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Contributors

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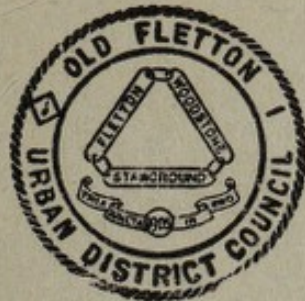
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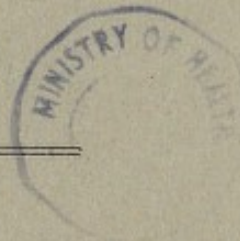
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Old Fletton Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

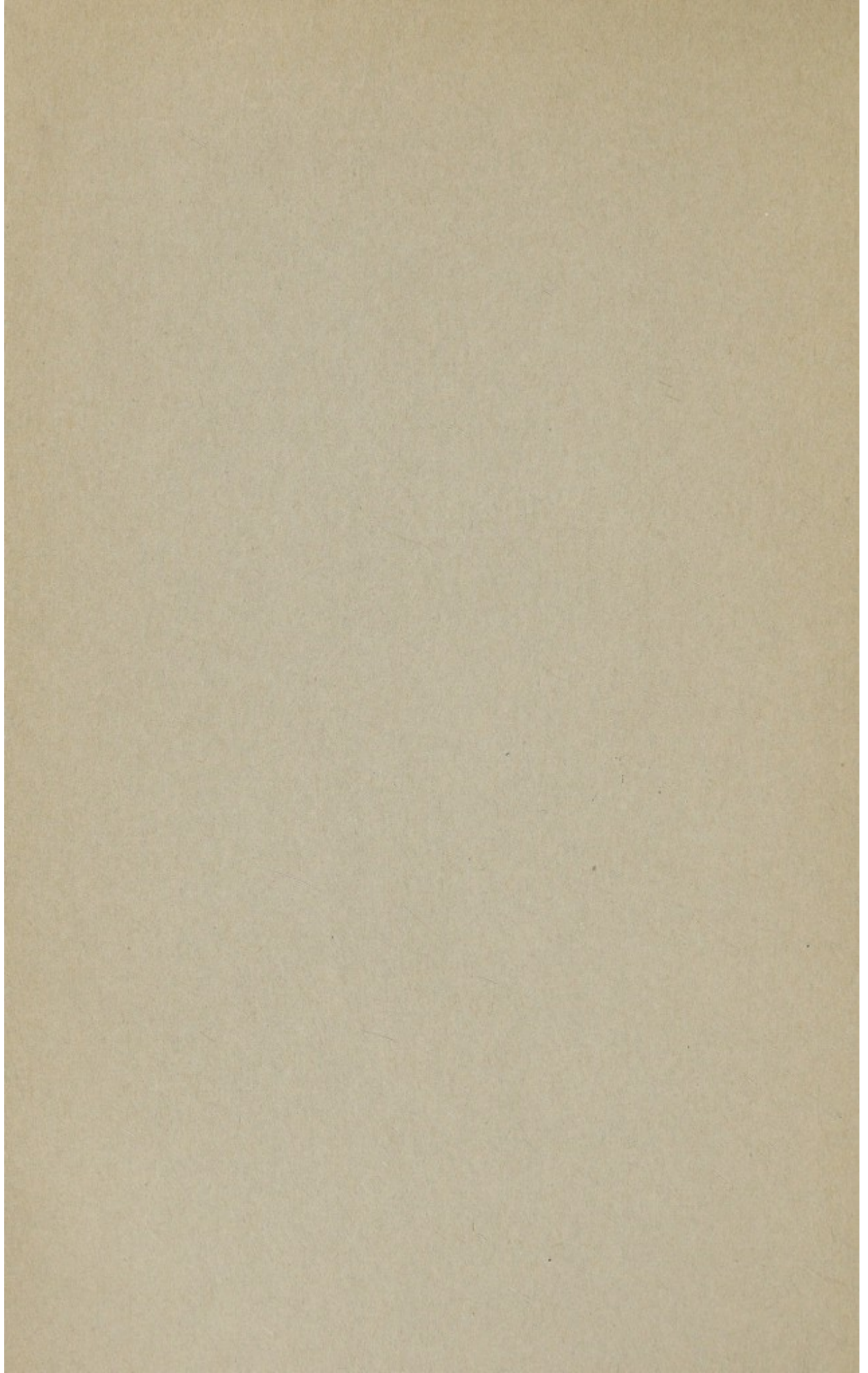
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District

During the year 1961.





Old Fletton Urban District Council.

