .. 45

At the end of the year the following Council-owned dwellings were in course of construction:-

Bottisham 8 bungalows

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1958	52	85	137
1959	36	34	70
1960	37	67	104
1961	68	84	152
1962	36	100	136
1963	33	145	178
1964	64	211	275
1965	62	244	306
1966	42	180	222
1967	45	200	245
Total	475	1,350	1,825

Housing of Old People

On the 28th July, 1967, the Council made still further progress in their comprehensive programme designed to provide old persons with a decent home, complete with modern amenities, a friendly atmosphere and facilities for communal activities. Withers Place, Fordham was formally opened by Councillor Mrs. M. P. Newport and visitors were treated to a tour of this excellent accommodation consisting of twelve two-bedroom bungalows, 14 flatlets and Warden's accommodation, built by the Council at a cost of £56,000. A large communal lounge is available, along with a "Meals on Wheels" kitchen and an intercommunication call system between the Warden and all residents. Heating is by gas warm air and gas is also used for domestic water heating.

Standard of Fitness

Last year's report referred to the Ministry publication "Our Older Homes—A Call for Action". This was followed by circular 69/67 which, with minor adjustments, confirmed the standard submitted by the Committee and gave local authorities some guidance on points to be considered when making Demolition and Closing Orders. It is noteworthy that the present standard of fitness does not call for indoor sanitation, a bathroom or piped hot water although the Ministry of Health Report published in 1946 called for these amenities. Unfortunately one can still report that scores of houses still fall short of the fitness standard recommended by the ministry as long ago as 1919.

Routine surveys help to keep the department reasonably up-to-date with information on facilities available and in due course it is anticipated that every house will be slotted into its appropriate category. Although our filing system is somewhat antiquated, we are seldom at a loss to provide information on the older properties, be it for mortgage purposes, official search, a prospective purchase or similar happening.

Council Houses

There is little to add to last year's report under this heading. The management of 2,150 Council houses is under the control of Mr. M. E. Moore, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, who is also responsible for the building of new dwellings.

Improvements

Only 66 pre-war Council houses remain unmodernized but, on completion of the Isleham sewerage scheme in mid 1968, this improvement programme covering 706 houses will be nearing completion. Not content with such progress, the Council is already installing partial central heating in a number of houses which lack a good standard of heating. Several years ago, all "Airey" and similar immediate post-war houses were insulated by filling the cavity walls with "Thermalon", a remarkably successful procedure.

Housing Improvements—House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1964

The Improvement Grant scheme is given full publicity by the Health Department, a good supply of booklets are available and personal visits are made to advise owners on schemes which would attract a Standard or Discretionary Grant.

The following statistics are of interest:-

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

	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Discretionary Grants	 25	33	37	54	44
Standard Grants	 52	35	44	48	48
ount Paid in Grants					

(b) Amount Paid in Grants:

Discretionary Grants	 £7,920	£10,430	£10,830	£15,180	£12,355
Standard Grants	 £10,783	£6,315	£7,633	£6,819	£5,929

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

Discretionary Grants	 	 	 	 678
Standard Grants	 	 	 	 348

(d) Amount Paid on (c):-

Discretionary Grants	 	4.0	 	 	£166,059
Standard Grants	 		 	 	£53,347

(e) Average Discretionary Grant during 1967 ... £245 per house Average Standard Grant during 1967 ... £153 per house

The above figures do not include 640 Council dwellings which have been modernized with the aid of grants. No housing improvement areas have been declared.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Three new licences and fourteen renewals were granted during the year and the 50 licensed sites throughout the district now cater for 79 caravans.

Nine applicants were refused planning permission.

Nine site licences, covering nine vans, expired during the year and were not renewed.

Gypsies and Other Travellers

Circulars 26/66 and 60/67 received careful consideration, along with the excellent publication "Gypsies and other Travellers" produced by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Joint meetings were held by officers of the County and Rural District Councils and it was tentatively

suggested that a small site for travellers should be considered at Soham, where these families have appeared from time to time. This was met by strong opposition from local residents. It should be noted that a number of travellers occupy their own plots for part of the year only and apparently have no desire to remain in the area indefinitely. In the circumstances, it is suggested that planning permission with appropriate attached conditions is not too much to expect although sporadic residential caravan development, on the basis of full occupation, should not be encouraged in the absence of special circumstances. The County Planning Department has drawn up notes for guidance relating to planning applications.

Rent Act, 1957

It would appear that householders are generally unaware of the provisions of this Act. No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

Clearance of Unfit Dwellings

Twenty five unfit dwellings were recorded as demolished and six houses were closed during the year; eighteen families were rehoused by the Council.

Total number of scheduled and occupied u	infit dwe	ellings	 	 68
Above occupied by housing applicants			 	 17

The above figures refer to dwellings which are regarded as beyond reconditioning at a reasonable expense although it is apparent that many old people prefer to remain in their sub-standard accommodation. There are, of course, other dwellings which fall below the recommended standard of fitness, providing a subject for a future report, but the Council can be congratulated on their attack on unfit dwellings which has been under way since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, broken temporarily by the second world war.

One dwelling at Burwell was demolished in default and the owner charged the sum of £60.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses

There has been no change in the meat inspection arrangements since last year's report, the five licensed premises still operating and coping easily with their throughput. Both additional Public Health Inspectors, who maintain a 100% inspection service under the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, hold the Royal Society of Health Meat and Other Foods Inspectors Diploma. It has not been necessary to fix hours of slaughter and the Divisional Veterinary Officer paid his usual routine visits during the year.

Tuberculosis was detected in two pigs and one beast was found to be affected with C. Bovis, requiring low temperature storage in accordance with Ministry recommendations.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part during the Year 1967.

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Horses
Number killed and inspected All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci:—	461	1	-	1,858	33	1,042	-
Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some part	-		-	1			-
or organ was condemned Percentage of the number inspected affected with	107	1		95	3	9	
disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci	23.2	100	-	5.1	9-1	0.9	-
Tuberculosis only:— Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some part	-	Min-	Din-In		111-41		-
or organ was condemned Percentage of the number		7 -		2	1		
inspected affected with Tuberculosis	end on the	-	-	-11	3.0	-	
Cysticercosis:— Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1						-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration Generalised and totally con-	1	Ha et ala	+ 6				
demned	-	-		-	-	-	-

Meat and Offal Condemned.

			Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Complete Carca	ases	 		1	
Forequarters		 	 1	-	-
Heads		 	 3	6	-
Lungs		 	 3	18	1
Livers		 	 74	65	8
Half Livers		 	 28	3	-
Hearts		 	 2	21	-
Mesentery		 	 1-	2	_
Kidneys		 		2	
Hocks		 	 -	12	
Skirt		 	 2	and a second	-
Trimmings etc.		 	 50 lbs.	178 lbs.	5 lbs.

Other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

1 lb. of Meat at Schools and Shops. 13 tins of Canned Meat.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1958

Twenty one slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year but not all the holders are actively engaged in slaughtering. No action was necessary under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The repetition of details produced in the 1966 report is not intended but it is worth noting that these Regulations apply to no less than 209 premises in the rural area. Although occupiers are called upon to provide essential amenities, maintain a good standard of hygiene, and operate from suitable premises, the display of cooked meats at room temperature during hot weather is still not subject to effective legislative control in spite of the official report which followed the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak. Refrigerated display counters are much in evidence but there is still room for improvement having regard to the fact that processed and made up meats still occupy the upper section of the Salmonella league table throughout the country.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1967 and all traders known to use vehicles for the sale or delivery of food were circulated in the previous September. Names and addresses must be displayed, washing facilities must be provided, the vehicle or stall must be suitable and food handlers must wear overalls. The provision of hot water presents a problem but this requirement can be overcome by the sale or delivery of pre-wrapped food only. It is difficult to understand why a baker is permitted to handle unwrapped bread on a van not provided with washing facilities and the protection of trays of cream cakes in course of transit gives rise to some concern. The exemption clauses make the Regulations difficult reading and it became necessary to hastily produce The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations, 1966.