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OLD FLETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1961)

Councillor D. WINTERMAN (Chairman)

Mrs. B. HINCH

Mrs. A. A. SCOTCHBROOK

B. W. BROWNING

W. R. CASHMORE

A. E. DESBOROUGH

R. FATHERS

I. HARDING

N. W. HUTCHINGS

J. R. VYSE

To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fourth Annual Report, on the sanitary conditions in the District for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

Old Fletton is a comparatively prosperous area, and the living standards are good. There were some fluctuations in the employment position during the latter part of the year, but in spite of this the unemployment rates compared favourably with other parts of the Country.

The chief industries are Brick-making, Engineering, and Food Canning, and during the appropriate season sugar is prepared from sugar beet on a large scale.

There is considerable building at present in the District. During the year 63 houses and bungalows were erected by private enterprise, and the Council has at the year end 84 houses or bungalows in course of erection. When these houses are completed it should very materially reduce the waiting list for Council Houses.

The Registrar General estimates that the population has increased by 130 (Mid-year estimate) over that of the previous year.

The adjusted birth rate is again higher than the national rate, and the death rate is considerably lower. The Infantile Mortality Rate has returned to below national average, having been above it for the past three years, but with a population of this size and only 223 live births, it is always bound to swing rather widely.

Coronary Disease—angina, has been the commonest cause of death, deaths from all forms of Cancer coming second.

The health of the population has been good during the year, but there was an epidemic of Measles in the first three months, which chiefly affected those children who were just starting school. Since then the incidence of infectious disease has been low.

As this area is comparatively flat, some of it being not many feet above sea level, drainage and sewage have been a problem for many years. The additional building in the area is adding to the burden, and the sewers and sewage works can only cope with difficulty. After heavy rain there is surcharge in certain sewers, which sometimes causes objectionable flooding in some areas. The sewage works and the sewers are to be enlarged, and the Council are pressing this with the Ministry. A Public inquiry is to be held.

The New County Council Clinic on Whittlesey Road, Stan-ground progressed very slowly during the year, and did not come into operation until March, 1962. It contains as an annexe my administrative offices from which this report is being written. These offices are a great help to myself and staff, and are greatly appreciated.

I record with regret the death during the year of the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. D. S. Buchanan, he was Medical Officer of Health of this district from 1939 to 1942 and had a great interest and regard for the area.

In concluding I again wish to thank the Members of the Council, their Officers and staff, and my professional colleagues in the District for their help and encouragement during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1961)	11710
Density of persons per acre	3.87
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1961	3661
Rateable Value, 31/12/61	£182,810
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1961	£725.0.9
Live Births	223
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	19
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.1
Still-births	3
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	13.3
Total live and still-births	226
Infant deaths	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	17.9
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	7.6

INFANT DEATHS

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Actual Number of Deaths	4	2	9	6	7	4
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	21.1	8.8	36.9	26.0	29.9	17.9
Deaths from Cancer (total)						17
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus						4
Coronary Disease—angina						21
Other Heart Disease						12
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)						Nil

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	19	18.9	7.6	9.7	17.9	13.3
England & Wales		17.4		12	21.4	18.7

Comparability Factor for Births	.99
Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.28

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.)

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	51	38	89
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	7	10
18. Coronary disease, angina	13	8	21
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	2	10	12
21. Other circulatory disease	3	—	3
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	2	2	4
24. Bronchitis	7	1	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	2	3	5
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	2	—	2
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

HOUSING.

The Council recommenced building during the year and by December progress on eight single-bedroom bungalows was well advanced. One of these will be the 1,000th dwelling owned by the Council, a notable achievement for an authority of this size. Work also commenced during the year on 76 houses forming a westward extension of the Southfields Estate. The Council, aware of the increasing proportion of car owners amongst its tenants, has made provision for every one of these houses to be provided with either a garage, forming one of a block, or a garage space within the curtilage of the dwelling. The estate layout is on the Radburn principle whereby pedestrian and vehicular traffic are separated. All house frontages are to be completely open which should have the effect of increasing the appearance of space on the estate and reducing expenditure on fences and gates.

The waiting list increased very slightly during the year, but it is to be expected that, as the new houses become available for letting and the waiting list is correspondingly reduced, there will be an increase in new applications.

During the year 12 houses were closed or demolished by order of the Council, alternative accommodation being provided where necessary.