Under the provisions of these Regulations, much valuable work has been performed by the Public Health Inspectors and the following informal notices were served during the year.

Regulation	est off towns of a	Su	bject				No. of Informal Notices
5	Condition of Vehicle						2
6	Cleanliness of Equipme						2 5
7	Food to be Protected f	rom	Risk of	Contar	ninatio	n	3
8	Personal Cleanliness						2
9	Overclothing						6
13	Overclothing Display of Name, etc.						14
15	Supply of Water						5
16	Handwashing						20
17	First Aid						14
18	Washing of utensils						6
22	Receptacles for Waste						12
				Te	otal		89

Ice Cream

Thirteen samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and subjected to the Methylene Blue Test with the following results:—

Soft	Ice Cr	eam	Othe	er Ice C	ream
	Grade			Grade	
1	2	3	1	2	3
3	3	2	4	1	0.2

All soft ice cream samples were taken from the same retailer's vehicles. Following discussions and strict attention to the sterilization of equipment, there was an improvement from Grade 3 to Grade 1. Owing to the lack of foresight and poor planning by the occupier, the premises at Lode have proved to be inadequate although there is no justification for de-registration under the provisions of Section 19 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Registered Food Premises

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

(a)	Sausage and Cooked Meat Premises	 	 20
(b)	Fried Fish Shops	 	 3
(c)	Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	 	 77
(d)	Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream		 1

One new registration certificate was issued during the year and two hundred and ninety one visits were made to the above premises.

Milk

All milk production is under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and only designated milk is allowed to be retailed in the area. Twenty dairy farms are registered.

Poultry

There are no poultry processing premises within the district. The Chief and one additional Public Health Inspector attended a three day course on Poultry Inspection arranged by the Eastern Centre of the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test.

Licensed Premises

The sixty nine licensed premises in the area have received ninety one visits under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and Public Health Act, 1936. The standard is generally good.

Bakehouses

Twenty six inspections have been made of the eight bakehouses in the area and statutory action has not been called for.

Knacker's Yard

There are no licensed knacker's yards in the area.

WATER SUPPLY

A wholesome supply of water, which is chlorinated at the various underground sources, is piped to all parishes by the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board. Samples of untreated water are collected monthly and submitted for bacteriological examination by the Board's Engineer. In addition, the public health inspectors collected the following samples which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

Water Sampling during 1967.

Sample	Main S	Supplies	Private	Total	
Sample	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Bacteriological	94	-	7	4	105

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

Extension to public mains—To accommodate five houses.

Alternative bore re-opened at one dwelling and found to be satisfactory.

A sample was collected from a celery washing plant, where chlorination is carried out, and found to be satisfactory.

The new Ditton Green water tower at Woodditton was almost completed by the end of the year and a new 8" main was laid to improve the supply to Ashley.

It is with pleasure one can report the close liaison which exists between the Engineer to the Board, Mr. F. W. Sanders, and the public health department.

Water Consumption

Chippenham Pumping Station	Swaffham Prior Pumping Station	Bottisham Pumping Station
Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
427,701	121,682	145,323

Average daily output over the year

Isleham Pumping Station

Although this station is sited well within the rural area, the water is pumped to the City of Ely. Average daily output throughout the year amounted to 675,158 gallons.

"A number of bacteriological samples taken from the Swaffham Prior borehore during the year indicated coliform bacilli of harmless soil origin present in the raw water. The borehole has been sterilised and pumped to waste on several occasions and the drains in the vicinity examined and disinfected, but the contamination persists. Investigations are continuing with the co-operation of the Public Health Officer of the Newmarket R.D.C."

(Extract from Water Board Engineer's report).

Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies.