The improvement of pre-war non-parlour Council houses by the provision of a separate scullery and bathroom with W.C. continued during the year, and by the end of December 157 houses had been completed leaving 96 outstanding. Supervision of this contract has proved very time-consuming since the cost of £42,000 is to be expended over what are in fact 253 separate sites. Six separate trades are required in each house and their activities co-ordinated by the three main contractors employed. Electricity and Gas installation are, of course, being dealt with by the respective Boards as sub-contractors. Continuous inspections on the site must also be supplemented by detailed records of payments made in respect of each item and every house. I am however hopeful that the coming year will see this work completed. There is no doubt that it has met a very definite need of pre-war tenants, as evidenced by the high proportion who have asked for their houses to be dealt with.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2180
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2180
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	32
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices —	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	30
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 (1), 23, 27 (1) and 35 of the Housing Act, 1957	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition or closing Orders were made.....	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(3) Number of houses closed during the year	4
(4) Number of families displaced during the year	3

(D) Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

CLEARANCE AREAS

(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	1
(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above	5
(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	5
(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil
(5) Number of families displaced during the year	4
(6) Number of houses demolished during the year	4

OVERCROWDING.

Only one case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year and legal action had to be threatened before this was abated. The standard laid down in the Housing Acts is deplorably low however, and it must surely be the Government's intention to improve this at the earliest possible moment. The numbers allowed to live in a house without causing any legal overcrowding are quite unrealistic by modern standards, and would never be tolerated if they occurred on a widespread scale. The standards adopted by several of the immigrants in this district lead to an amount of sub-legal overcrowding, but in the absence of legislative powers, no concrete action can be taken.

WATER SUPPLY.

The quality, quantity, and pressure of water distributed through the district remained satisfactory throughout the year. As the department was also economically successful, it might be thought that the Council was meeting its obligations in every possible way. These criteria are now, however, thought insufficient and pressure for amalgamation of water undertakings still forms part of Government policy.

Water is obtained in bulk supply from Peterborough, and continuous sampling is carried out by them at the source.

Four samples of treated water were sent for Bacteriological Examination, three being satisfactory, and one unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a new main laid by Peterborough M.B. to the British Sugar Corporation's laboratory. Further chlorination has been carried out, and if this is inadequate other steps will be taken.

The sample showed evidence of contamination with coliform organisms, none of which appeared to be of faecal type.

Of the 3661 inhabited houses within the District only nine, housing approximately 28 persons are supplied from standpipes, all the remainder having an internal piped supply.

The water in the area is extremely hard, and there is no trouble with plumbo-solvent action.

The Reservoir and Pumping Station are now "run-in" and have performed very satisfactorily with the exception of the automatic pump control for night operation which is still giving trouble.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The extended report called for by the Council from their Consulting Engineers with the intention of obtaining a long range view of sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements was received during the year. With this further information in their possession it was decided to proceed to Public Inquiry, but this has not yet been held in the absence of considered comments by the River Board.

Advantage was taken of suitable weather to empty all the sludge lagoons at the works. A dragline and dumper were used, disposal being in shallow gravel workings between the disposal works and the pumping station.

All houses at the eastern end of Whittlesey Road have now been connected to the public sewer, default action by the Council being necessary in only one case, and the owner of one of the unsewered houses at the western end has taken the opportunity presented by the laying of a new sewer in the Stanground Primary School playing field, of connecting his house thereto.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

We are fortunate in retaining from year to year the same cleansing staff, temporary assistance only being needed during periods of sickness or when holidays have caused a back-log of collections. This is in contrast to a number of authorities whose turnover in the refuse collection force is at a high level.

The increasing number of properties is inevitably making the ideal of weekly collection more difficult to attain and maintain, and the most economical way of dealing with this at the moment would seem to be for the authority to engage additional temporary labour above the normal establishment for at least part of the year.

The level of income from salvaged paper remains steady, and relations with the purchasing mill enable us to dispose of all our product at a reasonable price.

STREET SWEEPING.

Substantial economies continue to be realised with the employment of direct labour for this work. Here again there have been no changes in staff and a high standard of maintenance is being obtained on the mechanical road sweeper.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

As prophesied in my last report, the remaining private slaughterhouse in this district has now discontinued operations, due, I feel, to the economic effect of complying with the Slaughterhouse Act 1958, and the Regulations made thereunder.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year against food vendors, but this is not to say that conditions can be regarded as completely satisfactory. Informal representations to food shop proprietors have resulted in structural improvements during the year, but of course the biggest single factor in food hygiene is the attitude of the staff engaged in food handling. A realisation of their duty to the public can result in buildings having the minimum of facilities being entirely satisfactory in their operation, whilst the reverse is unfortunately just as true.

During the year 393 lbs of tinned beef were inspected and condemned.

TENTS, CARAVANS, SHEDS & HOUSEBOATS.

The threat of Statutory action was necessary in one case during the year in order to secure the removal of a single caravan from an unlicensed site, otherwise such sites gave no trouble.

The use for showmen's winter quarters of areas in the midst of housing development still causes complaints, mainly over their appearance. Planning consent for three sites was refused during the year for amenity and traffic risk reasons.

Prosecutions by the River Board in respect of the mooring of houseboats on the Back river were heard during the year, and penalties were imposed by the Court in each case. Consideration was therefore given to the housing requirements of their occupants and in one of the five cases the occupier was placed on the Housing waiting list. Another occupier abandoned a boat and this was then broken up by the owner. Prosecutions against the remaining houseboat dwellers have not yet been instituted, and discussions are to take place with the River Board as to future action in these particular cases.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A third Smoke Control Order was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during 1961, and it is confidently expected that this will come into operation next year. The land concerned has received housing development approval and the practice of obtaining Orders before house construction commences obviates a great deal of work. If, however, the Council intends to declare further smoke control areas comprising existing estates, then a very great deal of additional work will be necessary. Each house has to be inspected, all appliances checked and requirements for compliance with the Act listed and their price estimated. In the case of private estates there will be

hundreds of separate owners to deal with, most of whom will quite naturally wish to have some discussion over their particular problem. All houses will have to be reinspected to check on the work being performed, and there will be the same number of individual accounts to verify. Detailed records of this work must be kept in order to satisfy the District Auditor, and to obtain reimbursement from the Ministry. The existing staff cannot cope with all this on top of their normal duties, and it will be necessary to consider the employment of additional staff for this purpose.

The periodic nature of these demands upon staff could be considerably smoothed out if the Minister would agree to conversions of existing appliances ranking for grant even though the property concerned might at the time be outside a zone.

One prior notification of a new furnace to be installed was received during the year. In this case there was considerable discussion with the applicants' Architects over the height of a new chimney, as the proposal submitted was completely inadequate. Agreement was reached in an amicable way, however, and construction of the chimney will commence shortly.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The London Brick Company's private swimming bath at the Phorpres Club continued in operation as in previous years, water being supplied from the Council's mains with subsequent filtration and chlorination by the Company.

A small pre-fabricated pool for training school children was erected at the Stanground County Primary School, and came into operation during the summer. The maintenance of a satisfactory level of residual chlorine becomes more difficult as the pool becomes smaller since it is uneconomic to install the very expensive automatic units associated with large pools, and thorough sterilisation in a small pool, where inlet and outlet must be fairly close together, is not easy in practise. The main danger consists of periodic rather than constant additions of a sterilising agent resulting in a very high chlorine level which might be irritating to the users, followed by a rapid decline to a dangerously low level. Again, demands made on the available free chlorine tend to be periodic as one group use the pool and is then replaced as a body by a second group, whereas in the ordinary public swimming baths the rate of new entrants is relatively steady.

RODENT CONTROL.

There is a general impression that the rat population is increasing generally in the Eastern region. This, of course, is not easy to prove. Request for help in the destruction of rats and mice have been met, and factors disposing towards infestation, such as broken drains and inaccessible shed floor space, have been dealt with.

PESTS.

Summer brought the usual number of requests for assistance in dealing with wasp nests and although it is doubtful if there is any statutory power for the Council to assist in these cases, we did, in fact, deal with all complaints received.

For several years there have been no cases of infestation by bed bugs, but several houses were found to be infested this year, disinfestation being carried out by the use of gammexane, which re-inspection shows to have been effective.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	36
Abated as a result Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	2

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	31	77
Overcrowding	1	3
Smoke Pollution	Nil	Nil
Accumulation of Refuse	Nil	Nil
Foul ditches, etc.	1	2
Drains	Nil	Nil
Disinfestation	5	11

Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	Nil
	No. of inspections	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

1. Cockroaches.

No. of houses infested	(a) Council—5	(b) Private—Nil
No. of houses disinfested	(a) Council—5	(b) Private—Nil

2. Rats and Mice.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22

DISINFECTION.

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	356
No. of Inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Premises disinfected :—	(a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	Nil
	(b) Others	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Posecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	24	35	Nil	Nil
Other Premises	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found		Nil		

Outworkers. There are no outworkers in the District.

L. DEARDEN,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65.....	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	6	—	1	2	1	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough.
Tel. Peterborough 68010