Test	Chippenham	Swaffham Prior	Bottisham	Saxon Street
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction	pH 7.1	pH 7.6	pH 7.9	pH7.2
Parts per million.				
Chloride	1.8	25.0	13.4	2.7
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03	0.20	0.17	absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	absent	absent	absent	absent
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C	0.40	0.10	0.10	0.20
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.0	0.7	absent	2.3
Nitrite Nitrogen	absent	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent
Total Hardness	28.0	9.0	6.0	31.5
Iron	absent	0.08	0.08	0.45
Fluoride	Less than 0.1	0.1	0.3	Less than
Bacteriological Examination.				
Coliform organisms in 100 mls Number of micro-organisms per ml.	nil	nil	nil	nil
developing at 37°C	nil	nil	nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C	nil	nil	nil	nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council's extensive sewerage programme continued in the less populated parts of the area, earlier schemes having covered about 70% of the population. As expected, all sewerage schemes are followed by new development and house improvements, with a welcome increase in rateable value.

Chippenham Scheme

This scheme came into operation early in the year.

Swaffham Prior and Reach Schemes

These schemes were almost completed at the end of the year and drain connections started early in 1968.

Isleham Scheme

Progress in Isleham was encouraging and the sewers should come into use about mid 1968.

Kirtling Scheme

Ministry approval has now been received and a tender accepted.

Ashley Scheme

This scheme is in course of preparation by the Council's Engineer.

Wicken and Upware Scheme

This scheme is being prepared by the Council's consultants.

Woodditton

It was emphasised in last year's report that the sewerage of this village is urgent. Time has not improved the conditions described in our special report dated 17th May, 1966.

Soham Fringe Areas

The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme for sewering some 180 houses in the above areas along with improvements to the sewage works to receive the additional flow. The Minister's Inspector has visited the area and discussed the project with the Council's officers. A decision is awaited.

Remaining Parishes

It should not be assumed that the smaller parishes are free from sewerage problems. Many cesspools at Brinkley discharge to an old highway drain with an outfall to an open ditch. Burrough Green has presented the department with problems and a serious nuisance at Kennett can only be averted by fortnightly visits by the cesspool emptier. Even Westley, the smallest parish in the district, has to tolerate ditch pollution.

Sewerage Surveys

Door to door surveys were carried out in the parishes of Swaffham Bulbeck and Dullingham and the following information obtained:—

	Swaffham Bulbeck April, 1967	Dullingham November, 1967
Total Dwellings on line of sewer	230	160
Dwellings connected and provided with W.C.s	188 (81.7%)	135 (84.4%)
is still in use	16 (7.0%)	17 (10.6%)
use	26 (11.3%)	8 (5.0%)
Dwellings not provided with bathrooms	22 (9.6%)	25 (15.6%)

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection of Household Refuse

For the first time ever, there has been a reduction in the number of loads of refuse collected during the financial year. This can be credited to the use of the new Shelvoke and Drewry 35 cub. yd. "Pakamatic" vehicle which operated from 1st April, along with two Fore and Aft vehicles. The bulky refuse, which continues to increase, makes it patently obvious that vehicles not fitted with mechanical compression are completely out of date.

The following statement summarizes the progress made by the Council in their refuse collection service.

Year	Collection Frequency
1948	Small parishes—every 6 weeks. Majority of parishes—every 3 weeks. Soham main street and area adjoining Newmarket town—weekly.
1949	Weekly service as above. Fortnightly service in remaining parishes.
1959 to date	Weekly service throughout, except for isolated properties on fortnightly service.

During the latter part of the year, a successful pilot scheme, using expendable refuse sacks, was operated in Burwell. By April, 1969, it is the Council's declared policy that every householder will be provided with a weekly backdoor sack system of refuse collection, using polythene bin liners. This will be a vast improvement over the existing kerbside bin clearance.

Bulky household refuse is collected, free of charge, on request.

The Working Party Report on "Refuse Storage and Collection" received full consideration by a special Sub-Committee and most of the recommendations should be in operation within the next twelve months.

Refuse Disposal

Under this heading, the situation has deteriorated, following strong pressure from Reach residents against the burning of refuse in the chalk pit owned by the Council. Although regular bulldozing is carried out by a private contractor, the dump is far from "controlled", a state of affairs which exists in many rural areas. Cover soil is not readily available but by regular spraying and rodent control, pest problems have been avoided. Most of the refuse is now transported to the Woodditton dump where burning and bulldozing, well away from habitations, is reasonably successful.

Both pits are filling rapidly and alternative dumps are hard to come by, but one must reiterate that this primitive method of refuse disposal must be abolished without delay in favour of proper plant and equipment to reduce refuse to an innocuous product which can be returned to the land without creating a nuisance. This was the subject of a special report to which the Council gave very careful consideration and in this context, it is anticipated that the next Annual Report should be of particular interest.

A refuse pulverization plant was inspected by a Sub-Committee during the year.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

The provisions of Part III of this Act deal with the removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles and other refuse. Local Authority powers came into effect on the 27th January, 1968 and the power to remove abandoned motor vehicles will become a statutory obligation on 27th July, 1968. Arrangements have been made for collection and disposal by a local scrap merchant and persons responsible can be charged the cost in accordance with a scale laid down, in addition to a fine of up to £200.

Scrap Metal

Nine special collections of scrap metal were made following full publicity in the areas concerned, and $24\frac{1}{2}$ tons was sold for the sum of £50–10s. 8d. This service, although rather infrequent, is welcomed by householders. The "Keep Britain Tidy Week" scheme was fully supported and given publicity in the local newspapers.

Salvaged Materials

Mata	win1					ended rch, 1						ended		
Mate	mai		T,	c.	Q.	£	s.	d.	T.	c.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper			 109	15	1	623	0	11	105	10	0	648	5	10
Ferrous Metals			 2	10	2	10	13	0	2	11	0	15	6	0
Non Ferrous Metals		1.1		18	1	59	11	7		9	0	30	5	3
Rags and Sacking			 4	12	3	116	0	0	2	9	3	56	8	5
Sundries						10	16	0					9	0
Miscellaneous Iron			 26	10	2	64	19	6	27	8	2	46	13	7
	TOTALS		 144	7	1	885	1	0	138	8	1	797	8	1

The selling price of waste paper was £5 10s. 0d. for mixed waste and £6 0s. 0d. for newspaper. All men shared a waste paper bonus of £303.

Having regard to the cost of sorting, baling and loading of waste paper, the profit must be negligible. It will be noted that rags have provided a good return but all this work is incidental to the main task of providing a sound public health service.

Cesspool Emptying

Although the more populated areas have been sewered for a number of years, the cesspool emptier is still fully occupied clearing about twice as many loads as it did in 1952. This is brought about by the provision of an annual free service on request, modernization schemes and new development. 484 free clearances were carried out during the year.

Chargeable work came under the following headings:-

The to encountry the			£1,688
Sewerage Hire to Chesterton R.D	**	 	£406 £130
	 	 	£678
Private Householders	 	 	£474

Clearances during the year ended 31st March, 1968.

Private		Council				
Cesspools cleared	Loads	Cesspools cleared	Sewage plants	Loads		
747	919	347	284	1,120		

Statistics for the year ended 31st March, 1968 compared with previous year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.				March 1968	March 1967
Total Mileage				32,224	32,600
Refuse Collected—loads				 1,350	1,539
Nett cost of service				 £15,159	£13,184+
Cost per load—collection and disposal				 £11 4 7	£8 11 4
Annual cost per 1,000 population				£679 15 6	£599 5 5
Vehicle Costs-including repayment of	f loans	s, etc.		 £3,502	£2,837
Cost per Mile				 1s. 11d.	1s. 9d.
Vehicles—actual running costs—				 £1,949	£1,902
Vehicles—actual running costs—cost p	per mi	le		 1s. 2d.	1s. 2d.
Fuel consumed:— gallons				3,298	3,109
Average mileage per gallon					
Derv				 9.77	10.5
Income from salvage sales NETT				 £582 *	£489 *
*After deducting men's bonus +Including £340 Retirement Gra	tuity			-taleer	
Cesspool Emptying.					
Total princip				 14,973	13,581
Cost of Service				 £2,662	£2,226
Number of loads cleared				 2,039	2,066
Cost per load—collection and disposal				 £1 6s. 1d.	£1 1s. 7d.
Fuel consumed—gallons		4.4	2.5	 1,277	1,234
Fuel consumption per load—gallons				 0.626	0.59

Chargeable work amounted to £1,688. Deficit to General Rate £974.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

At the end of the year, 108 premises, employing 365 persons, were entered in the public health department's register, as detailed below:—

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year		Total number of registered premises at end of year
Offices	3	_	23
Defail Chans	5	_	75
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	. 1		2
Catering Establishments open to the	to the street of about		
public contoons		1	6
Just Storage Depots		_	2

B. Number of Visits of all kinds to registered premises ...

188

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed	
Offices		95
Retail Shops		214
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses		39
Catering Establishments open to the public		14
Canteens		
Fuel Storage Depots		3
Total		365
Total Males		138
Total Females		227

Table D-Informal Notices Served during 1967

	Section of the Act		Number of Informal Notices
6.	Temperature	 	1
7.	37 - 121 - 12	 	1
12.	Clothing Accommodation	 	1
16.	Floors, Passages and Stairs	 	2
24.	First Aid	 	1
50.	Information for Employees	 	1

The initial work under this Act was reported in the 1965 and 1966 reports and it has not been necessary to serve more than a minimal number of informal requests during 1967. Whether office and shop workers are familiar with the provisions of the Act is open to doubt but the occupier has a responsibility to provide a written summary of the Act for the use of his employees.

EXEMPTIONS

No exemption certificates have been applied for during the year.

ACCIDENTS

No accidents were reported during the past year.

PROSECUTIONS

There have been no prosecutions for non-compliance with the Act during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no public swimming pools in the area but swimming takes place in the River Lark at Isleham and in Burwell Lode.

The school swimming pools are popular and on the increase, ten being in use during the summer. 120 inspections were made and, as in previous years, the public health inspectors paid particular attention to water purification. Literature was circulated to head teachers and the County Education Department and close liaison proved to be helpful to all concerned. At the request of the Public Health Laboratory, samples were not collected for bacteriological examination but a chlorine residual of 1.5 to 2.0 parts per million was the aim at all times. pH was checked and adjustment was found to be necessary on a number of occasions.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Householders are provided with a free rodent control service and the Council's full time Rodent Officer made 1,201 inspections of various premises during the year and dealt with 263 infestations. The occupiers of business premises are charged 7/6d. per hour for the treatment of infestations but farm contracts are not undertaken, the bulk of this work being performed by a private firm.

Disinfestation and Disinfection

The Council's Rodent Officer dealt with the following complaints:—

Wasps....40 Ants....6 Flies....1 Fleas....1 Beetles....5

One private firm which supplies the Council with insecticides was very helpful on several occasions in the identification of pests brought to our notice.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

No applications were received for licences to keep pet shops.

Clean Air Act, 1956

The area is comparatively free from industrial chimneys and no nuisances were reported.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

The district is blessed with a reasonably quiet environment except for a few months during the summer when heavy traffic on the A.45 road is diverted through a number of villages to join the A.11 beyond Newmarket town. The town by-pass which becomes more urgent each year will overcome this state of affairs.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are no premises registered in the area.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

One establishment is licensed for the boarding of 25 dogs and one for eight cats.

Public Conveniences

The maintenance of the conveniences at Soham, Burwell and Fordham is under the direction of the Council's Surveyor and considerable improvements have been carried out at Soham.

Courses

Two public health inspectors attended a three day course on "Poultry Inspection" and Mr. Townsend attended a five day course on "Radiation in Health".

APPENDIX FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1967 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:-

		Number	Number of				
	Premises (1)	on Register (2)	Inspections (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)	10	14				
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power)	56	23	of Diagonal			
(3)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	3	Part IVE			
	Total	72	40	_			

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1			
Overcrowding (S.2)		-		-	
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)		-		-	
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)					-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—	-	201 John at	nomited de	-	pit lamins
(a) Insufficient		pland wit is	-		
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	_	-	mil - dat
(c) Not separate for sexes	and the same of the	1	3770	-	100 000
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-	d sinenesson	rems shares	tions tool o		good site h
work)	-	T			CI CONTRACTOR
Total	2	2	1 L 1		



